

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1002

Dated 30 th November

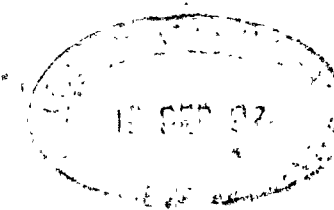
[Despatch Abstract.]

Passing orders on B.B. Subang to Gov.
report on the disposal of a corpse at the
Arampadu Railway Station in the
Cuddapah District.

BACK PAPER

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No.



From

The Board of Revenue,
Land Revenue,
Madras.

No. 2288 is.

7th September 1897.

Dated

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Govt. report on
the disposal of a corpse at the
Oranpud Railway Station, Cuddalore
District.

mm w/a a/p 6/9/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	272		9
	501		
	502		

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
C.O.	213/98.		

AGENTS AND very severely punished.
Office of ICE,

1002

20.11.97 List of papers sent to Board with letter no 1/20 dated 25.8.97.

- 1 Copy of Traffic Managers letter no C 20253 dated 28.7.97 to the Agent & Managers.
- 2 Letter no 9812/80 dated 20.1.97 from the Agent & Managers to the Consulting Engineer for Railways
- 3 G.O. no 447 C P.W.D Railway branch dated 28.1.97
- 4 Copy of letter no 54/18.1.97 from the M. Mayor of Cuddapah to the Assistant Traffic Manager Gooty.
- 5 Copy of letter no 62/24.1.97 from the District Mayor of Cuddapah to the Assistant Traffic Manager Gooty.
- 6 Copy of letter no S 150/8.2.97 from the Assistant Traffic Manager to the Collector of Cuddapah.
- 7 Copy of letter no 62/10.2.97 from the M. Mayor of Cuddapah to the Asst Traffic Manager Gooty.
- 8 Letter no 9812/10.3.97 from the Agent & Managers to the Consulting Engineer for Railways
- 9 Copy of Pullampett Tahsildar's arji no 6874/17.1.97
- 10 do do 6374/5.2.97
- 11 Pullampett Tahsildar's arji no 6374/17.4.97

ACDs
25.8.97
Collector

AGENTS... severely punished.
... of ICE,

Madras Railway Company,
Traffic Manager's Office,
Central Station, Madras 19th Jan^y 1897

No. 620253
28779

The Ag. Agent & Manager,
Rayapuram.

Dear Sir,

Death of Porter Chengalraju at Urampadu

I beg to report for your information that Porter Chengalraju was attacked with Cholera at Urampadu Station on the 13th instant and died the same day. The station premises were disinfected on arrival of the apothecary.

The body of the deceased was only buried on the evening of the 16th idem as the Station Master was unable to get the Village authorities to bury it - although the Village munsiff and Tahsildar were addressed on the matter. During the interval the body was lying outside the Company's premises. The matter has been reported to the Collector by the Divisional Officer and you may perhaps think it desirable to bring the matter to notice of Government.

Name - Chengalraju

Caste - Rajoo

Age - 36 years

Sex - male

Occupation - Porter - M.R.C.

(True Copy)

Yours faithfully,
J. C. C. C.

1st Geo. Wallington

No. 620253
28779

Madras Railway Company,
Traffic Manager's Office,
Central Station, Madras 19th Jan^y 1897

The Ag. Agent & Manager,
Rayapuram.

Dear Sir,

Death of Porter Chengabraju at Urampadu

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The body of the deceased was only buried on the evening of the 16th idem as the Station Master was unable to get the Village authorities to bury it - although the Village munsiff and Tahsildar were addressed on the matter. During the interval the body was lying outside the Company's premises. The matter has been reported to the Collector by the Divisional Officer and you may perhaps think it desirable to bring the matter to notice of Government.

Name - Chengabraju

Caste - Rajoo

Age - 36 years

Sex - male

Occupation - Porter. M.R.C.

(True Copy)

Edney Cwest

Yours faithfully,

1st Geo. Wallington

AGENTS AND MANAGERS severely punished.
Madras, 20th January 1897

340 177
20.1.97
ED
Recd

From
COLLECTOR'S OFF.
11-FEB-1897.
To

The Agent and Manager.
M.A. &

The Consulting Engineer for Railways.
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith for your information and such action as you may consider necessary copy of a report received from the Ag. Traffic Manager of the death from Cholera of a Porter named Chengabaju at Urampadu.

2. The conduct of the Village authorities in permitting the corpse to lie just outside the station premises for three days without taking steps to have it buried, demands serious notice.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

Henry Clvesh
Ag. Agent & Manager

(1 Enclos)

for No. 240/97

9.4.97

1897
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Enclosure
To Current

(2)
... and I consider he should be very severely punished.
... in the score of ICE.

R. Form No. 11

4
No. 447C

Government of Madras.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
11-FEB-1897

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
RAILWAY BRANCH.

MEMORANDUM.

Dated Madras, 23 January 1897.

Letter from the Agent in
Manager, Madras Railway No.,
dated 20 January 1897 with enclos.

Transferred to the Revenue
Department, for favour of
necessary action.

W. H. H. H.

Offg. Secy.

To,
The Secy.

2
For No. 240/97

2
S 4191

2
FOR DEPT. SECY.
Signature
To Current No. 240/97

... and I consider he should be very severely punished.
... the score of ICE.

R. Form No. 11

No. 447C

Government of Madras.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
11-FEB-1897

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
RAILWAY BRANCH.**

MEMORANDUM.

Dated Madras, 23 January 1897

*Letter from the Agent in
Manager, Madras Railway No.,
dated 20 January 1897 with enclosure*

*Transferred to the Revenue
Department, for favour of
necessary action.*

W. Hunter

Offg. Secy.

To,

The Secy.

*2
Ser. No. 240/97*

*2
S 4191*

1007
RECEIVED
11 FEB 1897
To Current No. 7

(2)

responsible and I consider he should be very severely punished.
leniency whatever is in my opinion due to him on the score of I.C.E.
Gooty. 97.

Copy of letter No. 54 dated 13-11-97 from the District

Magistrate Cuddapah to the Assistant Traffic Manager Gooty.

L.C.S.
30 MAR 1997

With reference to your telegram about the body of a porter of Urampadu Station which was removed from the Railway premises and thrown on the road side, I have the honor to state that the conduct of the Station Master in this matter appears to me to be so bad as to call for severe punishment and to request that you will take adequate notice of it.

2. As the District Medical Sanitary Officer states (1) "It was the duty of the Station Master to see that no corpses are removed from any Madras Railway buildings and thrown into any thoroughfare; and it was his duty to see that in case of death his subordinates are decently buried."

5. It is intolerable that a Railway Station Master should throw the dead body of one of his subordinates on the road side and then after 3 days wire in all directions to various authorities stating that the body was lying unburied.

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5/4/97

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240/97

(2)
responsible and I consider he should be very severely punished.
leniency whatever is in my opinion due to him on the score of I.C.E.
Gooty.

30 MAR 1901

2-27 from the Assistant

I have the honour
150 dated 3rd Instat
opinion of what
Master.

Dated

To

From

MADRAS RAILWAY.

The Agent and Manager.

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

No.

2. They
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MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.

Dated

Recd.

No.

1121
10-3-97

223

Recd

Assistant Surgeon. manner.

4
9/4/91

5
2/4/91

1/4/91

responsible and I consider he should be very severely punished.
leniency whatever is in my opinion due to him on the score of ICE,
Gooty.

30 MAR 1901

dated 3-2-97 from the Assistant

I have the honour to acknowledge, Cuddapah.

150 dated 3rd Instant and to state

opinion of what I consider the g

Master.

knowledge the receipt of your letter

2. There are duties imposed

Whether they have properly been done is a very bad one but it is difficult

ready to consider and though Master could well prevent it.

may not like the business on the 13th ultimo and the Village Munsiff

plea of caste to be advanced Master at once to have the corpse buried.

prepared to consider their

Master be disposed of. The Tahsildar through Station Master Bazar-

guilty person. and the Station Master Grampadu sent a similar

the 13th idem.

3. You ask me to

It is easily said he should the Munsiff and Tahsildar have a competent

by Railway coolies or sanitation of the District of which the Railway

any help in the way of as the station master could not be expected to

Permanent Way Inspector and he has no authority over the Village

relatives arrived and pavender absconded and it is apparent he became

left the body of the dead score which appears to have been the cause

Company's premises in distance off to be done wish to screen the Station Master if he is

4. There is no but taking into consideration the caste prejudices

Company to have seen there was no delay in reporting the matter to Mun-

misses under the order it would appear that they are chiefly at fault.

a public nuisance if you can find out any other action it was possible

considerable inconvenience Master to take, I shall be prepared to deal with him

Assistant Surgeon, manner.

I have the honor to state that to

person to be brought to book over this

Way Station Master. Even accepting his own

Railway Company's servant died in the Railway Comp

his charge and instead of seeing to the burial he had

by two women close outside the Railway premises where it

by birds and beasts after being a danger and a nuisance to

the locality.

2. I request you will inform me how you dispose of the

(2)
responsible and I consider he should be very severely punished.
leniency whatever is in my opinion due to him on the score of ICE,
Booty.

30 MAR 1907

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter marked S.
150 dated 3rd Instant and to state that I find no reason to modify my
opinion of what I consider the gross misconduct of the Urarpau Station
Master.

2. There are duties imposed on both the Tashildar and the Peadi.
Whether they have properly discharged their duties I shall be quite
ready to consider and though they have caste as well as the station and
may not like the business of interring a corpse I shall not allow any
plea of caste to be advanced in excuse for neglecting duty. But I am not
prepared to consider their conduct until the matter of the Station
Master be disposed of. It is he and not they who is the primarily
guilty person.

3. You ask me to state what the Station Master should have done.
It is easily said he should have had a grave dug as speedily as possible
by Railway coolies or other menials or other coolies (having obtained
any help in the way of sanction that was necessary from yourself or the
Permanent Way Inspector) and had the body buried. When the female re-
-latives arrived and professed helplessness he should certainly not have
left the body of the Railway Company's servant who died on the Railway
Company's premises in his charge to be unburied on the ground a short
distance off to be devoured by birds and beasts and to spread disease.

4. There is no doubt that it was the legal duty of the Railway
Company to have seen to the burial of their servant dying on their pre-
-mises under the circumstances existing in this case. Instead of which
a public nuisance and a public scandal has been caused as well as con-
-siderable inconvenience to public officers of the rank of Tashildar and
Assistant Surgeon. For this the Company's servant the Station Master is
responsible

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Ray Corp.

rial he had

ises where it

a nuisance to

you dispose of th

3
Jan 20/97

(2)

responsible and I consider he should be very severely punished.
No leniency whatever is in my opinion due to him on the score of "ICE",
caste as you seem to imply.

97.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From
The Agent and Manager.
To
The Consulting Engineer
for Railways.

Dated
Recd.
No.

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223
1121

223

MADRAS RAILWAY.

AGENT AND MANAGER'S OFFICE,

Madras, 10th March 1897.

From

The Actg. Agent and Manager.

To

Madras Railway.

The Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Sir,

Madras.

In continuation of my letter No. 9312 of the 20th 30 January last regarding the death from Cholera at Urupadu of Porter Chengalraju, I have the honor to enclose copies of correspondence which has passed between the District Traffic Officer and the Collector of Cuddapah on the subject of the responsibility for the neglect or inability to bury the corpse in proper time.

The Acting Traffic Manager in forwarding these papers to me writes as follows:-

"The porter was living in the Village but was lying when attacked under a tree, in the Station Compound, and there he died. The Apothecary was wired for but the man died before he could arrive, and as he had still living Cholera patients on other parts of his district he returned to them without delay."

"Immediately on the man's death the Station Master wrote to the Village Reddy to arrange for burial and states that he received a verbal reply to the effect, that

223

1121
10.3.97

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Dated
Recd.

No.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

From

The Agent and Manager.

To

The Consulting Engineer

for Railways.

7/4/97

7/4/97

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8.25

" that it should be done, but not finding any steps taken he
" wired to the Tahsildar the same evening. The following
" morning two female relatives of the deceased arrived and re-
" moved the Corpse from the Compound but being unable to ob-
"tain assistance towards its burial, left it lying. About
" the same time the Station Master sent to the Village Munsiff
" from whom he received a written reply that the body should
" be interred about 2 P.M. This not being done the Station
" Master addressed the Tahsildar and the District Surgeon, and
" the body was eventually buried on the 18th after having been
" mutilated by birds and animals.

" I cannot say whether the Village authorities were
" helpless or indifferent in the matter. It appears to be a
" fact that a spare had been established, that the Talidaries
" and Village Servants had deserted and that several other
" corpses had been left lying about equally promiscuously.

" The Collector now expresses the opinion that the
" station master was guilty of grave misconduct and asks that
" he be severely punished and that it was the legal duty of
" the Railway Company to have seen to the burial, and it ap-
" pears advisable that our legal position should be ascertained
" and or that the views of Government should be obtained as
" to whether the duty of disposing of the dead in such circum-
" stances rests with the local Government Officials or with
" the Railway Company. The man had died suddenly and it
" might have been of poison and the Station Master would have
" accepted a grave risk if he had, supposing it had been in
" his power, buried the body without the concurrence of the
" Civil Authorities. He appears to have done all he could
" to move the authorities to take prompt action. The station
" sweeper had deserted and the station Master could only be

"carr

1121

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" carried out the course indicated in the District Magistrate's
" letter of the 10th Ultimo by burying the body with his own
" hands. With the caste sentiments so imbedded in the native
" I doubt both whether any order to that effect would have been
" been effective and whether such a course would have commended
" itself to Government."

The Medical Officer writes as follows:-

" While I think the burial of the body was a public duty, I
" think the Station Master might have wired to the Apothecary
" from Beniganta to bring scavengers to dispose of the body
" when he saw that Government delayed taking the necessary
" steps."

" With this view I concur, but this was an error of
" judgment and not the serious crime imputed by the Collector
" and it must be remembered that the Station Master was in
" hopes from hour to hour that the local village authorities
" would carry out the promise they had made."

I shall be glad to receive the views of the Government on the
question raised in this correspondence in order that the Staff may be
duly advised what action should be taken in future under similar circum-
stances."

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,



Acting Agent and Manager

4-1121 71
 1121
 11/3/97

MADRAS RAILWAY.

To
 The Agent and Manager.

To
 The Consulting Engineer
 for Railways.

Dated
 Recd.
 No.

8/14/97

5/20/97

From
 The Collector of
 Coimbatore
 To
 The Agent and Manager
 Madras Railway.

I beg respectfully to acknowledge receipt just now (2 P.M.) here of your telegram dated yesterday ^{regarding} the burial of Railway Porters' Corpses in the Station at Trampod. Previous to its receipt I received intimation from the Assistant Traffic Manager and immediately sent instructions to the Village Officer concerned. However I shall proceed to the Station tomorrow by the 1st train and see to the matter personally. I should have ridden to the place at once but as I was short of the footpath

1121 71

Killoch and turning
and as the distance
between this and Laramie
is not less than 15 miles
it would be very late
in the night by the time
I arrive there, provided
that I do not take a
wrong path.

May remain
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

/Signed/ J. V. Furukawa

At Laramie

/Free copy/

For Laramie

compd

4/10/91

From

11/2/91

The Sahildar of
Rellamph

The Deputy Collector
General duties
Sookanallam Division

Sir,

Adverting to your reference dated 1st
instant on Memo No. 370 of 1897. I beg
respectfully to state that by the time I
arrived at the Mangalore Station I found the
body of the Porter had been removed &
interred. The previous day i.e. the 16th
the Assistant Surgeon went to the place
found the corpse of the Railway Porter
in a plain close to the Railway line. &
sent for the Head of Chinna Mangalore
who informed. He also received information
that another corpse was lying in the
place.

body unless he gave himself with a strong dose of liquor. The proper disposal of dead bodies has till here practically remained very difficult. But then circumstances do not justify the neglect of duty on the part of the Village Magistrate. He should and could have done his best in getting them properly buried. But he is himself terribly afraid of the epidemic and this is no wonder when we hear in Hindi that the educated Vakils of the Nawab's Munsiff Court, decamped from Nawababad for fear of cholera. But for the difficulties explained above, I should have at once recommended the Rossi and Village servants for suspension. Then the question arises where and where to get substitutes. I was in the village for them but could find none to take their places. The people are really afraid of the plague. It then struck that it was bad policy to change horses in the middle of the stream and therefore

own men. I gave them all a very severe warning.

The porter's corpse was within the Railway Station compound while the other belonged to Pulnatia. Both are within the limits of Chinnampas.

The Porter's wife and brother were present when he died but they neglected the burial of the corpse and absconded on the 26th and 27th. I camped in Chinnampas and found the Rossi attending his duties in this direction.

May to remain
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

/Signed/ S. V. Surabawani
Sahib 3/

(True copy)

Sahib

11/3/27. for Sahib

body unless he gave himself with a strong dose of liquor. The proper disposal of dead bodies has thus been practically rendered very difficult. But these circumstances do not justify the neglect of duty on the part of the Village Magistrate. He should and could have done his best in getting them properly buried. But he is himself terribly afraid of the epidemic and this is no wonder when we hear in India that the educated Vakils of the Kandahar Missionary Church, decamped from Kandahar for fear of Cholera. But for the difficulties explained above I should have at once recommended the Rossi and Village servants for suspension. Then the question arises where and where to get substitutes. I was in the village for them but could find none to take their places. The people are really afraid of the plague. At this time I think that it was his policy to change horses in middle of the stream and therefore

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The porter's corpse was within the Railway Station compound while the other belonged to Pulnatunapalle. Both are within the limits of Chinnampas.

The Porter's wife and brother were present when he died but they neglected the burial of the corpse and also on the 26th and 27th I camped in Chinnampas and found the Rossi attending his duties in this direction.

May to remain
Sd

Your Most Obedient Servant

/Signed/ S. V. Puradivani
Tahsildar 3/12

(True copy)

Sd/-

for Tahsildar

13/12/1917

From

The Special Assistant Collector
of
Cuddapah

Submitted for
Favours of order.

1974-97

Adverting to your reference dated
1st instant on Current No 62. I beg to
say most respectfully to state that
the requisitions from the Station Master
transmitted as the Overland Traffic
Manager regarding the burial of the
Porter's Corpse were received at Head
Quarters during my absence in Canton
and orders were immediately issued
on the Subject to the Village Officer
my Head accountant. On the 16
January however I received a letter

Species of these
birds are not
sent up nor
are the birds
given. Is

10
P. 4191

1421 7
-the Village Magistrate should have res-
-ponsible for neglect of duty. If
-he was afraid to approach the dead
body he should have at least made
arrangements for its proper burial;
But at the same time I cannot over-
look the many difficulties that
lay in the way. The Village Servants
he were rather willing to resign than appoint
the punishment than to expose themselves to
the danger of Contagion and the Coolies
were available for hire at the time as
the whole village ^{became} deserted.

At my visit I found the State
things in Erampas very unsatisfactory
therefore issued strict instructions
the Village Magistrate and Servants
regarding the disposal of the dead
during the same time of the
sequences of their omission to
remove them out. I also took opportunities

work performed
En parva they to choose
that the deceased Porter was himself
a Caste man as his name (Chingalragu)
indicates. Caste! Cannot therefore be
advanced as a plea for omission to
a duty. The Correspondence remains but of
the reformer: under administration is herewith
re-submitted.

Since writing the above, I have received
from the Surgeon's office, the further Correspondence
on the subject, (herewith re-submitted). From
the copy of the Station Master's letter,
forming enclosure to Assistant Traffic
Manager's letter No 150 dated 27th Jan'y
it will be seen that at 10 a.m. on the
14th Feb. "the deceased porter's wife
and mother came down from Rojau,
when I told them to remove and bury
the Corpse, they first refused to do so
but with great difficulty they
so afterwards and threw it by

From
 The Collector of
 Pullanpet
 To
 The Special Assistant
 Collector of
 Coimbatore.

Ref on Ch. 6374716
 Cund 10. and all file
 returned from Huzur office
 Q

Subject.
 Reporting the burial
 of the Railway Porter corpse
 at Orampad.

11-
 1/6/97

From
 A. C. Jate Esquires
 Collector of Coimbatore
 To
 The Secretary to the Commission
 of Land Revenue
 Madras

Sir,
 I have the honor to
 return the enclosures of Board's Proce-
 -dings Land Revenue No. 487th issue
 dated 8th February 1897 and to report
 about the disposal of the dead body
 of the Madras Railway Company's
 porter Chingalrayadu who died
 on the Railway Company's premises
 at Orampad Station on 13th January

The first intimation
 received of the matter was the tele-
 wire on 15th January 1897 from
 Assistant Traffic Manager, G.
 Porter died from Cholera at Or.
 authorities advised to remove

From a builder of Rajampett:— 'attended
instantly to matter of Railway
porter's corpse, left unburied at
'urampad'.

The Tahsildar's action
thereon is indicated in his report
The Referee on Circuit No 6374 of 1896—
dated 16th January 1897 written from
Lebaka, where he was in camp when
he got my wire; before he reached
Orampad the body had been
buried by Dr Thummon Singh
Assistant Surgeon who had
proceeded from Cuddapah for the
purpose.

Rep I wrote my letter of
of the 16th January Disposal No 54 (one
of the returned enclosures) to the
Assistant Traffic Manager at
instance of the District Medical
Sanitary Officer and I note
the Traffic Manager's letter
which he suggested that the
matter

notice was ^{lay} ^{considered} done
19th January. The Station ^{Master} of
Cuddapah had written me ^{on} 16th
January as follows:— 'I have
been directed by the Divisional
officer to inform you that the
body of the porter who died of
'Cholera at Urampad has ^{been}
'been removed' and I infer that
the ^{renewal} removal of the correspondence
by the Madras Railway authorities
is traceable to my having pointed
out the fact that it was their
own servant the Station Master
who was to blame in the matter.

5. Until I received Board
Proceedings No 1138 Misc. dated 25th
March 1897 I was expecting
further reply from the Railway
Company whose Assistant Traffic
Manager informed me in his letter
of 4th April 1897 S 150 that he
awaiting final instructions from
the Agent and Manager, but
receipt of that order of the Board.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours most Obedient Servant

H. B. W.

1887

Collector

25.8.97

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Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue)

5553 Misc., dated 7th September 1897.

Read letter from A.C. Tate, Esquire, Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras, No. 107/Tour, dated 25th August 1897.

-----:0:-----

Resolution

The report read above will be submitted to Government with reference to its orders Nos. 566 Misc., dated 29th January 1897, and 553 R., dated 18th March 1897.

2. One Chengalraju, a porter in the service of the Madras Railway Company, died of cholera in the premises of the Orampad railway station on the 13th January last. The remains were not buried until the evening of the 16th idem, in spite of repeated applications made to the village officers for assistance. During the interval the body was lying outside the Company's premises quite uncared for, being mutilated by birds and beasts. The Station Master having reported the matter to the District Medical Officer, the Assistant Surgeon arrived on the 16th, and had the body buried with the help of the Reddi of the village. The Collector received the first intimation of the matter on the 15th January, and at once wired instructions direct to the Tahsildar, but that officer being then in camp, was able to reach Orampad only on the morning of the 17th, by which time matters had been set right.

3. The first question for consideration in the case is, who was responsible for the inordinate delay in disposal of the dead body. A question of somewhat greater

what action should be taken in future under similar circumstances, by the Agent and Manager, Bangalore. As regards the first question, the Board agrees with the opinion of the District Medical and Sanitary Officer which is contained in the letter (vide conclusion of Agent's letter, dated 10th March 1907, to the effect of the Commissioner for Railways). The burial of the body was a public duty which devolved upon the village officers, but when it was found that the Government and Railway servants in the village were all thoroughly demoralized by fear and had disappeared from the village, the Station Master should have wired to the nearest Railway station for scavengers to dispose of the body. It may, however, be noted that the Assistant Surgeon was eventually able to obtain the Reddi's assistance for the burial of the corpse.

4. As regards the conduct of the Village Magistrate, if it is a fact, as stated by the Station Master (vide opening para of the Agent's letter already quoted), that the Village Reddi intimated to the Station Master first by word of mouth on the 15th, and then by letter on the 14th January, that he ^{would} take steps to have the body buried, the Board considers that suitable notice should be taken of the Reddi's failure to make good his promise. In any case the Village Magistrate neglected his duty, and the Collector is not justified in deferring orders on the said neglect, pending the issue of orders by the Railway authorities on the case of the Station Master.

5. It remains to consider what definite instructions should be issued by the Railway authorities to their subordinates for their guidance in future. It goes without saying that the Railway subordinates should take prompt steps for the removal or disposal from the Station premises. They should at once communicate the news of the death to the Village Magistrate, whose duty it then is to enquire the cause of death and to have the body buried or, if there are no suspicious circumstances connected with the case, to have the body buried. If the Village Magistrate fails to appear within a reasonable time (say 12 hours), the Station Master or other Railway officer in charge should take steps for the disposal of the corpse, the fact of disposal being at once reported to the Village Magistrate. The nearest Police officer should also be communicated with.

lay to be considered desirable. The delay of over five months that has occurred in the submission of the report is ascribed by the Collector to pressure of other work. The report was only received on the issue of many reminders and of two telegrams. It is stated that he has several other papers of a similar nature pending with him. He said further that he will be able to dispose of them at an early date. The delay in dealing with the present case renders it impossible to recommend the adoption of severe measures towards either the Village Magistrate or the Station Master.

(This Extract)

Reel
Secretary.

To
The Secretary, to the Government, Bangalore, with
Collector's letter and enclosure.
The Collector of Chikmagalur.
M.L.V.

What action should be taken by the Agent and Manager, Madras, in future under...

lay that has occurred in the submis-

The papers now submitted for

orders relate to the case of the dis-

posal of the corpse of a porter in

the service of the Madras Railway

Company, who died of cholera in the

premises of the Orampad Railway sta-

tion on that line on the 13th January

last. The matter was brought to the

notice of Government in the Public

Works Department by the Agent and

Manager of the Madras Railway Company.

The Public Works Department trans-

ferred the papers for the necessary

action, to the Revenue Department,

which in its turn referred them to

the Board of Revenue for report with

G.O. Nos. 563 Mis. and 553 Routine

dated 29th January and 18th March res-

pectively. The current read at the

head of this note embodies the Board

reply to the above references of

Government.

the present case, 11/11/11

It is a matter of law, but of common sense. Generally, when a death occurs at a Railway Station, the Station Master who has the chief supervision of the premises, & the Village Munsiff who has to attend to the sanitation of the village are both concerned. The first thing is to remove the corpse from the premises of the railway. The Station Master must see to this, & must do so properly, the corpse not being flung down in a public thoroughfare, or left exposed to birds & beasts. The next thing is to get the corpse buried. This is not the duty, legal or otherwise, of the Station Master, though circumstances may make it advisable that he should take

to the Secy. Govt. P.W.D. (Ry)

Such action as the M.D. officers suggest in this case. It is, however, incumbent on him to inform the Village Munsiff that there is a corpse & where it is, & any circumstances

and that the Tahsildar of Pullampet to whom a reference was made by the Collector, sent in his report on the 18th April 1897; but the Collector's reply to the Board is dated only 25th August 1897. On the 6th of May last the Government issued a reminder to the Board to expedite its report; and the Board in communicating this reminder to the Collector observed as follows:—"The Collector will report by return of post why the above orders (i.e., the Board's Resolutions communicating the G. O's quoted above) have been disregarded. In the first proceedings "early report" was called for, and in the second the Collector's attention was drawn to the fact and an explanation of delay was required. No reply has been received to date, although it is now 1½ months since the second order was despatched".

as per the report
into the Village Mag.
When the death is from
Cholera in the middle of a
cholera scare these duties
are made of more importance
but they are not altered

JG
17/10/97

I agree with the Hon. Mr. Justice's view of the
matter: provided that it refers only to cases of
unclaimed bodies. Otherwise, the village
officer may feel bound to interfere in cases
in which he is not wanted to do so.

G.H.
19.11.97

para 6 of the current
The explanation is not satisfactory. The famine would
excuse a great deal of
delay, but not so much as
this. Mr. C. W. Davis had
full materials for him
on the 18th April but he
did not report till the
25th Aug. He has been
frequently to blame for
similar delays.

JG
4/11/97

wife and mother.

lay that has occurred in the submission of his report, and states that he can only plead in excuse heavy work and worry in connection with famine operations. Orders are requested as to whether the explanation may be accepted. The Board says that the Collector's report was received only after the issue of many reminders and two telegrams.
3. As to the facts of the case, they are as follow:-
One Chengalraju, a porter in the employ of the Madras Railway Company died of cholera on the 13th January last in the compound of the Orampad Railway station. The next morning two female relatives of the deceased removed the corpse from the compound but finding themselves unable to obtain any assistance in its burial, left it lying outside the compound at a distance of about 40

and that the Mahsildar of Pullammet to Master wrote to the Village Reddi to ar-

range for the burial of the corpse. From

the version of the matter given by the

Railway authorities, it would appear,

that the Reddi sent a verbal reply to

the effect that arrangements would be

made for the purpose; but seeing that

no arrangements were made, the Station

Master wired to the Tahsildar the same

evening. The next day (the 14th) the

Station Master, it is stated, sent for

the Village Magistrate from whom he re-

ceived a written reply that the body

should be interred at about 2 P.M. As

this was not done, the Station Master ad-

ressed the Tahsildar and the District

Surgeon, and the corpse was eventually

ried on the 16th, i.e., after a delay

of three days, with the help of the Village

Reddi.

The Collector of Cuddapah received

first intimation of the matter on the

from the Assistant Traffic

*Vide letters from the
agent and manager,
Mk C, to the Consulting
Engineer for Railways
d. 10-3-17 - Page 10 of
the file*

p. 11 of the file

Vide p 8 of the file

occurrence above
been
cer having then in camp, was able to
reach the station himself only on the
morning of the 17th, by which time,
however, matters had, as stated above,
been set right.

5. There then ensued a
brisk correspondence between the
Assistant Traffic Manager, Gooty,
and the Collector of Cuddapah, as to
who was responsible for the scanda-
lous delay of three days that had
been allowed to occur in the burial
of the dead body. The Collector held
(i) that it was the legal duty of the
Railway Company to have seen to the
burial of their servant dying on
their premises under the circumstar-
existing in the present case, (ii)
that the Station Master was guilty
of a gross neglect of duty in not
having had the body buried in due

instructions

What action should be taken in future

and that the Mchaidar of Pullammet to Master wrote to the Village Paddi to arrange to consider the conduct of the

latter before the Railway authorities had passed orders on the grave misconduct of the Station Master.

As against this view, the Railway authorities considered that the Station Master had done all he could be expected to do, especially in view of the fact that he was in hopes from hour to hour that the village officials would redeem the promise they had made to arrange for the burial of the corpse.

In communicating the correspondence for the information of Government, the Railway authorities request to be informed of the views of Government as to whether the duty of disposing of the dead in similar circumstances rests with the local Government officials or with the Railway Company.

The questions for consideration

first

the Assistant Traffic

with the Village Paddi

from

pages 7 and 12 of the file

para 30 of the current

Vide p. 12 of the file

Since the Railway Station is a place of public resort and the relations of the deceased are unable to remove the body it is clear that the body ought to be removed by a public agency but it seems to me that the duty of removing it devolved on the first instance on the railway authorities and that the village officials ought to interfere when called on by them to do so. The Station Master has

express concurrence in the above

(2) What action should be taken in future under similar circumstances, and by whom.

7. (1) With reference to the first

question, the Board of Revenue agrees in the opinion of the District Medical and Sanitary officer which is concurred

in by the Traffic Manager of the Railway Company, that the burial

of the body was a public duty which devolved upon the village officers,

but that when it was found that the Government and Railway servants in

the village were thoroughly demoralised by fear and had disappeared by

from the village, the Station Master should have wired to the nearest

Railway station for scavengers to dispose of the body. The Tahsildar's

report shows that when the Assistant Station Master's mother died, the

body was buried in the village

and that the Mahsildar of Pullammet to Master wrote to the Village Reddi prepared to consider conduct.

As regards the conduct of the Village Magistrate, if it be a fact as stated by the Station Master, that the Reddi intimated to him first by word of mouth on the 13th January and then by letter on the next day that he would take steps for the burial of the corpse, the Board considers that suitable notice should be taken of the Reddi's failure to make good his promise. The Board further holds that in any case the Village Magistrate neglected to do his duty and that the Collector was not justified in deferring orders on the said neglect pending the issue of the orders by the Railway authorities on the conduct of the Station Master. The Board at the same time considers that the delay that has occurred in dealing with the present case, renders it im-

as per the order
with the Station Master
10/1/11
The Station Master's name
claim nothing.

para 4 of the current

when called on he claims fault
11/2/11

para 6 of the current

PPLO
Ole

See note on page 1

para 5 of the current

That if it is a sudden suspicious death this duty too is only to be in into the cause of death if he suspicious and not bury the body. The B. do in to keep in view the time intervening!

may express concurrence in the above remarks.

8. ~~8.~~ With reference to the other question, namely, as to what definite instructions should be issued by the Railway authorities to their subordinates for their guidance in future in similar exigencies, the Board observes as follows:- "It goes without saying that the Railway subordinates should take prompt steps for the removal of dead bodies from the Station premises. They should at once communicate the news of the death to the Village Magistrate, whose duty it then is to enquire the cause of death and to have the body buried or burnt, if there are no suspicious circumstances connected with the death. If the Village Magistrate fails to appear within a reasonable

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6/2
26/11/97

orders

the Board L.L.

S. P. W. D.

Copy to the Pub. Dept.

15 Nov 97

11-12-97

7/11/97
27/11/97

1911 of 211012.

REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1002, 30th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

Disposal of a corpse at the Urapadu Railway Station.

Passing orders on Board's Proceedings submitting to Government report on the — in the
Cuddapah District.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., Mis. No. 566, Revenue, dated 29th January 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board of Revenue for report letter from the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, reporting the conduct of certain village officers at Urampádu in permitting a cholera corpse to lie just outside the station premises for three days.

READ—again G.O., R. No. 553, Revenue, dated 18th March 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board of Revenue correspondence from the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway, asking for the views of Government as to whether the duty of removing a corpse from the railway premises under circumstances stated rests with the Government officials or with the Railway Company.

READ—again G.O., R. No. 973, Revenue, dated 19th May 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Recording, with remark, Board's Proceedings communicating to the Collector of Cuddapah, with remarks, memorandum from Government calling for early submission of report on conduct of certain village officers in permitting a cholera corpse to lie just outside a railway station for three days.

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 3338, dated 7th September 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from A. C. TATE, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 25th August 1897, No. 107-Tour :—

I have the honour to return the enclosures of Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 487, Land Revenue, dated 8th February 1897, and to report about the disposal of the dead body of the Madras Railway Company's porter Chengalrayadu, who died on the Railway Company's premises at Urampádu station on 13th January 1897.

2. The first intimation I received of the matter was the following wire on 15th January 1897 from the Assistant Traffic Manager, Gooty :—"Porter died from cholera at Urampádu. Authorities advised to remove corpse. No action taken three days. Arrange." I instantly wired as follows to the Tahsildar of Rámpéta :—"Attend instantly to matter of railway porter's corpse, left unburied at Urampádu."

3. The Tahsildar's action thereon is indicated in his report, Ref. on Cur. No. 6374 of 1896, dated 16th January 1897, written from Lebaka, where he was in camp when he got my wire; before he reached Urampádu the body had been buried by Dr. Thummon Singh, Assistant Surgeon, who had proceeded from Cuddapah for the purpose.

4. I wrote my letter of 18th January, Dis. No. 54-Magl. (one of the returned enclosures), to the Assistant Traffic Manager at the instance of the District Medical and Sanitary officer and I note that the Traffic Manager's letter in which he suggested that the matter should be brought to the notice of Government is dated 19th January. The stationmaster of Cuddapah had written me on 16th January as follows :—"I have been directed by the Divisional officer to inform you that the body of the porter who died of cholera at Urampádu had since been removed" and I infer that the renewal of the correspondence by the Madras Railway authorities is traceable to my having pointed out the fact that it was their own servant, the stationmaster, who was to blame in the matter.

5. Until I received Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 1138, dated 25th March 1897, I was expecting a further reply from the Railway Company whose Assistant Traffic Manager informed me in his letter of 4th April 1897, No. S. 150, that he was awaiting final instructions from the Agent and Manager, but on receipt of that order of

the Board I called for a full and detailed report on the Board's order from the Tahsildar of Pullampet in my Ref. on Cur. No. 62-Magl., dated 1st April 1897, and the Tahsildar replied in his Ref. on Cur. No. 6374 of 1896, dated 17th April 1897, from which the Board will observe that cholera had established a regular "reign of terror" in Pullampet taluk at the period alluded to. There were two hospital assistants on cholera duty in the taluk at the time, and the Railway Company has also its own hospital assistant. As regards the disposal of the dead body of the railway porter Chengal rayadu, who died on the Railway Company's premises, I consider that it was the duty of the Railway Company to have seen to its disposal, however unpleasant and troublesome the duty might have been. I agree with the Pullampet Tahsildar's remarks that the duty of disposing of the corpse of their servant is a necessity to deal with. The village magistrate has active enemies who have been lightened like every man to grief, and in this present matter I think the railway station should be dealt with before the propriety of punishing him is considered.

6. I must apologise for the delay in sending this report, and can only plead in excuse heavy work and worry in connection with famine operations. I have five or six other old references pending and shall try and dispose of them without further delay.

Resolution—Mis. No. 3338, dated 7th September 1897.

The report read above will be submitted to Government with reference to its orders, Mis. No. 566, dated 29th January 1897, and No. 553-R., dated 18th March 1897.

2. One Chengalrayadu, a porter in the service of the Madras Railway Company, died of cholera in the premises of the Urampádu railway station on the 13th January last. The remains were not buried until the evening of the 16th idem, in spite of repeated applications made to the village officers for assistance. During the interval the body was lying outside the Company's premises quite uncared for, being mutilated by birds and beasts. The stationmaster having reported the matter to the District Medical officer, the Assistant Surgeon arrived on the 16th, and had the body buried with the help of the reddi of the village. The Collector received the first intimation of the matter on the 15th January, and at once wired instructions direct to the Tahsildar, but that officer being then in camp, was able to reach Urampádu only on the morning of the 17th by which time matters had been set right.

3. The first question for consideration in this case is, who was responsible for the inordinate delay in the disposal of the dead body. A question of somewhat greater importance is raised by the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway, viz., what action should be taken in future under similar circumstances, and by whom. As regards the first question, the Board agrees with the opinion of the District Medical and Sanitary officer which is concurred in by the Traffic Manager (*vide* conclusion of Agent's letter, dated 10th March 1897, to the address of the Consulting Engineer for Railways). The burial of the body was a public duty which devolved upon the village officers, but when it was found that the Government and Railway servants in the village were all thoroughly demoralized by fear and had disappeared from the village, the stationmaster should have wired to the nearest railway station for scavengers to dispose of the body. It may, however, be noted that the Assistant Surgeon was eventually able to obtain the reddi's assistance for the burial of the corpse.

4. As regards the conduct of the village magistrate, if it is a fact, as stated by the stationmaster (*vide* opening paragraph of the Agent's letter already quoted), that the village reddi intimated to the stationmaster first (by word of mouth on the 13th, and then by letter on the 14th January, that he would take steps to have the body buried, the Board considers that suitable notice should be taken of the reddi's failure to make good his promise. In any case the village magistrate neglected his duty, and the Collector is not justified in deferring orders on the said neglect, pending the issue of orders by the railway authorities on the case of the stationmaster.

5. It remains to consider what definite instructions should be issued by the railway authorities to their subordinates for their guidance in future. It goes with

set thing

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NO. 1002, REVENUE, SOUTH IN VEMBER 1897

saying that the railway subordinates should take prompt steps for the removal of dead bodies from the station premises. They should at once communicate the news of the death to the village magistrate, whose duty it then is to enquire the cause of death and to have the body buried or burnt, if there are no suspicious circumstances connected with the death. If the village magistrate fails to appear within a reasonable time (say twelve hours), the stationmaster or other railway officer in charge should take steps for the disposal of the corpse, the fact of such disposal being at once reported to the village magistrate. The nearest police officer should also be communicated with immediately after the death occurs and in any case before the body is buried or burnt, so that action may be stayed if desirable.

6. The delay of over five months has occurred in the case of the stationmaster's report is ascribed by the Collector to pressure of other work. The delay in dealing with the present case renders it impossible to recommend the adoption of severe measures towards either the village magistrate or the stationmaster.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Collector's letter and enclosures.
" Collector of Cuddapah.

ORDER—No. 1002, Revenue, dated 30th November 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Government concurs in the Board's remarks in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its Proceedings last read above.

2. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Proceedings it is observed that although Mr. Tate had full materials before him on the 18th April, he did not submit his report till the 25th August following. He has been frequently to blame for similar delays and his explanation that he had heavy work and worry in connection with famine is not satisfactory.

3. As regards the instructions to be issued for guidance in future under similar circumstances, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that generally, when a death occurs at a railway station and the body is unclaimed, the stationmaster who has the chief supervision of the premises and the village munsif whose duty it is to attend to the sanitation of the village are both concerned. The first thing is to remove the corpse from the premises of the railway and the stationmaster must see that this is done and done decently. The next thing is to have the corpse buried. This is not the duty, legal or otherwise, of the stationmaster, though, as in the present case, circumstances may make it advisable that he should take action to that end himself. It is, however, incumbent upon him to inform the village magistrate that there is a corpse and also where it is, as also any other circumstances touching the death which it may be necessary to notice. The further responsibility as to the burial then rests with the village magistrate. When the death occurs from cholera in the middle of a cholera scare, the duties indicated above become more onerous and of more importance than in ordinary circumstances but are in no way altered in character.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" the Public Works Department.
Copy to the Public Department.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

60 Copies.

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