

41
Revenue Department

Minutes of consultations

18th August 1857

Back Numbers 27-28

Order no 824 dated 17th August 1857
(28 sheets)

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th August 1857.

No. 27. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore 20th July 1857, No. 36.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from Minutes of Consultation dated 26th ultimo, No. 654, and to afford the information called for in para. 1. The Shikar Cutcherry has been broken up since 1853, the last capture and hunt of elephants took place in 1845, the establishment was dissolved, and some drafted into other Departments, under the orders of Government noted marginally. Though some still retain the name, there are few now left who were trained in former hunts, or took part in catching elephants, and such men alone, are, of course, of any use.

2. Not being aware of what Captain Hamilton had reported, on the failure of the hunt, to Government, and not wishing to trouble Government until asked, I refrained from addressing the Board or Government on the matter, especially as I felt conscious of having done my utmost to aid Captain Hamilton. I am certainly a little surprized that Captain Hamilton should assign as one cause (the 3d) for the failure, the very unfounded and unjust one, of my being "supposed to be opposed to the hunt." I can only suppose that in Captain Hamilton's anxiety to explain the failure, he was misled by some few of his own people, or by the want of fuller enquiry. In truth I did my utmost to aid the object, recommended it at first, and backed both Captains Michael and Hamilton, "con amore," throughout.

3. Though the peons asked by Captain Hamilton had been long since detailed all over the District, for Revenue and Police work, and could be spared with difficulty from it, I nevertheless had all that possibly could be found, immediately collected (some from 50 and 70 miles off); armed them all from my own office, promised rewards if they exerted or distinguished themselves, added some of my own personal deloyets; detached the 3 old hunt elephants (though busy in Road making and other similar work,) and in fact did all I could to forward the hunt.

4. I regretted its failure equally with Captain Hamilton, and have made a point, since, of making every possible enquiry, through the Tahsildar and others on the spot, of the cause, no fault is to be attributed, I think, fairly, to any one; certainly not to Captain Hamilton; who did his best under a difficult and novel duty, with inadequate means and men. In fact the hunt, was, (as I said to both Captain Michael and Hamilton) got up in too great a hurry. There was not time allowed to collect sufficient men, train and test them; and thoroughly examine the ground.

5. I have been present at many hunts here formerly, and know the difficulties, and the process; and I warned the 2 officers that I feared the one man they singly trusted to "Iyaloo Naick," (formerly a subordinate in the old hunts,) was unequal to the task; and the time and men insufficient, a successful hunt usually occupies several months in preparation; this, only had as many weeks, the Peons whom Captain Hamilton expected to drive the elephants in, had lost, of course, much of their practice and nerve, and familiarity with elephants; all necessary for success, and they had little or no assistance, the unfortunate rocket alluded to, was, I believe misdirected; but from all I can learn, on careful enquiry, accidentally so, that it was purposely thrown amiss, is only a suspicion of Captain Hamilton's, which fuller enquiry would I think convince him is unfounded.

6. Captain Hamilton I am sure did all he could, but his time for preparation, his means and his head man (on whom he too much relied,) were all insufficient; I feared so from the first, but did not like to throw cold water on Captain Hamilton's sanguine efforts and personal zeal, though as he is aware, I did warn him in several private notes. The stockade was too weak; the herd also divided in the drive, which always makes its success more difficult, a large party of Gentlemen were present, I was not so myself, being really, prevented by urgent business, at a distance, and having afforded every aid and advice in my power, my presence, at the last, (when all depended on the mere drive,) could have rendered no further possible aid.

7. The cost has been less than usually incurred, the average of the expense used to be about 2,300 Rupees per hunt. I would not recommend another hunt by Government at present. The heads of several villages, with their own ryots, (whom Captain Hamilton should have also employed), have now offered to try and secure the herd, if they again approach the "Coppum"

பாதுகாப்புப் பரிஷ-1

செப்பனியுவர் பெயர் : சி. ஏ. கார்னா

செப்பனியுவதற்காக
எடுத்தக் கொள்ளப்ப
பட்ட நாள்

27.11.2006

15.3.2007

செப்பனியு. முடித்த நாள்

சுரபார்க்கும்

முதல் மு. நி. பா. எ.
கையொப்பம்

சுரபார்க்கும்

2-ம் மு. நி. பா. எ.
கையொப்பம்

சுரபார்க்கும்

உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th August 1857.

(enclosure), at their own expense, provided Government buy the elephants at a fair price, which I have promised to do, should they succeed. If any prospect of success offers, I shall not fail to take advantage of it. Captain Hamilton being now fully engaged, he writes me, in his Forest duties, cannot attend to it.

8. I now enclose 2 former letters to Captain Hamilton, for the fuller information of Government. Captain Hamilton is in error in supposing that the native authorities wished to thwart him, or that any orders were issued from me, tending in any way to discourage or obstruct his work, in his absence, his chief man "Iyaloo Naik" wished to obtain forced assistance in labour &c., to which alone, I objected; desiring that all should be fairly paid for, all the orders I issued were to facilitate and aid Captain Hamilton's efforts; * As their translation would fully show. but his head man, to exonerate his own failure, has made Captain Hamilton believe otherwise.

9. Doctor Cleghorn proposes to catch, instead of shoot, all the elephants practicable; very desirable, but there is no way known here, nor I believe in Ceylon or Bengal, besides the mode now attempted, by driving a herd into a "Coppum" or circular ditch, where pit falls are dug, the animals on falling in are usually lamed and injured, and obliged to be shot.

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to Captain D. HAMILTON, Assistant Conservator of Forests; dated Coimbatore, 23d April 1857, No. 19.

SIR,

1. In further reply to your letter of yesterday, I much regret your failure, but it is not in my power to aid you further than I have already done, and I must demur to your now throwing the failure almost entirely on to the peons sent you. You write of course on the "ipse dixit" of Iyaloo Naik, whose word is not worthy of entire credit, and of whose sole capability to carry out this hunt, you know, I expressed some doubts from the first.

2. In former hunts he bore a subordinate part. Several more active and more efficient men, combined, were always necessary to a successful hunt, you appear to have depended on him alone, and the hunt has I fear failed from this cause. It has been attempted with inadequate means, it is your first attempt, and you are not to be blamed, but I think "Iyaloo Naik" is, for misleading you, failing, and then (as is natural) seeking to throw it on other parties; as to the number of peons, I have with much public inconvenience, and on the emergency, sent you every available man I could, let Iyaloo Naik, give in a list, if he can, and as you seem to believe, of available men, not sent to you. I request your attention to this point, as, having aided you to the utmost of my power, and warned you as you knew privately, of my fears of your being too sanguine, having had too little time, (not your fault,) and trusting Iyaloo Naik's promises too much; I cannot concur in his attempt now, to shift the failure from his own shoulders, to the peons, who perhaps did their best.

3. You impute (manifestly on Iyaloo Naik's representations) the failure to the peons "not obeying orders," you do not say how. If Iyaloo Naik means that he "ordered" the peons to drive the herd of elephants into the Coopum, (more easily ordered than done,) and they failed to do so, I can understand it—"the drive" is the crisis, and main difficulty, of the hunt, a most difficult, dangerous, and delicate matter, it does not depend on numbers, but on courage, and trained co-operation, and several bold and efficient leaders—500 untrained peons, if I could send them to you, would be useless, or worse; they would only create confusion and difficulty; the drivers must be all tried and trained men, who have, and will, face a charging elephant, which few will do.

4. I speak from former personal experience of many hunts in this District, and a knowledge of Iyaloo Naik, he may have failed honestly and unavoidably, he cannot command success, but he should not now seek to throw the failure on others, if you or he can prove, any wilful and clear disobedience of orders, the peons shall be of course punished, if it merely consists in not succeeding in driving in the herd, that it is probably Iyaloo Naik's own fault. I would beg to ask was he with the line of drivers, or where, at the critical time?

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th August 1857.

5. The peons who went, were desired "to do their best," and reward promised, if they deserved it, that they purposely failed, is a supposition only, and one which I am really unable to accept, it is probably an excuse of Iyaloo Naik's.

6. This hunt was originated by Captain Michael, he unfortunately left, you took it up, with inadequate means at your disposal, and have I am sure done your best, but it is a more difficult matter than I think you were quite aware of; the last hunt 10 years* before, failed, when there were 3 or 4 better and more efficient men than Iyaloo Naik at the head of it; the few old drivers who remain, have probably and naturally, in the course of 12† years, (since the last successful hunt,) lost much of their confidence and courage, which depended greatly, as in every other dangerous enterprise, on being well led, and on familiarity with the danger. This is probably the real cause of your present failure, much to be regretted, not attributed to yourself, how much to Iyaloo Naik, after enquiry, and not his present assertion, can best determine.

6. I got your letter under reply, in the middle of the night. I have this morning, without an hour's delay sent you all the remaining muskets, and desired the neighbouring Tahsildars to send you, at considerable public inconvenience, every peon who had ever seen an elephant, more cannot, possibly, be done, even had I time to do it.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Collector.

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to Captain D. HAMILTON, Assistant Conservator of Forests; dated Coimbatore, 23d April 1857, No. 18.

SIR,

In immediate reply to yours of yester date, I beg to inform you that every Peon who could possibly be spared has been already sent to you, to send you others, who never saw an elephant and cannot fire a musket, would be worse than useless. You require me to send you again at 12 hours notice 50 more Peons and 50 muskets, and state in para. 3 that the success of the hunt depends on it. I regret it is out of my power, either in time or men, to comply with your request, every remaining musket 20 and man 7 from Coimbatore that can be possibly spared, I have ordered to be again sent to you. From what I know of former hunts I fear you will not get elephants up again which have once been driven and turned back. The Denaickencottah Tahsildar has also been ordered to give you all the aid in his power.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Collector.

Translation of an order issued to the Tahsildar of Danaickencottah dated the 23d April 1857, No. 100.

It being reported to me that from want of more Peons and other aid, for the hunt at Coonoomadagoo, the driving of the elephants into the Coopum may be delayed, I direct that the moment you receive this order, you will supply the necessary Peons and other men, for the undertaking, and pay Rupees 300, from the talook Treasury to Captain Hamilton, the 20 muskets which are sent on a bandy from Coimbatore, should also be delivered to Captain Hamilton without delay. Due notice will be taken, of any neglect on your part in rendering the above assistance.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Collector.

Translation of an order issued to the Tahsildar of Danaickencottah dated the 7th April 1857, No. 80.

In continuation of an order No. directing you to send the Kundachar Peons (employing substitutes for them) to Captain Hamilton to aid him in the proposed elephant hunt in your talook, I again direct that the moment you receive this Takeed, you will select from among all your

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th August 1857.

Peons those who are at all accustomed to former hunts, and send them to Captain Hamilton a Seeromooay without delay.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Collector.

Translation of an order issued to the Tahsildar of Denaikencottah, dated 3d March 1857.

Captain Hamilton, who is now at Sreemogah with the view of making a hunt of elephants requires the services of Woddurs and Coolies for repairing the "Cooppum." You will therefore send for the Maistries, and tell them to supply as many Woddurs and Coolies as may be required, on payment of proper wages, you should not force the coolies by means of Peons, but they should be desired to work for the hunt on being fairly paid for. You will order the Maistries of the Woddurs and Coolies to go first to Captain Hamilton and speak to him, and then supply as many men as he may require, you will of course give to Captain Hamilton the assistance of Peons if he wants it.

(True Translate.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Collector.

Translation of an order issued to the Tahsildar of Denaikencottah dated 25th March 1857, No. 70.

You have already received an order dated 31st January 1857, No. 24, directing you to depute for the hunt proposed to be made, in your talook, the six Peons and one Duffadar, who were formerly employed in the Shikarry Cutcherry, when their services may be required, you are hereby ordered to send them to Captain Hamilton when he wants them, and keep substitutes for them. When the hunt is over, and the Peons return to their duty, you will send an account to the Hoozoor shewing the amount of pay due to the substitutes, and orders will thereupon be issued for it.

(True Translate.)

(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, Collector.

No. 28.

ORDER THEREON No. 824; dated 17th August 1857.

1. The letter above recorded from the Collector of Coimbatore, confirms the Government in the opinion they expressed in the first paragraph of the Extract Minutes Consultation of the 26th of June, that the failure of the elephant hunt organized by Captain Hamilton, is in no way whatever attributable to a want of interest on the part of the Collector.

2. The capture of a herd of wild elephants is at all times a task of great difficulty, no wild animal is more sagacious and more suspicious, and their vast power enables them so readily to break through any means of coercion that may be adopted, that there are always more probabilities of failure than of success. Even when the Shikar Cutcherry was in full force, and its darogahs were men of experience and courage, practised in the capture of elephants, and constantly engaged in watching their habits, and making themselves acquainted with their haunts, success was by no means constant. The Government therefore consider that it would be manifestly unjust to impute the late failure to the Collector, when so far from any indifference being shown on his part, he gave every assistance in his power. Mr. Thomas' long experience in Coimbatore warned him of the likelihood of failure, and this warning he appears to have communicated to Captain Hamilton.

3. The Government are of opinion that any attempt to take the herd so soon after the late failure must be attended with more than ordinary difficulty, and they direct that for the present all proceedings may be stopped, but as the animals cannot but be destructive to the crops, and are of value when secured, they will be prepared to sanction a hunt whenever the Collector may report that there is a reasonable prospect of success. They would wish Mr. Thomas to consult any servants of the Shikar Cutcherry who may be still in the District, and to avail himself of their services if they should still be physically capable of active exertion in the forests.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Translation of an order issued to the Tahsildar of Denaikencottah dated the 23rd April 1857. No. 100.

It being reported to me that from want of more Peons and other aid for the hunt at Coonooroomadagoo, the driving of the Elephant into the Cooppum may be delayed, I direct that the moment you receive this order you will supply the necessary Peons & other men for the undertaking, and pay Rs. 300 from the Talook Treasury to Captain Hamilton. The 20 muskets which are sent on a bandy from Coimbatore should also be delivered to Captain Hamilton without delay. Due notice will be taken, of any neglect on your part in rendering the above assistance.

Signed "E. B. Thomas"
Collector

"True Translation"

18/4 P. A. D. H. ...

Collector

... depends on Mr. Treget

10 52
Translation of an order issued to the Taluk
of Denai Kencotak D. 25 "Koush"
1857 No. 70.

You have already

Received an order dated

31st January 1857 No. 24
directing you
to deputise for the

Hunt proposed to be

Made in your Taluk

the six persons and one

Duffadar, who were

formerly employed

in the Shikary

Catchery when their

Copy was of L. 603
D. 17. 25. 1857 No. 45
D. 25. 6. 28

1857

Before

In order to be from

the Taluk of Denai Kencotak

dated 25. 6. 1857

No. 36.

D. 25. 6. 57

Translation of

an order issued to

the Taluk of Denai Kencotak

D. 25. 6. 1857

No. 100.

Services may be required. You are
hereby ordered to send

them to Cape Hamilton

when he wants

them and keep

substitutes for

them - when the

hunt is out and

the persons return

to their duty, you

will send an account

to the Purveyor

showing the amount

of pay due to the

Substitutes and

order will be there

upon he is issued for

/ Signed M. Thomas

Fractranslate

P. D. Thomas

Collector

Translation of an order issued to the Tahsilदार
of Dnauickencottah dated the 7th April 1857
No. 80.

In continuation of an order No. 7
directing you to send the Mundachar Peons
employing substitutes for them to
Captain Hamilton to aid him in the
proposed Elephant hunt in your Talook.
Again direct that the moment you
receive this Tukeed, you will select from
among all your Peons those who are ab-
solutely accustomed to former hunts, and
send them to Captain Hamilton at
Seeromoogay without delay.

Signed / C. B. Thomas
Collector

True Translation.

(Sd) S. A. P. Thomas
Collector

Copy made by L. G. B.
27/11/57 Dec 1857 - 1845
Dnauickencottah 22/6/28.

1857 Department
In a letter from
the Collector (Dnauickencottah)
dated 20th July 1857
No 36.
Dnauickencottah

800/57

From the Collector of
Dnauickencottah
to the
Dnauickencottah
22/6/28.

Copy made by L. G. B.
27/11/57 Dec 1857 - 1845
Dnauickencottah 22/6/28.

Copy made by L. G. B.
27/11/57 Dec 1857 - 1845
Dnauickencottah 22/6/28.

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who is now at Secunderabad
with the view of making
a Hunt of Elephants
requires the services
of Madras and Coolies
for repairing the
"Coopers". You will
therefore send for
the "Hunters" and
tell them to supply

1857

DePauw

2717-2720 1837-1845
D. 11. 2. 52

Small letter from the

Colony of Combatores

Oct 36-

286

I have taken
 an opportunity to
 the State of Georgia
 General Council
 and the State
 1857-1860-

Im Lagerhaus.

2-2-2

W. H. Wood

as many ~~Wodders~~ and
Cookies as may be
required, on payment
of proper wages. You
should not force the
Cookies by means of
peons. but they should
~~be informed to~~
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92
of the Wodders and
Cookies to go first
to Captain Hamilton
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many meat as he
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will of course give to
Captain Hamilton
the assistance ^{of peons} if he
wants it.
/Signed/ E. B. Thomas
Colln
True translation
E. B. Thomas
Colln

Coimbatore Collectors Office 23rd April 1857

From
C. B. Thomas Esq.
Collector of Coimbatore

To,
Captain D. Hamilton
Assistant Conservator
of Forests.

Sir, Coimbatore 23rd April 1857

In immediate reply to yours of yesterday, I beg to inform you that every peon who could possibly be spared has been already sent to you. to send you others, who never saw an Elephant and cannot fire a musket, would be worse than useless. You require me to send you again at 12 hours notice 50 more peons and 50 muskets. and state in para 3 that the success of the Hunt depends on it. I regret

Copy in 9268
27th Dec 1857
Dated 22.6.28

1857
Deputy
Inspector
of Forests
Coimbatore
dated 22nd July 1857
1856-

1857
1856-
1857-
1856-

It is out of my power, either in time
or men, to comply with your request to
every remaining ²⁰ musket and ⁷ man from
Coimbatore that can be possibly spared,
I have ordered to be again sent to you.
From what I know of former Hunts
I fear you will not get Elephants up
again which have once been driven and
turned back. The Denaickencottah
Tahsildar has also been ordered to
give you all the aid in his power.

I have the
(Signed) E. B. Thomas
Collector.

(True Copy)

P. N. S.
Collector.

From
The Collector of
Coimbatore
The Assistant Commissioner
of Coimbatore
stating that the
very musket and man
that can be possibly
spared has been
ordered to be sent
again from the Elephants
Hunt.

Copy in a 92 to 3
of 17.08.1857 to 19.45
Dated 22.6.28

1857
Deputy
in a letter from the
Collector of Coimbatore
dated 20 Aug 1857 to 36.

No. 19.

Coimbatore Collector's Office 23rd April 1857

From
E. B. Thomas Esq.
Collector of Coimbatore

To,
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Assistant Conservator
of Forests.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday. I much regret your failure, but it is not in my power to aid you further than I have already done, and I must demand to your now throwing the failure almost entirely on to the peons sent to you. You write of course on the ipse dixit of Syaloo Naik, whose word is not worthy of entire credit, and of whose sole capability to carry out this Hunt

you know, I expressed some doubts from the first.

2. In former Hunts he bore a subordinate part. Several more active and more efficient men, combined, were always necessary to a successful Hunt. you appear to have depended on him alone, and the Hunt has I fear failed from this cause. It has been attempted with inadequate means. It is your first attempt, and you are not to be blamed but I think Iyaloo Nait's is, for misleading you, failing, and then (as is natural) seeking to throw it on other parties. as to the number of peons, I have with much public inconvenience, and on the emergency, sent to you every available man I could. let Iyaloo Nait, give in a list, if he can, and

as you seem to believe, of available men, not sent to you. I request your attention to this point. as, having aided you to the utmost of my power, and warned you as you knew privately, of my fears of your being too sanguine, having had too little time, (not your fault), and trusting Iyaloo Nait's promises too much, I cannot concur in his attempt now, to shift the failure from his own shoulders, to the peons, who perhaps did their best.

3. You impute (manifestly on Iyaloo Nait's representations) the failure to the Peons "not obeying orders" - you do not say how. If Iyaloo Nait means that he ordered

the Peons to drive the Herd of Elephants
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142 3
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5. The peons who were
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that they purposely failed, is a
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I am really unable to accept. it is
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6. This Hunt was originated
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10⁺ years before, failed, when there were ^{in Oct. 1846.}
3 or 4 better and more efficient men
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152
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muskets, and desired the neighbouring
Tahsildars to send you, at considerable
public inconvenience, every person who
had ever seen ^{an} Elephant. more
cannot, possibly, be done, even had
I time to do it.

I have to
(Signed) E. B. Thomas
(True Copy) Collo

E. B. Thomas
Collector

No. 36-

Thom.

162
Inmate
Contributor's Office

20th July 1857

E. B. Thomas Esq.

Collector of

To, Contributor

H. Forbes Esq.

By Secretary to Govt.

Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of Extract
from Minutes of Consultation
dated 26th ultimo No. 654, and to
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for in para 1. The Shikar
Catchery has been broken up
since 1850. the last capture and
hunt of Elephants took place
in 1845. the Establishment was
dissolved, and some drafted into
other Departments, under the

1857

Department

In a letter from the

Collector of Contributors

dated 20th July

No. 36

From

The Officer

of Contributors

To Captain Hamilton

Governor of

Contributors

Forward

1857

Remarking on the

failure of the late

Col. Hamilton's

Col. Hamilton's

P. 654/57

Orders of Government noted marginally.

Tho some still retain the name, there are few now left who were trained in former Hunts, or took part in catching Elephants, and such men alone, are, of course, of any use.

2 Not being aware of what Captain Hamilton had reported, on the failure of the Hunt, to Government, and not wishing to trouble Government - until asked, I refrained from addressing the Board or Government on the matter, especially as I felt conscious of having done my utmost to aid Captain Hamilton. I am certainly a little surprised that Captain Hamilton should assign as ^{the} cause for the failure, the very

very unfounded and unjust one, of my being "Supposed to be opposed to the Hunt". I can only suppose that in Captain Hamilton's anxiety to explain the failure, he was misled by some fear of his own people, or by the want of fuller inquiry. In truth I did my utmost to aid the object - recommended it at first, and backed both Captain Michael and Hamilton, ^{and} ^{consequently} throughout.

3 Tho the persons asked by Captain Hamilton had been long since detailed all over the District, for Revenue and Police work, and could be spared with difficulty from it, I nevertheless had all that possibly could be found, immediately

Collected some from 50 and 70 miles
off, armed them all from my own office,
promised rewards if they exerted or
distinguished themselves. added some
of my own personal designs, detached
the old hunt Elephant of the buy
in Road making and other similar
work, and in fact did all I could
to forward the hunt.

4 I regretted its failure
equally with Captain Hamilton, and
have made a point, since, of
making every possible enquiry, thro
the Lakeiwar and others on the
spot, of the cause. No fault is
to be attributed, I think, fairly,
to any one, certainly not to Captain
Hamilton, who did his best in
under a difficult and novel duty,
with inadequate means and men.

In

185 33
In fact the hunt, was, (as I said to
both Captain Michael and Hamilton)
got up in too great a hurry. There was
not time allowed to Collect
Sufficient men, train and test
them; and thoroly examine the
ground.

5 I have been present at
many hunts here formerly, and
know the difficulties, and the
process; and I warned the 2
Officers that I feared the one
man they singly trusted to,
Iyaloo maek (formerly a Sub-
ordinate in the old Hunt) was
unequal to the task, and that
time and men insufficient. a
successful hunt usually occupies
several months in preparation.
this, only had as many weeks. the

For

Persons whom Captain Hamilton
expected to drive the Elephants,
had lost, of course, much of their
practice and nerve, and familiarity
with Elephants - all necessary for
success - and they had little or no
assistance. The unfortunate Rocksh
alluded to, was, I believe misdirected
by him all I can learn, on careful
enquiry, accidentally so. That it was
purposely thrown away, is only a
suspicion of Captain Hamilton's,
which fuller enquiry would I think
convince him is unfounded.
Captain Hamilton I
was sure did all he could - but
his time for preparation, his means,
and his head man (on whom he too
much relied) were all insufficient.
I feared so from the first - but did
not

192
not like to throw cold water on
Captain Hamilton's laudable efforts
and personal zeal. tho, as he is
aware, I did warn him in several
private notes. The Stockade was
too weak; the herd also divided in
the drive, which always makes its
success more difficult. a large
party of Gentlemen were present. I
was not so myself, being really
prevented by urgent business, at
a distance - and having afforded
every aid and advice in my power,
my presence, at the last (when
all depended on the mere drive)
could have rendered no further
possible aid.

7 The Cost has been less
than usually incurred. the
average of the expense used to be
about

2450
about 2300 Rupees per kumb. I would
not recommend another kumb by
Government at present. The heads
of several villages, with their own
ryals, whom Captain Hamilton
should have also employed, have
now offered to try and secure the
herd, if they again approach the
"Oppun" enclosure, at their own
expense - provided Government buy
the Elephants at a fair price, -
which I have promised to do, -
should they succeed. If any
prospect of success offers, I shall
not fail to take advantage of
it. Captain Hamilton being now
fully engaged, he writes me, in his
forest duties, cannot attend to it.

I now enclose 2 former letters
to Captain Hamilton, for the fullon

201 185
information of Government. Captain
Hamilton is in error in supposing
that the native authorities wished
to thwart him, or that any orders
were issued from me, tending in any
way to discourage or obstruct
his work - in his absence, his
Chief man "Iyaloo kaiti" wished to
obtain forced assistance in labour
etc. - to which alone, I objected.
desiring that all should be
fairly paid for - all the orders
I issued were to facilitate and
aid, Captain Hamilton's efforts;
but his head man, to exonerate
his own failure, has made
Captain Hamilton believe
otherwise.

9. Doctor Blegborn proposes
to Catch, instead of shoot, all
the

The Collector
of Land Revenue

To the Chief of
to Government

Print & envelope
16 No 824 - 47th & August

called for in Extract
Principles of Consultation
under state the 2^d &
Volume 1863 with
reference to the 2^d of 1863
want-

25027.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant.
D. B. Thomas.
Collector.

To
The Secy Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George

22-2 X

Revenue Dept

N^o 824

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 17th August 1857

Read the following
letter from the Collector
of Coimbatore.

Here enter 20th July 1857
A. 36/

LE

W

O

The letter above
recorded from the Collector
of Coimbatore confirms
the Resolution in
the opinion they expressed
in the first paragraph
of the Extract Minis
Consultation of the 26th
of June, that the
failure of the Dept
has

hunt organized by Captain
Hamilton, is in no way
whatever attributable
to a want of interest
on the part of the Collector.

The capture of
a herd of wild Elephants
is at all times a task
of great difficulty, no
wild animal is more
vigilant and more
suspicious, and their
vast power enables
them so readily to
break through any
means of coercion
that may be adopted,
that there are always
more probabilities of
failure than of success.
Even when the Shikar
Regulation was in full
force

forces and its Darogahs
were men of experi-
ence and courage,
practised in the cap-
ture of Elephants,
and constantly engaged
in watching their
habits, and making
themselves acquainted
with their haunts,
success was by no
means constant.
The Government
therefore consider that
it would be mani-
festly unjust to im-
pute the late failure
to the Collector, when
so far from any
indifference being
shown on his part,
he gave every assistance

in his power. Mr. Thomas' long experience in Coimbatore warned him of the likelihood of failure, and this warning he appears to have communicated to Captain Hamilton.

The Government are of opinion that any attempt to take the herd so soon after the late failure must be attended with more than ordinary difficulty, and they deem that for the present all proceedings ^{may} be stopped, but as the animals cannot but be destructive to the

24th 23rd J
Crops, and are of value when secured, they will be prepared to sanction a hunt whenever the Collector may report that there is a reasonable prospect of success.

They would wish Mr. Thomas to consult any servants of the Shikar Out-cherry who may be still in the District, and to avail himself of their services if they should still be physically capable of active exertion in the forests.

2 Copies to the Bdg. Secy. D. 18
1 - Col. of Coimbatore.

Copy in w. G. L. to E.
27th December 1857. No 115.
Pains 22 to 38.

24/3/00

Revenue 1857 Dept.
D. to Com 18. 2 Aug.

No 824.

Contract Minis. of Com.
27th Aug 1857.

Observing that the
failure of the Elephant Hunt
organized by Captain Hamilton
is in no way whatever, attribu-
table to a want of interest on the
part of the collector of Simbhar
whom, so far from any indiffer-
ence being shown on his part,
he gave every assistance in
his power.

No 27 + 28.