

No 53

Leapstone House
Madras 17th February 1881.
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From

R. W. Barlow Esq.
Commissioner of Nilgiris
on deputation at Madras.

To

The Hon. A. Davidson, C. S. I.
Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the Proceedings of Government, dated 11th Instant, No 128, forwarding copy of G. O. No 132 dated 3rd February 1881, and to submit my thanks for the opinion expressed at para 3. As the letter of the Honorary Secretary was not before me, when I wrote my No 43 dated 9th Instant, I request permission to offer the following remarks on it, which I wish to be on record, in the event of the subject of the Small Game Close season again coming before Government.

2. The close season was originally fixed from April 16th to September 15th, with an especial view to small game, and in order to give visitors both at the beginning and

end

end of the season, six weeks' shooting; this was explained by me when making these proposals, as Commissioner; I regret that I am unable to give the ~~at~~ and date of these letters, but the correspondence is brief and easily referred to.

3. The Game Association have now fixed the close season, from March 1st to September 30th, thereby excluding visitors from small game shooting altogether, for "no special reasons," as the Secretary himself states, (vide paras 3 & 4 of his letter) but to bring the close season for all kinds of small game into union, i.e. with that newly fixed for woodcock and snipe. Now, neither in the Act, nor in the Notification of what is "game" originally published, was any mention made of woodcock or snipe, which are migratory birds, but when Government, on my recommendation, were good enough to sanction the issue of Licenses for shooting game in Government Sholaks on payment of fees, I asked to have woodcock and snipe included in the list of "game", with the intention of preventing parties

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parties evading the ~~fit~~ and disturbing the Sholaks without ~~disuse~~, on the quibble that they were beating for woodcock or snipe, which were not "game". I little anticipated that this action of mine would result in all small game sport for visitors being sacrificed for the preservation of these migratory birds.

4. As regards the arguments at clauses 1 & 2, para 3 of the Honorary Secretary's letter, I have already pointed out that, the presence of vermin on a bird, is no proof that it is out of season - English partridges in the autumn often are covered, but it is true that snipe arrive and settle about the middle of September, and that woodcock are found congregated in small numbers in March in certain localities, prior to their departure: though this same argument applies also to their advent and more strongly; for on arrival they are tired, and are easily shot - their flight being slow - while, when leaving, they are shy, and their movements strong and rapid, but if Government consider that for the reasons

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reasons set forth, woodcock and snipe require protection at these seasons, by all means afford it, but I respectfully submit let special dates be fixed as for big game, leaving the small game season for other species as originally fixed.

5. I write thus strongly, in, what I believe to be, the real interests of the District. Shooting is a great attraction to visitors, and many, who cannot afford the heavy expenses incident to a camp out for large game, look forward to an occasional day's outting for small, which can be obtained in fair quantities within a day's ride of Pookamand, from which sport they will now be entirely shut out: and this, admittedly for "no special reasons", and, so far as I can see, with no compensating advantage whatever.

I have the honor to be

Sirs

Your most Obedient servant

Yours

W. P. P. P.

Commissioner of Nilgiris
on deputation at Madras.

CS

Ldged.

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Mr Barlow is a member
of the Kilgiri game
association committee
on whose behalf Col.
Wilson wrote. It
would be very in-
expedient to allow
single members of
that association to
contest recommendations
made by the body thro'
their Secretary.

WPK

18/2/81

C21.2
R18.2

Public (1881) Dept.

(Kilgiri game Act)

From the Commissioners of Kilgiri
now on deputation as
The Ag Collector

(3) of Masoor

To,

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

Dated 17 } February 1881
Res 12 }

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Enclosures. None

Passing remarks
on the Game Association
Secretary's letter & pointing
out the inconvenience which
will be felt by the change
of the shooting season from
April to September, & March
& September on the
Kilgiri. & strongly recom-
mending for alteration of the
period.