

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	173-74	Press
	64-66	~~Mis.~~
Dated	11. 2. 1964.	19

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

173-4

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

11th February 1864.

No. 64. Read the following letter from Captain F. NELSON, of Siddapore and Peddacheroo; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Biarlooby, 22nd January 1864.

Adverting to the unceasing accounts of the destruction of human life by tigers at Singapore, I have the honor respectfully to suggest a mode of dealing with them which I have no doubt would prove a complete success.

2. Buffaloes or bullocks should be picketted in the most likely cross-paths in the jungle. As soon as one was killed and any part eaten a tea-spoon full of Strychnine should be inserted under the flap of the skin next the part eaten.

3. The skin should be raised with a bamboo knife like a paper-cutter, and a human hand should touch no part of the carcase, and one person only approach to insert the poison; a watcher in a tree would keep the vultures off till sunset, when he would quit the place.

4. There is something repugnant no doubt in having recourse to poison, but if it is true that the jungle at Singapore is of that nature that there is no getting at the tigers, I see no other way of killing them.

5. I have tried Strychnine only on one occasion. I was about to leave Biarlooby for England in 1860, when a tiger killed one of my largest Nagpore buffaloes which had strayed from the cattle sheds during the night into my garden: part of the rump was as usual eaten. Not wishing to leave the tiger alive during my absence, and there being no moon, I inserted a tea-spoon full of Strychnine under the flap of the skin, next the part eaten, and posted a watcher to keep the birds off during the day. Next morning it was reported to me the tiger had eaten the poisoned part, but was not to be found. I went to the spot and found him within fifty paces of the buffalo, stone dead.

6. The vultures, crows and kites had been eating freely of the buffalo from day-light to 7 A. M., and a few were lying about, and the surrounding trees were full of them; the spot was within sight from the upper room of my house, and it was strange to see these gorged birds dropping off their perches and falling like ripe mangoes, while others slowly flew up from the carcase and took their places, to fall in their turn when this terrible poison had done its work.

7. This was going on the whole day; the tiger must have eaten nearly all the poison, yet enough remained to kill over twenty vultures and crows, which with the carcase of the buffalo and tiger I burned that evening.

8. The dreadful potency of this poison seems the great objection to using it; as a whole, hecatomb of vultures, crows, jackals, and dogs will perish on each occasion: and one is not quite sure that the mischief will end there. But this objection is as nothing when weighed against hundreds of human lives.

9. One man-eater at Ramgherry near Bangalore many years ago was supposed to have killed six hundred people in ten or twelve years. I have known her kill three men in two days when she had large cubs.

10. I should think Rupees 400 would cover all expenses, and rid Singapore of tigers for a couple of years to come.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1864, No. 173.

The Governor in Council directs that a copy of the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Governor of the Straits Settlements, and that the thanks of Government will be conveyed to Captain Nelson for his useful suggestion.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 66. To the Governor of Prince of Wales Island, Malacca and Singapore, dated Fort Saint George, 11th February 1864, No. 174.

I am directed to transmit to you a copy of a letter, dated 22nd ultimo, in which Captain F. Nelson, of Siddapore and Peddacheroo in this Presidency, has communicated a suggestion for effecting the destruction of Tigers, with reference, as he states, to the "unceasing accounts" of the loss of human life from the attacks of Tigers at Singapore.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Edw. J. Tulloch.

N^o 173 - 11 February 1864.

The Governor in Council
directs that a copy of the
foregoing letter be for-
warded to the Governor
of the Straits Settlements.
and sent

The thanks of the Govt.
will be conveyed to Capt.
Nelson for his useful
suggestion.

W. J. P.
Captain F. Nelson of
Addafoo and *desp. 15*
Paddafoo
Hornet Island

Judicial.

Nº 174.

The Governor of Prince of Wales Island,
Malacca, & Singapore.

Sir-

I am directed to transmit to you a copy of a letter, dated 22nd Ult., in which Captain F. Nelson of Piddapoor & Piddacherod, in this Presidency, has communicated a suggestion for effecting the destruction of Tigers, with reference, as he states, to the increasing accounts of the loss of human life from the attacks of Tigers at Singapore.

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J
Lt. St. George
11 February 1864

Ms. 880.

Communications
by post for effecting
the education of the poor.

Ms. 880. 11. February 1844.

Wholesale and Retail

of the
The Society of Friends of the
Abolition.

Ms. 880.

Wholesale and Retail

Ms. 880.