

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 30. 6. 93.
No. 504.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Reviewing
Review dept reviewing
the report on the
destruction of wild
animals for 1892

Gobt. of {1893} Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 1st June 1893,
Nos. 468, 468A.

JUNE.

CS.
Order 30th June 1893, No. 504.
Recorded.

1916
Cyds
in CS
30/6.

Madras
Office Give copy to *Genl. Adm.*

Report

CS.
Taken
8/7

Wild Animals.

Reviewing report on the destruction of — for
the calendar year 1892.

a copy submitted
For the General
Administration Report
by the Secretary to Government
Madras

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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kill snakes. The Collector does not recommend the payment of any reward for snake-killing as the experiment has been tried without success.

Malabar.—The Sub-Collector reports that the circumstances of the so-called villages in the district are entirely different from those of the East Coast villages, and that except in one village, Kuttaparamba, he incurred no expenditure in clearing jungle. In the Special Assistant's division, the Mallapuram Taluk Board expended Rs. 50 in the clearing of lantana and other undergrowth in the vicinity of certain towns. The Special Assistant does not think that the clearing of undergrowth will have the slightest effect on the mortality from snake-bite. He also points out that since it has been removed from the sides of certain roads, cases of snake-bite have come to his notice, and that as usual they occurred near detached houses situated at some distance from roads and quite out of the range of any clearing operations that could possibly be undertaken.

The Deputy Collector, Wynad, reports that it is out of the question to attempt any clearance of the jungle with a view to destroying the cover for snakes; that there are hardly any village sites properly so called in the taluk, as people inhabit scattered houses situated in solitary valleys and on hills; and that deaths from snake-bite are very rare in the taluk, for the reason that the coldness of the climate operates in keeping the reptiles to their holes and preventing them from frequenting open spaces. He adds, however, that since the organization of the Taluk Board, much has been, and is being, done, in the direction of clearing jungle in and around petty towns in the taluk.

Cochin.—The greater part of Cochin lies within the Municipality, and the Council has done its best to keep the backyards clear of rank vegetation. It appears that there is not much undergrowth in this taluk.

Calicut.—The Taluk Board sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 50 for the clearing of jungle during the year, and the amount was placed at the disposal of the Tahsildar. The Deputy Collector, however, doubts if any practical use can be made of this small amount, and whether public money can be profitably expended in clearing undergrowth on private lands, which form the bulk of landed property in this district.

The Collector does not believe that any good will be done by attempting to clear undergrowth in this district. There is little or no village-site, and he believes that very few cases of snake-bite occur, except in private gardens, into which Government officers have no power to enter to destroy undergrowth.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 1st May 1893, Mis. No. 2695.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th April 1893, No. 209, reports on measures adopted during 1892 for the removal of undergrowth in the vicinity of towns and villages in Nellore and in General Duty Deputy Collector's division, Tirukoilur, South Arcot.

READ—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 16th May 1893, Mis. No. 3011.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government letter from the Collector of Malabar stating that the death caused by an elephant in 1892 took place in the Palghat taluk.

ORDER—dated 1st June 1893, No. 468, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

In the first paper read above the Board of Revenue submits its report on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during the calendar year 1892 and on the mortality among human beings and cattle from these causes during the same period. The Board's report was not received in the Government office until more than a month and a half after the prescribed date, and the delay appears to have been mainly due to the late submission of the returns from the Kurnool district. The Government is unable to accept the Collector's excuse that the Tahsildars' reports were not received in time, and must record its extreme dissatisfaction at the want of punctuality which he has displayed in the matter.

2. The number of human beings killed by wild animals during the year under report was 816 or 87 more than in the previous year, the deaths caused by tigers alone being 59 in excess of those in 1891. The increase is, as usual, chiefly noticeable in the districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, the figures for which represent more than 71 per cent. of the deaths in the whole Presidency. The increase in Ganjam is

ascribed by the Collector to greater accuracy in the returns. In Vizagapatam the number of deaths caused by tigers reached the high figure of 120 as compared with 105 in 1891, chiefly owing to the depredations of man-eating tigers which appear to abound in this district. The returns under this head from the remaining districts do not call for any remark.

3. The number of deaths of human beings caused by snake-bite rose from 1,433 in 1891 to 1,455 in 1892. No less than 60·3 of the deaths reported from this cause occurred in the six districts of Salem, North Arcot, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore and Madura. The death-rate reported from some of the remaining districts is so low as to throw considerable doubt on the accuracy of the returns. For instance only 5 deaths are reported from Cuddapah and only 6 from Anantapur.

4. The Board summarizes in an appendix to its report the steps that have been taken, in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India, to remove noxious vegetation from the vicinity of village sites with the object of reducing the death-rate from snake-bite. The action taken in this matter by the several Collectors, Local Boards and Municipalities during the year under report was, on the whole, satisfactory, but it would be premature to form any conclusion at present as to the effect of the removal of undergrowth on the mortality from snake-bite.

5. Nine thousand eight hundred and eighty-six head of cattle were destroyed during 1891 by wild animals and 1,458 by snakes, the figures being much the same as those returned for the previous year. As usual the loss of cattle in the districts of Malabar and South Canara was extremely heavy, amounting to nearly 45 per cent. of the total number of cattle destroyed in the Presidency. Chingleput also contributed 40 per cent. of the deaths of cattle from snake-bite. These extraordinarily high percentages are not satisfactorily accounted for, and the returns under this head would seem to be of doubtful accuracy.

6. One thousand and ninety wild animals were destroyed during the year 1892 as compared with 1,170 in 1891. Rs. 23,589 were disbursed in the shape of rewards; this expenditure was partly counterbalanced by a sum of Rs. 4,054 realized by the sale of skins, the net cost of the operations to Government being Rs. 19,535 as against 19,928 in the previous year.

7. Under the head of licenses under the Indian Arms Act in force during the year, the Board has shown in the present report only free licenses in form XI granted for the purpose of destroying wild animals or protecting crops, and not those in form VIII issued for purposes of sport, protection or display. This procedure is in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, but the result is somewhat misleading, for, as the Board points out, many of the licenses taken out in form VIII are intended to cover the special purposes served by free licenses.

(True Extract.)

W. A. P. S.
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with Collectors' reports returned.
 „ the Judicial Department.
 „ the Accountant-General.
 „ the Financial Department.
 „ the Public Department.
 „ the Local and Municipal Department.

No. 468A.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

100 Copies.

APPENDIX C.

Ganjam.—The Collector states that from time to time, the divisional and taluk officers were directed to take the necessary steps for the clearance of jungles around villages, the expenses for the purpose being borne by the Local Boards, and in several cases by the villagers themselves. He thinks that this action resulted in the decrease of the mortality from snake-bite.

Vizagapatam.—The Taluk Boards of Narsapatnam, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram maintained during the year itinerating conservancy establishments for the removal of undergrowth in the vicinity of towns and villages, and good progress was made in the removal of prickly-pear and obnoxious vegetation in several villages. In addition to maintaining these establishments, the Taluk Boards of Vizagapatam and Vizianagram spent Rs. 151 for the removal of undergrowth in villages in which the conservancy parties were not at work. The Taluk Board of Vizagapatam issued notices to several owners of private land in two villages overgrown with prickly-pear requiring them to remove it, and this was done accordingly. The Collector adds that deaths from snake-bite in the district are very rare, more especially along the coast where alone prickly-pear thrives. [The Board, however, notes that there were 52 deaths from this cause in 1892.]

Godavari.—During the year the Narsapur Taluk Board proposed to entertain temporarily an itinerating gang in each of the two taluks under its control, for removing prickly-pear, rubbish, &c., in the villages comprised therein. This was sanctioned by Government. For the next year, the establishment of a sanitary inspecting agency under the control of each of the four Taluk Boards was proposed by the District Board, and provision has accordingly been made in the next year's budget. One of the duties of this agency is to visit all villages, and remove prickly-pear and similar growth affording cover to snakes. In the Ellore Municipality croton and other noxious plants were removed during the year from waste lying within Municipal limits, at a cost of Rs. 2-6-0, and 179 notices were issued to parties having private compounds overgrown with noxious vegetation requiring them to remove it. In Peddapuram taluk a sum of Rs. 100 was spent in removing prickly-pear in certain localities.

Nellore.—The Collector merely says that he has issued instructions to divisional officers to adopt necessary measures for the removal of undergrowth in the vicinity of towns and villages, with a view to reducing the mortality from snake-bite.

Bellary.—The Collector reports that Tahsildars appear to be doing their best to encourage village officers and ryots to remove undergrowth which gives shelter to snakes.

Cuddapah.—Steps were taken throughout the district to clear villages and village-sites of rank vegetation and bushes which afford shelter to snakes. The Presidents of Taluk Boards were specially instructed to spend all the available funds for the said purpose. A sum of Rs. 960 was spent in Badvel and neighbouring villages during the recent distress. Some of the Divisional officers got monthly reports from their Tahsildars regarding the progress made in this direction, and systematically review them.

Anantapur.—Prickly-pear is not common in this district. Except in the two northern taluks (Gooty and Tadpatri), and a few villages in Dharmavaram, steps were taken for the removal of the growth, when it existed to any large extent in the vicinity of towns and villages. In some cases village officers, who were found negligent in the discharge of their duty, were punished with fines during the year.

Kurnool.—The attention of Divisional officers, Presidents of Local Boards, and the Municipal Chairman was drawn to the necessity for the removal of all noxious vegetation. The Divisional officers of Nandyal and Pyapali report that their divisions are free from such growth. Markapur abounded in prickly-pear, but it was cleared during the distress of 1891-92, and utilized as fodder for cattle. There is a small growth of this shrub in the Municipality of Kurnool, but the Municipal authorities do not appear to have taken steps for its removal.

Madras.—The Municipality issued 84 notices for the removal of undergrowth, and in 75 cases, this was effected during the year.

Chingleput.—Monthly statements were obtained from each taluk showing, according to villages, the human mortality from snake-bite, the particular localities in each village where deaths occurred, details as to the cover afforded for snakes, and the steps taken for the clearance of noxious growth. The Collector says that every endeavour was made to secure the removal of noxious vegetation, both by inducing the ryots to do the work where possible, and by getting allotments from Local Funds, where that was absolutely necessary. He also adds the following information:—There were altogether 92 deaths from snake-bite in the district, of which 51 occurred in dwelling houses, open fields, public streets, or at snake holes, in 49 villages. Seven of these villages were completely void of prickly-pear, while in the rest, there was some, though not in the vicinity of the places where the deaths took place. The remaining cases happened in 31 villages, and may be accounted due to the abundance of the growth which afforded shelter for snakes. Twelve of these villages were cleared of prickly-pear, and in the remaining ones the work of clearance was being attended to.

North Arcot.—Prickly-pear was removed in some places by Taluk Boards and Village Unions at a cost of Rs. 672. A sum of Rs. 100 was also spent by private agency in the same direction.

Monthly reports were obtained from Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars showing the progress made in the removal of prickly-pear. In some taluks, itinerating gangs were entertained for the purpose, and in one taluk nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres were cleared of this vegetation. Some prosecutions were instituted against persons who disregarded notices issued to them.

South Arcot.—The conservancy establishment of the Cuddalore Municipality and the Union servants of Panruti were utilized to remove prickly-pear growing on the road side. Where ryots were responsible for prickly-pear extending over pathways, notices for its removal were served on them, and in some cases, where these were disregarded, they were prosecuted. Elsewhere, the monigars employed village talayaris to remove the noxious growth, and in many villages of Chidambaram, prickly-pear was cleared. In three taluks of the sub-division, Rs. 402 were spent for the purpose. Itinerating Sanitary Inspectors were employed during the year, and they were enjoined to pay special attention to this work. They were also required to submit weekly diaries through the Tahsildars. The President thinks that a great deal of good has been done in this way. It is also contemplated to establish itinerating gangs of talayaris numbering 12 men on Rs. 6 each, under each Sanitary Inspector, who will be instructed not to leave a village until it has been put into a good sanitary condition.

Tanjore.—The Collector of Tanjore seems to think that there is little chance of reducing mortality from snake-bite by the clearance of noxious vegetation. He gives the statistics for each taluk, showing the number of persons killed by snakes in the past two years, and draws attention to the fact that, in the delta taluks, where almost every acre of land is highly cultivated, and where garden crops take the place of jungle and noxious vegetation, deaths from this cause are more numerous than in taluks where there is abundance of prickly-pear. In Mayavaram taluk, where there is hardly any prickly-pear, deaths from snake-bite were double the number in Tanjore, a great deal of which is overgrown with this vegetation. He further points out that it is often impracticable to get fences which harbour snakes removed, for instance, the aloe fence on both sides of the South Indian Railway. It is further reported that proprietors of gardens are found unwilling to rid their compounds of the vegetation. The Collector finally adds that, wherever undergrowth was found to be a nuisance, endeavours were made to remove it. In Pattukkottai division, vigorous measures were adopted to remove noxious vegetation, 41 snakes and 56 snake eggs being destroyed in the process of clearing.

Trichinopoly.—In Trichinopoly Municipality, 90 notices were issued to owners of vacant lands, who had permitted the growth of prickly-pear. Of these, 52 notices were complied with. In 16 cases, prosecutions were instituted, and the offenders fined, and the remaining cases were pending. Prickly-pear on road sides was removed by the Municipality, and Taluk Boards allotted for the purpose a sum of Rs. 1,045 and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 533. In addition to this, prickly-pear is said to have been removed by villagers in 27 villages of Kulittalai taluk, and 5 villages of Trichinopoly taluk. The cost of prickly-pear removed by villagers in Perambalur is given as Rs. 400.

Madura.—Clearances were effected in some villages of the Madura and Tirumangalam taluks. In Melur, the Taluk Board assisted the villagers in removing prickly-pear, spending Rs. 100. Pattadars removed the growth in most cases, those who failed to do so being criminally prosecuted. In Palni, the Taluk Board sanctioned Rs. 2,020 for removing prickly-pear. Persons who disobeyed the notices to remove the growth were prosecuted. In Kodaikanal, prickly-pear over an extent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres was cleared. In Dindigul taluk, where the growth of it was very extensive, about 62,600 square feet were cleared at a cost of Rs. 120. The Taluk Board was also addressed to sanction Rs. 1,215 for the purpose. Some of the worst cases of encroachments on roads were charged before the Sub-Magistrates of Nilakkottai and Dindigul, and were pending enquiry at the close of the year. In Periyakulam, undergrowth over small areas was cleared, and Rs. 190 were sanctioned by the Taluk Board for its removal over larger extents.

Tinnevely.—The growth of prickly-pear is not very abundant in this district, and in places where it existed, it was removed during the year. There was a decrease in the mortality from snake-bite, but this is considered to be a casual variation.

Coimbatore.—Various sums of money were sanctioned by the different Taluk Boards for clearance of prickly-pear in the district.

Nilgiris.—Village-sites and their surroundings were constantly cleared of bushes and growth, yielding cover to venomous reptiles.

Salem.—For the removal of prickly-pear, about Rs. 1,678 were spent in the year in the different taluks of this district, and more is expected to be done in the current year. Influence was also brought to bear upon the villagers, as far as possible, to induce them to undertake the clearance work, but much success is not expected in this direction.

South Canara.—Instructions regarding the removal of undergrowth in the vicinity of towns and villages were published in the District Gazette. In the Head Assistant Collector's division, Mr. Slight insisted upon the Tahsildars reporting to him, in all cases of deaths from snake-bite, whether the person was bitten at or near the house, and what steps were subsequently taken to discover and destroy the snake. The Mangalore Taluk Board sanctioned in one instance a reward of eight annas for a cobra killed by a Moplah, but no further applications for rewards were received, probably because the eight-anna rate was found to be an insufficient inducement to

APPENDIX B.

MONTHLY WAR statement showing human deaths caused by wild animals and snakes in the several districts of the Madras Presidency during 1892.

	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.	
Ganjam	12	..	5	1	1	8	3	4	4	9	2	9	10	9	13	12	11	8	10	6	10	2	7	1	85
Vizagapatam	18	..	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	8	5	9	9	13	5	14	4	11	12	19	3	16	4	140
Godavari	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	1	11	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	2	1	8	2	3	6
Krishna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	8	13	..	..	..	5	..	..	13	2	1	1	..	3	57
Nellore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	18
Cuddapah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kurnool	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chingleput	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Arcot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Arcot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tinnevely	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Coimbatore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salem	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Canara	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	42	82	17	73	14	107	21	140	14	130	32	137	26	140	28	137	30	152	27	159	37	111	30	87	316
																									1,455

* Note.—Two killed by mad dogs omitted.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 28th April 1893, No. 209:—

Read—statements showing the results of measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals, &c., during the year 1892.

Resolution—dated 28th April 1893, No. 209.

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 1892, accompanied by the prescribed statement. A statement showing by months the human deaths caused by wild animals and venomous snakes is also appended, as ordered in Government Order, dated 2nd December 1889, No. 7766. There has been considerable delay in the submission of this report owing to the non-receipt, till the 18th instant, of the return from Kurnool, which was thus over 2½ months late in spite of repeated calls for it. The Collector explains that the delay was due to the fact that nearly all the statements originally received from Tahsildars were found to be incorrect and had to be returned for revision, and that even now two Tahsildars have not reported correct figures. This explanation is very unsatisfactory. The returns from Kistna, Nellore, Tinnevely and Coimbatore were also sent more than 3 weeks after the prescribed date. Though Government, in reviewing the report for last year, expressed its dissatisfaction at the delay in the submission of it (*vide* paragraph 1 of Government Order, dated 10th May 1892, No. 470, communicated to Collectors in Board's Proceedings, dated 20th June 1892, No. 308), and though the Board, in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings last quoted, insisted on the punctual submission of the returns by Collectors, there has been a regrettable want of punctuality in the above-mentioned cases.

2. The following 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 disbursed for their destruction, as compared with the figures for 1891:—

	In 1891.	In 1892.	Difference.
1. Total number of persons killed	* 1,662	1,771	+ 109
2. Number of persons killed by wild animals	* 229	318	+ 87
3. Do. do. by snakes	1,433	1,455	+ 22
4. Do. of cattle killed by wild animals and snakes	* 11,083	11,344	+ 261
5. Do. of wild animals destroyed	1,170	1,090	- 80
6. Amount of rewards paid	Rs. 24,074	Rs. 23,580	- Rs. 1,085

* These figures differ slightly from those entered in the report for 1891, the variations being due to subsequent alterations reported by two Collectors.

There was an appreciable increase under items 1 and 4, and a falling off under items 5 and 6.

3. The subjoined statement compares the number of human deaths caused by the several kinds of wild animals during the past two years:—

	Number of persons killed.		
	In 1891.	In 1892.	Difference.
Elephants	1	1	..
Tigers	152	211	+ 59
Panthers and leopards	38	55	+ 17
Bears	5	12	+ 7
Wolves	5	1	- 4
Hyenas	..	..	..
Other animals	28	36	+ 8
Total	229	316	+ 87
Snake-bite	1,433	1,455	+ 22
Grand Total	1,662	1,771	+ 109

One death was caused by an elephant during the year, viz., in the Ponani taluk of the Malabar district. The deaths by tigers rose from 152 in 1891 to 211 during the year reported on. As usual the number of deaths under this head was large in Ganjam and Vizagapatam, viz., 69 and 120, against 44 and 105, respectively, in 1891. There was an increase of 8 deaths by tigers in Malabar, while Gódvári and Kurnool contributed five each, against none in 1891. No explanation is furnished for the increases in the three districts last mentioned. The Collector of Ganjam says that the increase was due to greater accuracy in the returns. In Vizagapatam 14 out of the increase of 15 deaths occurred in Pothangi taluk, where, as well as in Rayagada taluk, man-eaters were active during the year. The man-eater in the former taluk, for whose destruction a special reward of Rs. 200 had been sanctioned in Government Order, No. 1526, dated 9th March 1892, was killed during the year, and the reward disbursed to the claimant. It appears that another man-eater has since been the cause of much loss of human life in the same taluk. The Collector, in anticipation of sanction, offered a special reward of Rs. 200 for its destruction which has been approved by Government in Government Order, dated 1st April 1893, No. 1243. In Rayagada, a man-eater caused several deaths in August and September, but appears subsequently to have gone into the neighbouring province of Kalahandi. No fresh depredations by the Tentulikunti man-eater, referred to in the reports of the previous two years, are reported. The Collector thinks that the tiger is probably dead. The number of deaths caused by leopards was large in Coimbatore and Salem, amounting to 11 and 10 in the respective districts, against 6 and 7 in 1891. Both in Bellary and Kurnool there were four deaths from this cause against none in the previous year. There were altogether 12 deaths by bears during the year against five in 1891. As usual these were confined chiefly to Ganjam (4) and Vizagapatam (7). The remaining death occurred in South Canara. Only one person was killed by a wolf during the year, viz., in Vizagapatam. No destruction of life by hyenas is reported. The number of persons killed by other wild animals amounted to 36 against 28 in the preceding year. Of these four deaths were caused by wild boars in Vizagapatam, 4 by jackals in Gódvári, North Arcot and Madura, and 4 by foxes in Chingleput. The deaths by jackals and foxes should be explained. One casualty was caused by a wild buffalo in Vizagapatam and another by a wild dog in South Canara. The category of wild animals that caused loss of life in Kistna (18) and Kurnool (4) has not been furnished, but the Collectors report that the information has been called for from the Tahsildars concerned. Two deaths caused by bullocks in South Arcot and two by mad dogs in Coimbatore have been omitted from the return. Of the total loss of life from wild animals, numbering 316, 225 deaths, or rather more than 71 per cent., were contributed by the two Northern districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam. No deaths from this cause occurred in

Anantapur, Madras, South Arcot, Tinnevely and Nilgiris. The deaths in the remaining districts ranged from one each in Nellore, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura to 18 in Kistna.

4. The following statement exhibits comprehensively the mortality from snake-bite during the past five years:—

Districts.	Number of persons killed in				
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Ganjam	10	20	57	76	50
Vizagapatam	64	69	75	70	52
Gódvári	42	36	26	39	57
Kistna	13	9	77	95	78
Nellore	32	15	33	12	16
Cuddapah	18	10	3	12	5
Anantapur	16	13	9	14	6
Bellary	38	32	41	38	33
Kurnool	12	3	3	9	29
Madras	2	..	6	2	9
Chingleput	108	121	92	106	92
North Arcot	155	124	171	156	136
South Arcot	215	220	168	110	182
Tanjore	199	221	178	215	244
Trichinopoly	82	178	70	61	51
Madura	99	92	65	57	109
Tinnevely	40	37	43	39	29
Coimbatore	54	75	63	45	45
Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..
Salem	107	170	103	136	114
South Canara	69	73	62	65	58
Malabar	81	79	80	76	54
Total	1,455	1,587	1,424	1,433	1,455

The statement shows that the heaviest loss of life under this head is generally confined to the five districts of Salem, North Arcot, Chingleput, South Arcot and Tanjore. During the year under review, the deaths in Madura also were numerous, and these six districts together contributed a loss of 877 lives out of a total of 1,455 for the Presidency, i.e., 60.3 per cent. There were no casualties under this head in the Nilgiris. Omitting this district the smallest losses occurred in Cuddapah (5), Anantapur (6), Madras (9), Nellore (16) and Kurnool and Tinnevely (29) each. In the remaining districts, the mortality ranged from 33 in Bellary to 78 in Kistna. It is doubtful if the statistics on this point for these districts can be accepted as accurate.

5. In the resolutions of the Government of India, dated 4th December 1890 and 15th October 1891, communicated to Collectors in Board's Proceedings, dated 13th March 1891, No. 163, and 18th December 1891, No. 728, the Government of India directed, in view to reduce the mortality from snake-bite, that prickly-pear and other noxious vegetation, which afford cover to venomous reptiles in the neighbourhood of villages, should be destroyed, the progress made in this direction being duly reported. This was complied with in Board's Proceedings, dated 19th March 1892, No. 138. The information furnished, however, was necessarily meagre, as Collectors had not had sufficient time to carry out the instructions of the Government of India. In Government Order, dated 10th May 1892, No. 470, passed on the Board's Proceedings last quoted, this Government directed that full information on the subject should be obtained from Collectors of all districts, and embodied in the report for 1892. The particulars have now been received from all districts except Kistna. The Collector of that district has been called upon to forward the required report, which will be submitted to Government when received. A précis of the reports received from the other districts forms appendix C to this Proceedings. It will be seen therefrom that throughout the Presidency, steps were taken during the year to remove prickly-pear, and other noxious vegetation in the vicinity of towns and villages. Taluk Boards and Municipalities, and, in some districts, village Unions also, incurred some expenditure on this account. From the figures reported by certain Collectors, the Board finds

that over Rs. 4,800 were expended during the year for this purpose. In several districts villagers were induced to remove offensive undergrowth at their own expense. The amount spent by them is given as Rs. 500 in two districts, viz., North Arcot Rs. 100 and Trichinopoly Rs. 400. In Vizagapatam, Górávari, North Arcot and South Arcot, conservancy establishments were maintained during the year. Their duties consisted in itinerating from village to village, removing the noxious growth wherever it existed, besides attending to general sanitary needs. In Górávari, Madras and Trichinopoly, 353 notices were issued to villagers requiring them to keep their ground free of such vegetation. In 5 other districts, Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, North Arcot, South Arcot and Madura, notices are said to have been issued, but the number of them is not stated. In certain districts, prosecutions were also instituted against parties who failed to comply with the notices, viz., in North Arcot, South Arcot, Trichinopoly and Madura. In the first and last mentioned districts, a large extent of land was cleared. In three districts, Cuddapah, Chingleput and North Arcot, monthly reports were obtained from Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars showing the progress made in effecting prickly-pear clearances, and these were systematically reviewed. In South Arcot, weekly diaries were obtained from village officers and Tahsildars, and orders passed thereon from time to time. The Collector of Vizagapatam reports that prickly-pear is very rare in his district, except along the sea coast, where deaths from snake-bite are stated to be of infrequent occurrence. In parts also of Anantapur, Kurnool and Tinnevely, this growth is reported to be scanty. The Collectors of South Canara and Malabar state that the circumstances of their districts are peculiar; the people reside in scattered houses, and not in compact villages, and it is therefore impossible to attempt any clearance of jungle which would tend to reduce the mortality from snake-bite. The Board considers that all feasible measures for the removal of undergrowth affording cover to snakes should be continued for another year or more, the mortality from snake-bite being at the same time carefully watched. A more extended trial than has now been made is necessary before it can be decided how far expenditure for this purpose is efficacious.

6. The number of cattle killed by wild animals and snake-bite during the year amounted to 11,344 against 11,083 in the year preceding. Of this total 9,886 head of cattle were ascribed to wild animals, and the rest, 1,458, to snakes. The corresponding numbers for the previous year were 9,766 and 1,317. Of the deaths from snakes, Chingleput accounted for 594 or a little over 40 per cent. against 320 in 1889. No explanation has been furnished for this heavy mortality. The districts that stood next in order were North Arcot 177 and Madura 155 against 247 and 68, respectively, in the previous year. The number of cattle killed by tigers and leopards was as usual large in South Canara and Malabar. These two districts alone contributed 4,580 or nearly 54.6 per cent. of the total deaths under this head. In the former district, tigers destroyed 440 and leopards 2,075 head of cattle, while in the latter, 474 and 1,591 cattle fell a prey to these wild animals. The corresponding figures for the year 1891 were 493 and 2,473 head of cattle in South Canara, and 473 and 1,489 in Malabar. The destruction of cattle by tigers was large also in Madura (397), Górávari, (279) and Nilgiris (252) against 175, 192, and 340, respectively, in the previous year. The Collector of Madura does not explain the increase. The Collector of Górávari says that the increase was due to the more favorable season, which afforded greater facilities for the existence and movements of wild beasts. In the Nilgiris the falling off in the number of cattle killed as compared with the preceding year was satisfactory. The Collector attributes the result to "the enterprise of parties and persons engaged in sport, and to the general watchfulness of holders of gun licenses for the protection of crop," in consequence of which it appears wild animals have ceased to be numerous in the vicinity of villages. As in the previous year, no loss of cattle was due to tigers in Anantapur, Bellary, Madras, North Arcot, South Arcot and Tanjore. In Chingleput one head of cattle only was killed against none in 1891, while in Trichinopoly and Salem the loss during the year amounted to only 3 and 2 head respectively against 2 and none in the year previous. Next to South Canara and Malabar, the greatest loss of cattle on account of leopards occurred in North Arcot, the figures for 1892 and 1891 being 576 and 679 respectively. Deaths of cattle were

caused during the year by bears only in South Canara 6 and Malabar 3, against 4 and none in 1891. Of the 567 deaths by wolves, 260, or 70.8 per cent., were reported from Cuddapah (100), Kurnool (90), and Anantapur (70). In the first and the last mentioned districts, the number killed in 1891 was 177 and 46 respectively, while in Kurnool there was no loss in that year. Of the 330 deaths due to hyenas, 296 occurred in Malabar, which district also accounted for the largest number, 263, out of a total of 309 in the previous year. The cattle destroyed during the year by other wild animals numbered 782 against 388 in 1891. Of the former figure, 440 appertained to Kistna and 253 to Kurnool. The numbers reported from these districts in 1891 were only 1 and 4 respectively. Whether these extraordinary increases are correct will be ascertainable when the promised particulars of "other wild animals" are received. Of the remaining deaths of cattle caused by other wild animals, 44 were caused by wild dogs, viz., in Górávari 6, Madura 2, Nilgiris 4, and South Canara 32; 30 by jackals, viz., in Cuddapah 8, Tanjore 1, Trichinopoly 5, Salem 14 and Malabar 2; and 12 by crocodiles, viz., in Górávari, Kurnool and Tanjore 2 each, South Arcot and South Canara 1 each, and Malabar 4.

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

	1891.		1892.		Increase or decrease.	
	Number killed.	Reward.	Number killed.	Reward.	Number killed.	Reward.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Elephants	3	Rs.	1	Rs.	—	2
Tigers	137	6,628	150	7,357	+	13
Panthers and leopards.	899	17,501	821	15,740	—	78
Bears	120	536	107	489	—	13
Wolves	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hyenas	1	..	1	3	..	..
Other animals	10	..	10	..	..	..
Total	1,170	24,674	1,090	23,589	—	80
						1,086

The total number of wild animals destroyed during the year declined by 80 as compared with the results for 1891. The decrease was chiefly under leopards. As usual, the largest number of wild animals was killed in Ganjam and Vizagapatam, where the figures were 199 and 276 against 202 and 292 in 1891. The number killed was also large in Górávari 111, South Canara 67, Kurnool 56, Salem 54 and Malabar 48. In the Ceded districts, generally, the number killed during the year was considerably in excess of the number killed in 1891. In Cuddapah, the number was more than double, and the increase is reported to be due to the state of the season which compelled wild beasts to venture out of the jungle in quest of water. Of the 150 tigers killed in the year, Vizagapatam accounted for the largest number, viz., 32 against 31 in 1891. Similarly, of the 821 leopards killed, Vizagapatam contributed 211, or 25.7 per cent. of the total. In Ganjam and Górávari also the number of leopards killed was large, viz., 148 and 79 respectively against 158 and 90 in 1891. The number of bears destroyed during the year in Ganjam and Vizagapatam amounted to 43 and 33 respectively out of a total for the Presidency of 107. In the previous year, the number destroyed in these districts was 39 and 40 respectively. As in 1891, no wolves were killed. Only 1 hyena was killed, viz., in South Arcot. The number of the other wild animals killed amounted to 10, as in 1891. Of these, 3 were wild buffaloes, 5 wild bulls, 1 was a wild dog and the remaining 1 is said to have been a reindeer. This last is obviously a mistake, for which explanation will be desired.

8. With reference to the payment of a reward of Rs. 3 for an hyena killed in South Arcot, the Collector has since reported that it was made by mistake, and that the amount was subsequently recovered and paid into the treasury.

9. The rewards paid in the year under report amounted to Rs. 23,589, or Rs. 1,085 less than in 1891. There was a gross decrease of Rs. 1,307 under leopards and bears, and a gross increase of Rs. 722 under tigers and hyenas, resulting in a net decrease of Rs. 1,085 under all heads. The whole of the decrease occurs in South Canara and Malabar, and was due partly to the smaller number of wild animals killed in the year in those districts, and partly to the full amount of reward not having been disbursed in many cases, and to no payment having been made in others. In the Rayadrug taluk of the Bellary district no payment was made within the year in three cases pending sanction from the Divisional officer, and in Madura the parties concerned did not appear to receive the reward due to them for the destruction of 1 tiger and 2 leopards. The Collectors concerned should see that no undue delay occurs in making these payments. In this district 1 elephant was shot under the orders of the zemindar of Gandamanáyakkanúr, and for this also a reward was not disbursed, no claim having been preferred. The Collector of Kurnool reports that the special reward of Rs. 200 offered in June 1891 for the man-eater said to have been infesting the Bollupalli jungle, Cumbum taluk, has not yet been claimed. A reward of Rs. 6-11-0 was paid by the Periyakulam Municipality for 282 snakes killed there. These figures have been omitted from the return.

10. *Disposal of skins of wild animals destroyed.*—The sale of these skins yielded Rs. 4,054-2-6 during the year. Deducting this amount from the sum of Rs. 23,589-4-0, the aggregate of rewards disbursed in the year for the destruction of wild animals, the net cost to Government comes to Rs. 19,535-1-6. The district figures are detailed below:—

Districts.	Amount paid in rewards.	Amount realized by sale of skins.	Net cost to Government.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Ganjam	3,369	456	2,913
Vizagapatam	7,298	281	7,017
Godavari	2,900	529	2,371
Kistna	795	289	506
Nellore	421	7	414
Cuddapah	777	139	638
Anantapur	110	23	87
Bellary	855	97	758
Kurnool	1,075	304	771
Madras	..	..	..
Chingleput	50	..	50
North Arcot	365	96	269
South Arcot	312	40	272
Tanjore	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	33	..	33
Madura	70	..	70
Tinnevely	165	14	151
Coimbatore	801	349	452
Nilgiris	682	181	501
Salem	909	550	359
South Canara	1,730	132	1,598
Malabar	1,192	607	585
Total ..	23,589	4,054	19,535

11. The subjoined statement exhibits the number of licenses granted during the year under the Arms Act for the destruction of wild animals, the protection of crops, &c. The corresponding totals for the previous year are 4,523, 4,462 and 8,985 respectively. The first and the last figure exclude 264 licenses, which the Collector of Ganjam reported as having been taken out in Form VIII.

In accordance with the orders of the Government of India only licenses under Form XI are shown. Government is aware that the many thousands of licenses issued under Form VIII cover also the purpose which alone is served by licenses under Form XI.

	Licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, in Form XI (free of cost) for the purposes of destruction of wild animals or protection of crops.		
	Number of licenses granted during the year.	Number of licenses granted in previous years and still in force.	Total number of licenses in force during the year.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Ganjam	89	..	89
Vizagapatam	2	8	10
Godavari	..	..	..
Kistna	1,651	116	1,767
Nellore	13	..	13
Cuddapah	313	787	1,100
Anantapur	..	..	..
Bellary	..	4	11
Kurnool	6	1	7
Madras	..	..	..
Chingleput	..	..	..
North Arcot	..	..	..
South Arcot	..	..	..
Tanjore	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	..	..	..
Madura	..	..	..
Tinnevely	2	1	3
Coimbatore	44	227	271
Nilgiris	111	418	529
Salem	860	2,177	2,837
South Canara	1,508	1,365	2,873
Malabar	76	612	688
Total ..	4,462	5,716	10,198

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. MEYER,
Acting Secretary.

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

APPENDIX A.

Districts.	Number of persons killed.										Number of cattle killed			
	By wild animals.										By wild animals.			
	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.	Total.	By snakes.	Grand Total.	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Ganjam	..	69	12	4	..	..	(a) 5	85	56	141	..	29	79	..
Vizagapatam	..	120	7	7	..	..	(b) 1	140	52	192	..	133	137	..
Godavari	..	5	..	..	..	..	(c) 18	6	57	63	..	279	60	..
Kistna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	78	96	..	30	14	..
Nellore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	16	17	..	12	37	..
Cuddapah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	7	..	14	164	..
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	6	..	..	88	..
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..	(k) 4	13	29	42	..	24	209	..
Kurnool	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	..	..	230	..
Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	(d) 4	4	92	96	..	1	14	..
Chingleput	..	..	..	..	..	..	(e) 2	2	136	138	..	..	576	..
North Arcot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182	182	..	..	3	..
South Arcot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244	245	..	..	..	..
Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	51	52	..	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	..	..	..	..	..	..	(f) 1	1	109	110	..	..	10	..
Madura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	29	..	..	12	..
Tinnevely	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	45	59	..	..	384	..
Combatore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	..
Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	114	124	..	..	280	..
Salem	..	..	..	..	..	..	(g) 1	4	58	62	..	440	2,675	6
South Canara	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	54	64	..	474	1,591	3
Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1	211	55	12	1	..	36	316	1,455	1,771	1	2,316	6,081	9

(a) Four by wild boars and one by a wild buffalo.

(b) By a mad jackal.

(c) Information promised.

(d) By foxes.

(e) By mad jackals.

(f) By a jackal.

(g) By a wild dog.

(k) Details have been called for by the Collector from Tahsildars.

Districts.	Number of cattle killed—cont.					Number of animals destroyed and amount of reward paid for their destruction									
	By wild animals.				By snakes.	Grand total.	Wild animals.								
	Hyenas.			Tigers.			Amount of reward.	Leopards.	Amount of reward.	Bears.					
	Wolves.	Other animals.	Total.								Elephants.	Amount of reward.			
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
Ganjam ..	..	2	..	108	34	142	..	Rs.	8	Rs. A. P.	148	Rs. A. P.	43		
Vizagapatam ..	..	..	..	262	13	275	..	..	..	200 0 0	211	2,974 6 0	33		
Godavari ..	..	..	(a) 13	352	12	364	..	..	23	2,940 0 0	79	4,208 0 0	..		
Kistna ..	29	2	(b) 440	515	7	522	..	..	12	1,250 0 0	21	1,605 0 0	9		
Nellore ..	..	..	..	49	28	77	..	..	1	335 0 0	15	450 0 0	2		
Cuddapah ..	100	5	(c) 8	291	3	294	..	..	6	35 0 0	34	338 0 0	10		
Anantapur ..	70	8	..	145	7	153	..	..	..	220 0 0	7	557 0 0	..		
Bellary ..	..	..	..	209	5	214	..	..	..	..	23	110 0 0	..		
Kurnool ..	90	..	(d) 253	597	71	668	..	..	11	275 0 0	45	799 12 0	2		
Madras ..	..	..	..	18	594	612	..	..	..	..	..	50 0 0	..		
Chingleput ..	3	..	..	576	177	753	..	..	..	..	2	382 8 0	1		
North Arcot ..	..	..	..	4	17	21	..	..	..	..	13	300 0 0	2		
South Arcot ..	..	..	(e) 1	..	93	96	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Tanjore ..	..	..	(e) 3	31	49	80	..	..	..	..	..	30 0 0	1		
Trichinopoly ..	10	3	(e) 5	477	155	632	..	..	2	35 0 0	4	35 0 0	..		
Madura ..	13	2	(f) 2	52	28	80	1	..	..	..	8	165 0 0	..		
Tinnevely ..	..	..	..	584	32	616	..	..	..	..	28	502 0 0	..		
Coimbatore ..	32	..	(f) 4	376	4	380	..	..	14	388 8 0	23	322 8 0	3		
Nilgiris ..	14	..	..	307	31	338	..	..	14	349 0 0	51	904 0 0	1		
Salem ..	1	10	(g) 14	2,559	15	2,574	..	..	15	705 0 0	52	1,025 0 0	..		
South Canara ..	3	2	(g) 33	2,370	83	2,453	..	..	10	555 0 0	33	657 0 0	..		
Malabar ..	..	295	(h) 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total ..	357	330	782	9,886	1,458	11,344	1	..	150	7,357 8 0	821	15,739 12 0	107		

(a) Two by crocodiles, 6 by rethukukalu and 5 not known.

(b) Information promised.

(c) By jackals.

(d) By an alligator.

(e) One by a jackal and 2 by crocodiles.

(f) By wild dogs.

(g) One by a crocodile and 32 by wild dogs.

(h) Four by crocodiles and 2 by jackals.

(i) Of this number, 2 were killed by crocodiles. Details of the wild animals that killed the remaining 251 cattle have been called for by the Collector from Tahsildars.

Districts	Number of animals destroyed and the amount of reward paid for their destruction—cont.										Licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, in form XI free of cost for the purposes of destruction of wild animals or protection of crops.		
	By wild animals—cont.										Number of licenses granted during the year.	Number of licenses granted in previous years, and still in force.	Total.
	Amount of reward.	Wolves.	Amount of reward.	Hyenas.	Amount of reward.	Other animals.	Amount of reward.	Total.	Amount of reward.	RS. A. P.			
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37		38	39	40
Ganjam	RS. A. P.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	..	89
Vizagapatam	150 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	276	3,369 0 0	..	2	8	10
Godavari	45 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	7,298 0 0	..	..	..	..
Kistna	10 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	2,900 0 0	..	1,651	116	1,767
Nellore	48 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	795 0 0	..	13	..	13
Cuddapah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	421 0 0	..	313	787	1,100
Anantapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	777 0 0	..	..	..	..
Bellary	10 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	110 0 0	..	7	4	11
Kurnool	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	355 0 0	..	6	1	7
Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,074 12 0	..	..	..	..
Chingleput	3 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	50 0 0	..	..	..	..
North Arcot	9 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	365 8 0	..	..	..	..
South Arcot	..	..	..	..	1 3 0	..	..	16	312 0 0	..	..	..	..
Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	3 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	33 0 0	..	..	..	..
Madura	..	..	..	..	..	(a) 10	..	17	70 0 0	..	..	..	..
Tinnevely	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	165 0 0	..	2	1	3
Coimbatore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	890 8 0	..	44	227	271
Nilgiris	11 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	682 8 0	..	111	418	529
Salem	5 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	999 0 0	..	660	2,177	2,837
South Canara	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	1,730 0 0	..	1,508	1,365	2,873
Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48	1,192 0 0	..	76	612	688
Total	489 0 0	..	..	..	1 3 0	10	..	1,090	23,589 4 0	..	4,482	5,716	10,198

(a) Three wild buffaloes, 5 wild bulls, 1 wild dog and 1 reindeer.