

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 123

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Pass: , Rev Dept: , accepting
the Board's recommendation for
the reduction of clerical work
in connection with the returns
relating to the destruction of
wild animals.

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21.1.98

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Wild Animals.

Accepting the Board's recommendation for the reduction of clerical work in connection
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1111 Return to Rev

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 339, dated 13th October 1897:—

Read—the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty with the Government Secretariat, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th September 1897, No. 23:—

With reference to paragraph 7 of Government Order, No. 1243, Judicial Department, dated 27th August 1897, I have the honour to address the Board on the returns relating to deaths caused by, and destruction of, wild animals and venomous snakes and connected statements.

2. In 1875, the Government of India called* for a brief annual report (*per calendar year*) on the measures taken to exterminate wild beasts and snakes. This report is prepared by the Board which obtains its information from Collectors, and is submitted to the Local Government and by it to the Government of India and contains the following statements—

A. The return prescribed by the Government of India in paragraph 9 of the Home Department letter of 15th October 1891, in Government Order, No. 1087, † Revenue Department, of 14th November 1891. This will be found on pages 6 and 7 of Board's Proceedings, No. 81 of 16th March 1897, reviewed in Government Order, No. 306, Revenue Department, dated 7th May 1897, and embodies the following information:—

(a) Number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes.
(b) Number of cattle killed by wild animals and snakes.
(c) Number of wild animals and snakes destroyed and rewards paid for their destruction; and

(d) Number of licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act for the destruction of wild animals and protection of crops.

Under cattle referred to in (b) only horses, ponies, asses, mules, oxen, cows and buffaloes are required by the Government of India to be included. They do not want information as to sheep, goats and pigs, and the Board does not accordingly furnish statistics in regard to these last-mentioned animals.

B. A statement showing monthly particulars of human deaths from wild animals and snakes in the various districts of the Presidency, the object being to ascertain whether it is during the cultivation season and the hot months, when the ryots are largely absent from their houses or sleep outside of them, that these casualties mostly occur—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 754, Land Revenue, dated 28th October 1889, and Government Order, Mis. No. 7766, Revenue, dated 2nd December 1889, and Proceedings, No. 872 of 10th December 1889) and Appendix B on page 8 of Board's Proceedings, No. 81 of 16th March 1897, reviewed in Government Order, No. 306, Revenue, dated 7th May 1897.

C. A statement (Appendix C on page 9 of the Board's Proceedings last quoted) showing the expenditure on the removal of undergrowth in villages where snakes are most noxious.

3. Though the general return (a) required by the Government of India is only for each year, it is at present supposed to be submitted monthly to Collectors—*vide* paragraph 10 of Board's Proceedings, No. 1364 of 16th May 1883. The village headman maintains registers showing all the particulars required by the Government of India except those relating to Arms Act licenses and submits an extract therefrom to the Tahsildar month by month as required by paragraph 9, page 87 of the Village Officers' Manual. As a matter of fact, however, the monthly statement appears to have fallen into abeyance in most districts, and the Tahsildar everywhere submits an annual statement to the Collector (in some districts direct; in others through the Divisional-officer) from which the latter tabulates the district information which he has to furnish to the Board.

4. The Huzur Sheristadars' Committee appointed by Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 3991 (Land Revenue), dated 29th August 1896, to revise the taluk forms propose, however,—

(1) to make the monthly submission of the returns by the Tahsildars' universal;

(2) to require also an annual report from the Taluk office;

(3) that both the monthly and annual statements should go to the Treasury Deputy Collector, and that the latter, after tabulation for the district, should go from him to the Collector (see entries against "wild animals" on pages 9, 14 and 15 of the Sheristadars' Committee's list of forms circulated with Board's Proceedings, No. 211, dated 25th June 1897).

5. These proposals seem to me futile. The object of the Board in calling for the monthly submission of returns to the Collector's office was to avoid delay in the preparation of the annual report. The delays, however, still continue—*vide* the remarks on this subject in paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 1364 of 16th May 1883, paragraph 10.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 182 of 26th May 1897.

† Board's Proceedings, No. 384 of 30th June 1896.

until the end of the year will do nothing to prevent them, for such statements will obviously be pigeon-holed. Punctuality can be quite well enforced on a yearly return by the censure or punishment of the Tahsildar who submits it late, and I would therefore relieve the Taluk office of the burden of the useless monthly statements. Again, there is no object in a double submission first to the Treasury Deputy Collector and then by him to the Collector. The returns should go straight to the Collector's office and can there be dealt with if necessary by the Treasury Deputy Collector.

6. As for the submission of the information by village officers, I think that a quarterly return to the taluk would suffice. The number of returns to be deposited in the Taluk office would thus be reduced to one-third of the present number.

7. The question then arises whether statement B above referred to (paragraph 2) need in future accompany the annual report. The returns of vital statistics are always available for reference as to the months in which deaths by wild animals and snakes are the most numerous, and the special return in question, having now been in force for several years, ought to have accumulated a fair amount of information on the points which led to its prescription. I would therefore suggest the abolition of this statement.

8. Statement C (paragraph 2 *supra*) having only been prescribed in 1895—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 294, Land Revenue, of 15th August 1895, has failed to find a place in the Sheristadars' list of general returns. I think it should be submitted annually by the Collector along with the A return, but that the information as to

[illegible]

Resolution—No. 339, dated 13th October 1897.

Mr. Meyer's proposals in paragraphs 5, 6, 8 and 10 of his letter read above are approved. All Collectors are requested to give effect to these proposals from the beginning of the next calendar year.

2. The suggestions in paragraphs 7 and 9 will be submitted for the orders of Government, with the Board's recommendation that the returns therein referred to may be discontinued in future.

3. The following correction will be made in paragraph 9, section 38, part V, volume I of the "Village Officers' Manual":—

For the words "the end of every month" in line 4 read "the end of every quarter."

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To W. S. Meyer, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty.

„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ all Collectors (Treasury Deputy Collectors, Divisional Officers and Tahsildars).

ORDER—No. 1031, Revenue, dated 9th December 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Government accepts the Board's recommendation in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings read above.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.

„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Copy to the Judicial Department.

Exl. A. F. Eccleston.

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