

18-11-055

29-9-33 IV

[L. & M.]
[8,000-3-8-20.]

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1029 L.

DATED 17th June 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Wild Animals.

Recording G.O., Revenue Department, reviewing the Board's report on the measures adopted for the destruction of ----- &c., during the calendar year 1894.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

16TH MAY 1895, Nos. 276, 276A, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 27th March 1895, No. 100 :—

Read—Collectors' reports on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals during the year 1894, and the measures taken for the removal of prickly-pear, &c.

Resolution—dated 27th March 1895, No. 100.

With reference to Government Order, dated 13th May 1875, No. 726, the Board resolves to submit to Government its report on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals, &c., during the calendar year 1894, accompanied by the prescribed statement. A statement showing the number of deaths caused by wild animals and venomous snakes in each month of the year is also appended with reference to Government Order, dated 2nd December 1889, No. 7766.

2. Notwithstanding the instructions in paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, dated 29th May 1894, No. 219, many collectors failed to submit their reports in time, *i.e.*, before 31st January. The districts in which there were excessive delays are noted in the margin. The delay in Nellore, Anantapur and Tinnevely is stated to be due to late receipt of returns from Divisional officers. The Collectors of the remaining districts have not explained the delay in their offices. The Board has further to note that the

The districts marked with an asterisk were among those singled out for excessive delay last year.

returns received from certain Collectors were defective necessitating references for further information.

3. The subjoined statement shows the number of human beings and cattle killed by wild animals and snakes during the year, the number of wild animals destroyed and the rewards paid for their destruction, as compared with the corresponding figures for 1893 :—

			Date of receipt in Board's office.
Górávari *	...	...	9th March.
Nellore *	...	...	8th do.
Kurnool *	...	...	21st February.
Tinnevely *	...	...	22nd do.
Salem *	...	...	28th do.
Anantapur }	...	...	

	1893.	1894.	Difference.
	No.	No.	No.
1. Total number of persons killed	1,772	1,891	+ 119
2. Number of persons killed by wild animals ..	274	279	+ 5
3. Do. do. by snakes	1,498	1,612	+ 114
4. Number of cattle killed by wild animals and snakes	14,252	14,325	+ 73
5. Number of wild animals destroyed	1,016	1,038	+ 22
6. Amount of rewards paid	Rs. 22,321½	Rs. 23,217½	+ 896

Note.—The figures differ slightly from those entered in the Board's report for 1893, the variations being due to subsequent alterations reported by three Collectors.

4. The following statement compares the number of deaths caused by the several species of wild animals and by snake-bite during the past ten years :—

Number of persons killed.

	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
By Elephants	1	3	8	5	41	..	1	1	1	2
" Tigers	73	87	137	125	93	111	152	213	192	180
" Leopards	38	71	50	27	45	42	38	55	50	81
" Bears	9	18	16	12	16	12	5	12	10	7
" Wolves	2	..	1	2	1	2	5	1	7	1
" Hyenas	2	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	3	1
" "Others"	11	15	14	15	9	28	38	11	7	7
Total	136	196	228	186	205	196	229	315	274	279
Snakes	1,487	1,492	1,263	1,455	1,587	1,424	1,433	1,455	1,498	1,612

Elephants.—The two deaths caused by elephants in 1894 occurred in the districts of Kistna and Malabar.

Tigers.—The number of persons killed by tigers in 1894 was 180 against 192 in 1893. The deaths from this cause in Ganjám, Vizagapatam and Gódvári were 47, 110 and 13, respectively (total 170), against 36, 119 and 14, respectively (total 169) in the previous year. The Collector of Ganjám attributes the increase in his district to the fact that more than half the deaths occurred in the Agency tracts into which shikaries rarely go for hunting. The number of deaths in Vizagapatam decreased from 119 in 1893 to 110 in 1894. Of these 45 occurred in Nowrangapur and 44 in Pottangi and Padua (22 in each). The Collector states that the maneaters which were at work in these places have not been killed, and that the special rewards for their destruction sanctioned in Government Orders, dated 4th June 1894, No. 2173, and 1st September 1894, No. 3417, have therefore not yet been claimed. He further states that a maneater, which committed great havoc in the Gudum hills of the Golconda taluk in the early part of the year and for whose destruction a special reward of Rs. 200 was sanctioned in Government Order, dated 7th April 1894, No. 1416, must have either died a natural death or gone elsewhere, as he has not been heard of again in that taluk. In Gódvári there were 27 deaths by tigers in the two years 1893, 1894, against 17 in the eight previous years. The Collector will be directed to make enquiries as to the cause of this increase. In Coimbatore deaths by tigers were fewer by ten than in 1893 (four against fourteen).

Leopards.—Deaths caused by leopards rose from 50 in 1893 to 81 in the year under report. This though the highest figure recorded during the last ten years, is possibly only the result of better registration. Nearly two-thirds of the deaths caused by leopards occurred in four districts,—Ganjám (16), Vizagapatam and Salem (13 each) and Coimbatore (11).

Bears, Wolves and Hyenas, &c.—The number of victims to bears, wolves, hyenas and other animals was small in comparison with the figures for the previous year. Seven deaths caused by "other animals" are reported, of which five were due

to wild boars and one to a wild buffalo. The remaining case occurred in Gódvári, but the kind of animal by which death was caused has not been specified.

5. *Snake-bite.*—Deaths from snake-bite rose from 1,498 in 1893 to 1,612 in 1894. The figures for each district are compared below for the past ten years :—

Districts.	Number of persons killed by snakes in									
	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Ganjám	15	22	21	10	20	57	76	56	65	49
Vizagapatam	23	49	54	64	59	75	70	52	43	59
Gódvári	15	10	13	42	36	26	39	57	99	41
Kistna	24	22	20	13	9	77	95	78	62	105
Nellore	13	13	14	32	15	33	12	16	15	32
Cuddapah	24	31	19	18	10	3	12	5	7	18
Anantapur	9	8	10	15	13	9	14	6	2	9
Bellary	18	9	16	38	32	41	38	33	30	20
Kurnool	6	3	8	12	3	3	9	29	47	48
Madras	2	2	2	2	..	5	2	9	12	5
Chingleput	105	121	95	108	121	92	106	92	107	142
North Arcot	136	161	141	155	124	171	156	136	131	145
South Arcot	261	230	154	215	220	168	110	182	181	195
Tanjore	181	209	176	199	221	178	215	244	175	157
Trichinopoly	74	53	49	82	178	70	61	51	128	131
Madura	118	116	79	99	92	65	57	109	97	59
Tinnevely	36	32	47	40	37	43	39	29	45	25
Coimbatore	90	61	65	54	75	63	45	45	44	87
Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Salem	155	181	145	107	170	103	136	114	84	144
South Canara	70	85	74	69	73	62	65	58	67	90
Malabar	72	74	61	81	79	80	76	54	55	50
Total	1,487	1,492	1,263	1,455	1,587	1,424	1,433	1,455	1,498	1,612

As usual the number of deaths by snake-bite was heaviest in Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Salem, Trichinopoly, and Kistna, these seven districts together having contributed a little over 63·2 per cent. of the total deaths in the Presidency. Taking the Presidency as a whole, deaths from snake-bite in 1894 reach the highest figure recorded since 1885,—a result due partly to better registration. In the following districts the number of deaths in 1894 from snake-bite exceeded that in any previous year since 1885 :—

Kistna (105), Kurnool (48), Chingleput (142), South Canara (90).

There were as usual but few deaths from this cause in the Nilgiris, in Madras and in Anantapur.

6. With reference to the resolutions of the Government of India in Government Orders, dated 28th January 1891, No. 59, and 14th November 1891, No. 1087, Revenue, and in view to reduce the mortality from snake-bite, Collectors were directed to adopt suitable measures for the removal of prickly-pear and other noxious vegetation from village-sites and the neighbourhood of inhabited villages. The subject continued to receive attention during the year under review as will appear from the précis of reports in the Appendix. The Collectors of Gódvári and North Arcot, however, have not submitted their reports on this subject. It will be observed from the reports received that in five districts Cuddapah, Anantapur, Chingleput, Tinnevely and Salem, conservancy establishments were maintained during the year for keeping the inhabited portions of villages clean and for freeing them from insanitary surroundings. In Cuddapah, Chingleput and Madura, 53 villages, including two unions, are stated to have been cleared of prickly-pear. In Ganjám, Cuddapah, Nellore and Madura prickly-pear was removed from a total area of 54 acres. The local boards in twelve districts allotted funds to the extent of over Rs. 11,255 for the removal of prickly-pear and other undergrowth. In nine districts notices were issued to private parties for the removal of prickly-pear, &c., growing on private land, with the result that the desired effect was attained in many cases. Prosecutions for neglect to comply with such notices were instituted in five districts. Notwithstanding the adoption of these measures, however, the number of deaths from snake-bite increased considerably as already stated.

The reports now submitted only confirm the Board in the view expressed last year that as a preventative against mortality from snake-bite the clearance of undergrowth is of little use, and it would respectfully suggest that in future the progress made in the removal of noxious vegetation might be more appropriately dealt with in the annual local fund and municipal reports.

7. *Mortality among cattle.*—The following statement shows the statistics of cattle mortality from wild animals and snake-bite as compared with those of 1893:—

	1893.	1894.	Difference.
1. Elephants	15	8	— 7
2. Tigers	3,212	3,080	— 132
3. Leopards	7,765	7,675	— 90
4. Bears	103	18	— 85
5. Wolves	543	925	+ 382
6. Hyenas	311	345	+ 34
7. Other animals	284	203	— 81
Total	12,233	12,254	+ 21
8. Snakes	2,019	2,071	+ 52
Grand Total	14,252	14,325	+ 73

Fewer deaths were caused in 1894 than in the previous year by tigers, leopards and bears. The increase of mortality in the year under report occurred mainly under item 5 (deaths by wolves) to which Cuddapah contributed 201, Bellary 93, and Kistna 85. In Cuddapah the ravages of wolves, which in 1893 had been confined to the Rayachoti taluk, extended in the year under report to all taluks. The cause of this increase is alleged to be the luxuriant growth of grass and other cover during the heavy rains by which the year was marked. In Bellary the reason assigned for the increase is that shikaries were chiefly engaged in agricultural operations. The Collector of Kistna has not explained the increase in his district. Of the total deaths in the Presidency caused by leopards, North Arcot, South Canara and Malabar contributed among them 5,043, or 65·7 per cent. Two deaths among cattle caused by "other animals" are reported from Kistna, but as one of them was caused by a mad dog, it has been omitted from the return; the other death was due to a mad jackal.

8. The following statement compares the number of wild animals destroyed and the amount of rewards paid for their destruction during the past two years:—

	1893.		1894.		Increase or decrease.	
	Number.	Rewards.	Number.	Rewards.	Number.	Rewards.
Elephants	2	RS. A. P.	..	RS. A. P.	..	RS. A. P.
Tigers	132	6,635 8 0	141	7,641 8 0	— 2	..
Panthers and leopards	784	15,227 8 0	803	15,181 0 0	+ 19	+ 1,006 0 0
Bears	94	443 8 0	91	395 0 0	+ 3	— 48 8 0
Wolves	2	..	1	..	— 1	..
Hyenas	1	15 0 0	..	..	— 1	..
Other animals	1	..	2	..	+ 1	— 15 0 0
Total	1,016	22,321 8 0	1,038	23,217 8 0	+ 22	+ 896 0 0

There was in 1894 an increase in the number of wild animals killed as well as in the amount of rewards disbursed for their destruction. The largest number 312 against 257 and 187, respectively, in 1893. The increase in Vizagapatam was due to the special rewards sanctioned for maneaters; for though the maneaters were, as already stated, not killed, the high rewards set on them incited shikaries to great activity and a larger number of tigers were slain. The Collector of Kurnool reports that a man eater which frequented the Nallamalais near Cumbum was killed after

the offer of a special reward of Rs. 200. No rewards are paid in this Presidency for the destruction of wolves or of hyenas; but Rs. 15 were erroneously paid in 1893 in the Vayalpad taluk of the Cuddapah district for killing a hyena. This sum has since been recovered. In Salem, Rs. 7 were paid for killing a bear, for which the maximum reward is Rs. 5. The Collector has been requested to explain.

9. *Disposal of the skins of wild animals.*—The sale of these skins yielded Rs. 4,033-14-5 during the year. Deducting this amount from the sum of Rupees 23,217-8-0, the aggregate of rewards disbursed for the destruction of wild animals, the net cost incurred by Government on the extirpation of wild animals was Rs. 19,183-9-7. The district figures are given below. The net cost in the previous year was Rs. 19,003:—

Districts.	Amount paid as rewards.	Amount realized by sale of skins.	Net cost to Government.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Ganjám	3,928	387	3,541
Vizagapatam	8,357	864	7,493
Gódvári	3,082	657	2,425
Kistna	501	65	436
Nellore	265	7	258
Cuddapah	488	49	439
Anantapur	124	41	83
Bellary	255	50	205
Kurnool	1,040	104	936
Madras	..	..	..
Chingleput	45	..	45
North Arcot	528	86	442
South Arcot	207	63	144
Tanjore	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	100	10	90
Madura	123	33	90
Tinnevely	38	8	30
Coimbatore	781	489	292
Nilgiris	280	57	223
Salem	562	222	340
South Canara	1,395	176	1,219
Malabar	1,119	666	453
Total	23,218	4,034	19,184

10. The number of licenses granted during the year under the Arms Act in Form IX amounted to 2,636. Those granted in the previous years and which remained in force in the year under report were 6,807. Thus the total number in force was 9,443. The corresponding figures in 1893 were 3,007, 4,647 and 7,654, respectively.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Collectors' reports in original (to be returned).
,, all Collectors.

APPENDIX B.
MONTHLYWAR statement showing human deaths by wild animals and snakes in the several districts of the Madras Presidency during 1894.

MONTHLYWAR statement showing human deaths by wild animals and snakes in the several districts of the Madras Presidency

Districts.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.	
	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.	Wild animals.	Snakes.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1. Ganjam	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	6	7	7	3	7	16	6	8	9	4	8	3	13	1	65	49
2. Vizagapatam	15	3	17	1	3	2	12	3	10	6	4	8	11	7	15	7	7	7	12	9	13	7	11	14	135	59
3. Godavari	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	3	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	3	..	..	..	..	8	3	20	41
4. Kistna	4	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	10	..	5	..	23	..	17	..	12	..	..	..	..	1	105
5. Nellore	..	..	2	..	1	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	32
6. Cuddapah	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	18
7. Anantapur	1	..	2	2	5	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	18
8. Bellary	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	6	20
9. Kurnool	..	3	1	2	2	2	1	6	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	9	1	4	5	7	..	..	..	4	8	48
10. Madras	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	5
11. Chingleput	..	5	..	5	13	..	..	12	2	..	..	17	..	17	15	..	..	20	..	19	..	7	..	7	..	142
12. North Arcot	..	3	..	3	11	14	..	11	18	9	..	24	11	11	17	17	..	18	11	11	9	..	..	..	..	145
13. South Arcot	..	9	..	14	14	14	..	16	21	21	1	6	9	14	23	23	..	23	28	18	1	10	1	17	8	195
14. Tanjore	..	13	..	10	10	10	..	11	10	10	..	3	5	9	14	13	..	23	18	9	..	6	..	..	..	157
15. Trichinopoly	..	9	..	19	19	19	..	11	15	15	..	5	6	5	5	..	..	16	9	3	..	9	..	..	..	131
16. Madura	..	4	..	5	5	5	..	9	14	14	..	5	4	4	4	4	..	6	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	59
17. Tinnevely	..	7	..	2	4	4	..	6	1	3	..	4	4	8	..	1	..	..	2	2	..	..	1	6	15	25
18. Coimbatore	1	..	7	7	5	5	..	6	5	5	3	4	..	..	3	22	7	1	1	9	2	..	1	..	..	87
19. Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
20. Salem	1	9	1	12	14	14	1	16	3	12	2	7	19	..	2	12	..	8	1	23	1	10	..	2	13	144
21. South Canara	1	4	..	2	4	4	..	8	..	13	..	10	6	6	..	8	..	7	9	9	..	..	..	10	1	90
22. Malabar	1	6	..	2	3	3	..	3	..	5	1	..	..	1	..	1	5	2	6	..	1	13	..	8	8	50
Total	24	81	22	88	20	128	18	134	15	148	14	135	24	137	29	192	25	165	28	181	26	114	34	109	279	1,612

APPENDIX C.

Précis.

Ganjam.—Steps were taken during the year by divisional and taluk officers for the removal of noxious vegetation in and around villages. The taluk boards of Goomsur and Chicacole sanctioned funds to the extent of Rs. 215 for the purpose, and an area of 7 acres and 1 cent. of ground was cleared of noxious growth in the Senior Assistant Collector's division.

Vizagapatam.—The Collector states that the subject of removing prickly-pear and other noxious vegetation from village-sites in view to reduce mortality from snake-bite continued to receive the attention of the local boards during the year.

Kistna.—The taluk boards of Repalle, Guntur, Bezwada and Bandar spent among them Rs. 8-2 in removing prickly-pear from the vicinity of towns and villages. Notices were issued to persons who had allowed noxious vegetation to encroach on public pathways.

Nellore.—The taluk boards and the municipality of Nellore town expended funds to the extent of Rs. 1,513-7-0 for removing prickly-pear and other undergrowth and about 28 acres were cleared. Private enterprise also contributed towards clearance of prickly-pear from village-site over an area of 6 acres.

Cuddapah.—In the municipality of Cuddapah a gang of coolies was employed for the removal of prickly-pear, and the whole town is, as far as possible, kept free from it. The owners of gardens and lands within municipal limits were advised to remove prickly-pear. No deaths from snake-bite in the municipality are reported to have occurred. In Protdatur taluk board 15 23 acres were cleared. The Madanapalle taluk board allotted funds to the extent of Rs. 157 for the removal of prickly-pear in three villages and two unions. Steps were also taken to remove prickly-pear in unions by employing special scavengers. The Cuddapah taluk board sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 436 for the clearance of prickly-pear. The people of 30 villages were also prevailed upon by the Headquarter Deputy Collector to keep their villages clear of wild bushes and prickly-pear. In the Sidhout taluk board an itinerant gang of coolies, at a monthly cost of Rs. 33, was employed for removing and destroying prickly-pear and noxious vegetation was removed in six villages. A further sum of Rs. 20 was also spent by the Sidhout union for the same purpose.

Anantapur.—An itinerant gang consisting of a maistry on Rs. 8 and six coolies on Rs. 5-8-0 each per mensem was employed for about five months in the latter part of the year and a number of village sites were cleared of prickly-pear. The growth of prickly-pear, &c., is reported to be limited in extent in the Anantapur Deputy Collector's division. In the Head Assistant's division village officers were instructed by Tahsildars during their tours to remove prickly-pear where it grew in close vicinity to village sites. Tahsildars themselves have occasionally seen to its removal.

Bellary.—The Collector states that village officers were under orders to get prickly-pear and other noxious vegetation removed from the vicinity of villages and that Revenue Inspectors were also directed to supervise this when visiting villages. In some cases ryots were served with notices for removing the scrub from their patta lands where it obstructed public pathways. Criminal prosecutions were instituted in the Rayadrug taluk against 37 persons of whom 29 were convicted. The Local Fund department has been asked to take the necessary steps for the extirpation of prickly-pear from lands vested in district board.

Madras.—The municipality issued 548 notices to private parties for the removal of prickly-pear, 468 of which notices were complied with.

Kurnool.—No prickly-pear is reported to be in existence in any of the divisions of this district. There is a small growth of it in the Kurnool municipality, and the municipal council tried it as fodder for the cattle during the famine of 1891, but the experiment failed.

Chingleput.—Monthly reports of mortality from snake-bite were, as in the previous year, obtained from each taluk; as also information regarding the particular localities where such deaths had occurred, the state of their surroundings and the measures adapted for the clearance of noxious growth. In 38 villages, prickly-pear was removed partly by itinerant gangs of coolies employed by the Chingleput taluk board, and partly by a special allotment of Rs. 1,765 from Local Funds, while in nineteen villages the village communities themselves undertook to effect the removal of the bush. Notice were issued to the ryots to remove the noxious growth standing on patta lands, village sites and adjoining pathways and Revenue Inspectors and Village officers were directed to see that the work was properly attended to.

South Arcot.—Every endeavour was made to clear all noxious growth in view to minimise the number of deaths from snake-bite. The taluk boards sanctioned funds to the extent of Rupees 1,174-10-6 for the removal of prickly-pear in public places. The taluk board in the Sub-Collector's division has provided funds in the budget for 1895-96 for the entertainment of an

itinerating Inspector's staff and prickly-pear gangs. Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors attended to the removal of prickly-pear during their tours. The village menial servants when not employed in the collection and remittance of kists were made to remove the scrub. Tahsildar did their best to induce private people to remove noxious growths from their patta lands. The ryots were, however, very apathetic in the matter. Notices were issued to ryots for the removal of prickly-pear covering and obstructing public pathways. In some cases of encroachment prohibitory assessment was charged, while in others criminal prosecutions were ordered and fines imposed.

Tanjore.—In the Tanjore Deputy Collector's division, a sum of Rs. 460-3-0 was spent by the taluk board for clearing away prickly-pear in the rural parts and 30 snakes and 110 eggs were destroyed. Additional funds were also allotted by the taluk board for the same object. The owners of many plots of ground which were overrun with noxious vegetation removed it in compliance with notices served on them. The Tanjore municipal council issued several notices with some effect and ordered prosecutions in cases where the notices were not attended to. In the Pattukkottai division, the "Europe castor-oil plant," which is reported to be the chief harbour to tank bums. Twenty snakes and thirteen eggs were destroyed in the clearances effected during the year. In the Mannargudi Deputy Collector's division, prosecution was sanctioned in one case, the owner having refused to remove a prickly-pear hedge near a dwelling on notice given for the extermination of prickly-pear, &c. In the Head Assistant and Sub-Collector's divisions, the taluk officers did their best was spent by the taluk board on clearance.

Trichinopoly.—In the Trichinopoly municipality notices were served on owner's of lands to remove the prickly-pear growing on them. Nearly half the number of these notices were complied with. In the remaining cases prosecutions were instituted and the offenders were fined. The taluk boards of Trichinopoly and Udaiyarpalayam spent Rs. 233 and Rs. 549, respectively, on the extirpation of prickly-pear and on the improvement of the sanitary condition of villages in their jurisdiction. The chief measures adopted for the removal of prickly-pear were (1) the imposition of penal assessment, (2) the prosecution of owners, and (3) the grant of lands overgrown with prickly-pear on cowle tenure free of assessment.

Madura.—Notices were issued to the owners of lands on which the growth of prickly-pear was found to be a nuisance to effect its removal on pain of prosecution. In Melur taluk 20 prosecutions were accordingly instituted and eight persons were convicted. In Palni penal assessments were imposed in 325 cases for encroachments on Government poramboke lands caused by the spreading of prickly-pear hedges. In Tirupattur and Pamban 14 and 57 prosecutions, respectively, were instituted against owners of lands with the result that noxious vegetation was cleared from a considerable portion of the island and many snakes were killed during the clearing. The taluk boards of Melur and Dindigul allotted funds to the extent of Rs. 230-3-2, and about 10,000 square yards of ground were cleared of prickly-pear. In Palni taluk a sum of Rs. 232-3-2 was expended from local funds and the plant was cleared from four villages.

Tinnevely.—Stringent instructions were issued to subordinate officers to arrange for the removal of undergrowth affording cover to venomous reptiles. Funds were allotted for the purpose by the taluk boards of Tenkarai and Tinnevely. Under the taluk board, Srivilliputtur, from the villages visited. Under the taluk board, Srivilliputtur, from the villages visited.

Coimbatore.—The taluk boards of this district spent among them Rs. 1,158-9-9 for the removal of prickly-pear in and around village sites.

Nilgiris.—The Collector reports that the orders of Government in respect of the removal of undergrowth and filth in the vicinity of towns and villages continued to receive attention during the year under report.

Salem.—Steps were taken for the removal of noxious growth in the vicinity of towns and villages in the district and quarterly reports on the mortality from snake-bite and the measures adopted for the removal of prickly-pear were obtained from divisional officers and reviewed by the Collector. Attempts were also made to induce the villagers to remove noxious growth and in cases of recalcitrancy notices under the Criminal Procedure Code were issued. A sum of Rs. 2,015 was spent during the year by the different taluk boards on the improvement of village-sites. In the Tirupattur and Salem municipalities prickly-pear growing on public poramboke land has been removed by the conservancy staff and the reserve gang.

South Canara.—The instructions issued regarding the removal of undergrowth and filth in the vicinity of towns and villages continued to receive attention during the year.

Malabar.—The Collector reports that attention was paid during the year to the removal of undergrowth in the Calicut, Kottayam and Palghat taluks.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 30th April 1895, Mis. No. 2168 :—

Read—the following letter from S. H. WYNNE, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, Madras, dated Palmanér, 21st April 1895, No. 1064-Dis. Acc. :—

I have the honour to submit the following report regarding the measures taken for the removal of undergrowth in the vicinity of towns and villages, as promised in this office foot-note to the statement showing the results of measures adopted for the extermination of wild animals during 1894, submitted to the Board on the 5th February last.

Sub-division.—The Sub-Collector reports that prickly-pear was removed in seven villages of his division at the cost of the Taluk Board, which allotted funds for the purpose. The Tahsildars had the prickly-pear removed in some villages with the assistance of the village officers and the ryots. On patta lands it is being cleared as cultivation extends. Strict orders have been issued on the subject to the officers concerned.

Head Assistant Collector's Division.—This noxious vegetation was removed in certain villages and unions at the cost of Local Funds so far as funds permitted. In patta lands, 3,361 square feet of ground was cleared of this vegetation by the owners themselves. Notices have been issued inviting applications for cowles for lands overgrown with prickly-pear for a period of twenty years.

General Duty Deputy Collector's Division.—Rupees 280 were spent during the year from Local Funds for the removal of prickly-pear and private individuals have been required to clear their lands of this vegetation.

Head-quarter Deputy Collector's Division.—Prickly-pear was removed in sixteen villages at a cost of Rs. 244 by the Taluk Board. An itinerating gang consisting of seven men were engaged in the Chittoor taluk at a cost of Rs. 246-15-7 and an extent of 13,365 square yards was cleared of the noxious vegetation.

Resolution—dated 30th April 1895, Mis. No. 2168.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 27th March 1895, No. 100.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Periodical Register No. 991 (to be returned).

ORDER—dated 16th May 1895, No. 276, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

In the above Proceedings, the Board submits its report on the mortality among human beings and cattle caused by snakes and wild animals during the year 1894 and on the measures adopted for the destruction of the latter. His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to observe, that in spite of remarks passed in previous years regarding delay in submission, the present report has only reached Government on April 3rd, or 19 days after the due date; and the additional North Arcot report subsequently forwarded was received on the 4th May. The reason is, as usual, late receipt by the Board of reports from certain districts, six of which are noted. It is remarked that no less than five of these were among those singled out for special delay in the preceding year, while in the case of three (Nellore, Kurnool and Tinnevely), similar delay has occurred in the last three years. The Government trusts that for the future no occasion for complaint will arise.

2. The number of persons killed by wild animals in the year 1894 was 279, showing an increase of 5, as compared with the preceding year. This increase is due entirely to the greater number of deaths caused by leopards; 81 as compared with 50 in the previous year. The number is the highest under this head for ten years. The reason suggested by the Board, as a possible explanation, is better registration, but this seems scarcely sufficient to account for the mortality. The increase is found chiefly in the districts of Vizagapatam, Anantapur, Gódvári, Coimbatore and Salem; and it is noted that in the last three of these there is a marked decrease in the number of cattle killed by leopards. In Anantapur, where there were no deaths caused by leopards in 1892-93, and six in 1894, five of the latter occurred in one taluk (Madakasra) and five in the same month (March). This suggests the possibility of the deaths having been caused by the same animal.

3. The decrease of twelve in the number of deaths caused by tigers is satisfactory. There has however been an increase from 36 to 47 in Ganjam; and the reason assigned in the Collector's report, that more than half the deaths occurred in the Agency tracts which shikaries rarely visit, though it may and probably does explain the high normal mortality, does not explain the increase over the previous year's figure. The report as to the cause of the unusually heavy mortality in Gódvári under this head during the last two years is awaited.

4. Deaths from snake-bite, which have been showing a slight increase each year since 1890, have this year risen to 1,612, the highest figure reached during the last ten years. Probably the increase is in part at least, due to more complete registration; and it is still left a matter of doubt how far the measures taken since the beginning of 1891 for the removal of debris, prickly-pear and rank vegetation from the neighbourhood of villages has had a practical effect on the mortality from snake-bite. These measures are generally, there is reason to believe, carried out in a very perfunctory manner. It is obvious that, unless the work is thoroughly done, the snakes will merely shift their quarters and not leave the neighbourhood so long as cover is available. The Government is not therefore disposed for the present to abandon the measures that have been taken with this object for the protection of the village-sites and which have the approval of the Government of India. Of course these measures are not designed to affect the mortality beyond the village-sites.

5. Among cattle, 12,254 deaths have been caused by wild animals and 2,071 by snakes, the corresponding figures for 1893 being 12,233 and 2,019. The difference is very trifling. In some districts, however, there has been a marked increase. In Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah the total number of cattle killed by wild animals has doubled, the actual figures being 1,026 and 509. In Anantapur the number, though twice that for 1893, is below the number for 1892. The increase in Cuddapah and Bellary is attributed mainly to the ravages of wolves. It is observed that though 395 head of cattle were destroyed by wolves, only one wolf was killed and no reward was paid for it. The Board will state its opinion as to whether the sanctioned reward, viz., Rs. 5, affords a sufficient inducement to shikaries.

6. The number of wild animals destroyed in 1894 was 1,038 as compared with 1,016 in 1893; nine more tigers being killed and nineteen more leopards, while there was a slight decrease under other heads. The amount paid in rewards was Rupees 23,217-8-0, being an excess of Rs. 896 over the previous year. The sale of skins yielded Rs. 4,034 as against Rs. 3,318 in 1893. These figures call for no remark.

7. The increase in the number of arms licenses in Form IX from 7,654 to 9,443 is regarded with satisfaction.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), with enclosures,
 " the Judicial Department.
 " the Local and Municipal Department.

Endorsement No. 276A.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

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

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

70 Copies.

Local & Municipal Dept.
 CURRENT No. 15462
 Govt. of {1895} Madras.
 REVENUE.

n order
mis
Recorded

1/8
14/6/95
15. VI

Issued
 Recd. 5 JUN. 95 Encl.

G.O., 16th May 1895,
 Nos. 276, 276A.

MAY.

Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner
in file
Recd 21/6/95

Wild Animals.

Reviewing the Board's report on the measures adopted for the destruction of —, &c., during the calendar year 1894.

(With order)
12/6
Ans/6

When given for copying
 When copied
 When examined
 When signed } 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
 A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied
 P = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.