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(13)

Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

29th Sept 1857

Nos 18 & 19

Order no 980 D/25th Sept 1857

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு - 1.

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் – ரா. கைலாநாயகி

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள். 11/2006

செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 3/2007

பார்வையிட்டது
முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
இ.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

ஆய்வுக்கு
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 29th September 1857.

No. 18. Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D. Conservator of Forests; to the Secretary to Government Revenue Department Fort Saint George; dated Calicut 28th August 1857, No. 119.

Sir,

With reference to para. 2 of my letter to Government dated 27th May last, No. 68, I have now the honor to transmit the accompanying further Statement and Account of the expenses incurred by Captain Hamilton Superintendent of the Annamalay Forests in the Elephant hunt at Seermoogay, sanctioned in Extract Minutes of Consultation 23d June 1856, No. 640. The amount sanctioned was Rupees 1,500, and if the attempt had proved successful, a trivial excess of the amount would have been of small moment. Captain Hamilton underwent great personal fatigue and anxiety, and with reference to the failure, it is perhaps to be regretted that more interest was not shown by the Revenue Authorities. The amount now requiring sanction is Rupees 324-6-2, which I respectfully solicit may meet with the approval of Government.

2. It will be observed that Rupees 223 was expended in making ropes for securing Elephants, these would have been sold, thereby reducing the amount in excess very considerably, but it has been considered better to retain them pending the result of another hunt, which is being tried by the villagers of Seermoogay, after which the amount realized shall be duly credited to Government.

3. The accompanying sketches from the pen of Captain Hamilton illustrate the method of conducting one of the Elephant hunts, and give a correct representation of the Coopum at Seermoogay and the surrounding country. It is for Government to determine whether) considering the great value of these useful animals) they will sanction the renewal of an attempt to catch them in a more favorable locality as at the Carcoor or Tambor Cherry Pass in Malabar, where they are reported to be in great abundance, and where the hunt might be organized with the ready aid of the Collector, and with the assistance of experienced Shikaries from Coimbatore and Cochin.

4. I understand that the Supreme Government are well disposed to favor the catching of Elephants, and am informed that an Elephant hunt has lately been successful in the *Terai* after previous failure.

5. It seems also worthy of consideration, whether the customary reward should be given for the destruction of female Elephants, unless killed in the vicinity of cultivation. The old males are much more mischievous, and from the value of the tusks they are always worth destruction. The system in Malabar seems to be reasonable, viz. that the reward is not paid unless the animal be killed when trespassing on cultivation, or dangerous to life.

From Captain D. HAMILTON, Assistant Conservator of Forests; to H. F. C. CLEGHORN, Esq.. M. D. Conservator of Forests; dated Toonacodavoo 13th August 1857, No. 166.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to forward the Account of expenses incurred in the late Elephant hunt near Seermoogay, the delay in forwarding these accounts was caused by my having to refer to the Tahsildar of Danaikencottah through the Collector of Coimbatore regarding some items of expenditure.

2. You will perceive that the amount exceeds the sum sanctioned by Rupees 324-6-2, had I discontinued any further attempts to capture the Elephants after the first day's drive, I should not have expended more than Rupees 1,567-11-5;* but I trust from the explanation given in my report of the hunt that I was sufficiently justified in organizing the two additional drives.

**As per enclosed memorandum.*

3. The sum of 223 Rupees was expended in making ropes for securing the Elephants if captured, these ropes are now in the Collector's cutcherry at Coimbatore. I have not sold them, as from a communication I have lately received from the Collector it appears that the Monegars and Landholders in the neighbourhood of Seermoogay have proposed capturing the Elephants themselves, and should they be successful these ropes will come into use, and I shall in all probability be able to dispose of them at prime cost; should the ropes not be required I will hereafter sell them to the best advantage and place the amount to the credit of Government.

4. I beg to enclose some rough sketches referring to the late Elephant hunt which with a slight description may be of some interest, as it will shew the method adopted in the Coimbatore District for capturing wild Elephants.

5. The spot selected for the hunt on this occasion was at the entrance of a valley at the foot of the Neilgherries near Seermoogay where are the remains of an old Coopum or kráal, the situation was an excellent one, for the river on one side, and steep hills on the other, left only a narrow gorge at the entrance of the valley, so that once having got the Elephants into the valley, it appeared easy enough to drive them into the Coopum.

6. The Coopum consisted of a circular trench 280 feet in diameter, the breadth of the ditch being 13 feet narrowing at the bottom to a few inches, the depth 10 feet. The causeway at the entrance 27 feet broad was composed of blocks of light wood and earth, the object of using wood was to enable the cause way to be quickly demolished on the Elephants entering the enclosure. From the entrance strong palisadings were erected diverging in one direction towards the river and in the other to the foot of the nearest hill, the length of the right palisading (looking from the Coopum) was 600 feet, that on the left 800 feet consisting of stems of trees firmly fixed in the ground and strongly bound together; 2,800 of these stems were used in forming the palisadings, beyond them strong abattis were laid down, extending on the right side 2,900 feet and on the left 3,200 for 400 feet on each side behind the palisading a ditch 5 feet 7 inches broad and 3 feet 6 inches deep was dug; beyond this a ditch 4 feet by 4 feet was continued, but on the *inner side* of the palisading and abattis; on the right side to the distance of 310 feet and on the left 180 feet. This completed all the preparations with the exception that on the day of the drive the whole of the palisadings were covered with green branches to conceal them from the Elephants. All trees and bushes were left standing and the causeway was made to look as like the natural judge as possible, the ditch at the sides being carefully concealed by bushes.

7. It took several days to bring the Elephants into the valley above the Coopum, as they have to be moved in the direction required without alarming them; parties had to be stationed day and night watching certain passes to stop the herd from proceeding in any direction but towards the valley, at nights a line of fires are lighted for this purpose. On the day of the drive people are stationed at intervals outside the palisadings and abattis to drive back the Elephants if they attempt to break through, two small bon-fires are made on each side of the entrance within the Coopum concealed by bushes, and the moment the Elephants enter two men are ready to rush in and light them; faggots which have been previously collected and piled near the entrance are quickly thrown on and soon two immense fires are formed which effectually prevent the Elephants attempting to recross the causeway while a number of coolies detailed for the purpose are demolishing it.

8. Muskets, rockets, crackers, tom-toms and horns are used in the drive, which combined with the shouting of several hundred men is enough to intimidate the boldest Elephant from charging back, but it is difficult to get natives to believe this, every thing depends on their having good leaders.

9. Besides those employed in guarding the enclosures and driving, a number of men are placed on the planks beyond the arms or enclosures of the Coopum, as soon as the drive commences they light small fires, the Elephants have such a dread of fire that if well driven, on seeing the fires on each side of them they are sure to make straight for the enclosures.

10. Hoping these few remarks will give you a slight insight into the system of catching Elephants in this part of India.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, No. 980; dated 25th September 1857.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions the sum expended by Captain Hamilton, Superintendent of the Annamallay Forests, in excess of Rupees 1,500 authorized in Extract Minutes Consultation 16th January 1857, No. 62, for organizing a hunt for the capture of wild elephants, amounting to Rupees (324-6-2) three hundred and twenty four, annas six and pice two. This expenditure will reduce the balance of 10,000 Rupees authorized in the order of the 21st July last for expenditure in the purchase of elephants at the market rate.

2. In regard to the other parts of Doctor Cleghorn's letter, the Government observe that they have already in Extract Minutes Consultation 17th August 1857, directed all proceedings for organizing another elephant hunt to be stopped, until the Collector of Coimbatore is enabled to report that there is a reasonable prospect of success. Doctor Cleghorn's report will however in the meanwhile be communicated to the Collector and his particular attention drawn to paras. 3 to 5, and his opinion requested on the several suggestions made therein.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 119. 3/280 Calicut 28th August 1857.

From

F. Cleghorn Esqr. M. D.
Conservator of Forests.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to Para 2 of my Letter to Government dated 27th May last No 68, I have the honor to transmit the accompanying further Statement and Account of the expences incurred by Captain Hamilton Superintendent of the Annamalay Forests in the Elephant hunt at Seeroomogay, sanctioned in Extract Minutes of Consultation 25th June 1856 No 640. The Amount sanctioned was Rupees 1500, and if the attempt had proved successful a trivial excess of the amount would have been of small moment. Capt. Hamilton underwent great personal fatigue and anxiety, and with reference to the failure, it is perhaps to be regretted that more interest was not shown by the Revenue Authorities. The Amount now requiring sanctions is Rupees 324-6-2 which I respectfully solicit may meet with

the

the approval of Government.

2. It will be observed that Rupees 223 was expended in making popes for securing Elephants - these would have been sold, thereby reducing the amount in excess very considerably, but it has been considered better to retain them pending the result of another hunt, which is being tried by the Villagers of Seruvoy - After which the Amount realized shall be duly credited to Government.

3. The accompanying Sketches from the pen of Captain Hamilton illustrate the method of conducting one of the Elephant hunts, and give a correct representation of the Coopums at Seruvoy and the surrounding Country - It is for Government to determine whether considering the great value of these useful animals they will sanction the renewal of an attempt to catch them in a more favorable locality as at the Carcoor or Tamboocherry Pass in Malabar where they are reported to be in great abundance, and where the hunt might be organised with the ready aid of the Collector, and with the assistance of experienced Shikaries from Coimbatore and Cochin -

4. I understand that the Supreme Government are well disposed to favor the catching of Elephants, and am informed that an Elephant

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Elephant hunt has lately been successful in the Terai after previous failure. 980

5. It seems also worthy of consideration, whether the customary reward should be given for the destruction of Female Elephants, unless killed in the vicinity of cultivation - The old Males are much more mischievous, and from the value of the tusks they are always worth destruction - The System in Malabar seems to be reasonable, viz that the reward is not paid unless the Animal be killed when trespassing on cultivation or dangerous to life.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

H. Cockburn
Conservator of Forests.

57/80

No 166.

From

Captain D. Hamilton
Asst. Conservator of Forests

To

H. J. C. Cleghorn Esquire M. D.
Conservator of Forests

Sir,

1. I have the honor to forward the Account of Expenses incurred in the late Elephant hunt near Seermoogay - the delay in forwarding these accounts was caused by my having to refer to the Tahsildar of Dandikencottah through the Collector of Coimbatore regarding some items of Expenditure.

2. You will perceive that the amount exceeds the sum sanctioned by Rupees 324 " 6 " 2 - had I discontinued any further attempts to capture the Elephants after the first day's drive I should not have Expended more than Rs 567 - 11 - 5 but I trust you the Explanation given in my report of the hunt that I was sufficiently justified in organizing the two additional drives.

3. The sum of 223 Rupees was Expended in making ropes for securing the Elephants if captured, these ropes

are

Rec. 18 Sept 1858
No. to Cond. 29 Sept
No 1039

From The Conservator of Forests
To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George

Dated 20 Augt 1858

Received {1858
{Sept 18

Cond 24 Inclosure 30 Nos 42443
a - 30 to a - 154 - a - 314 33.

Submitting Copy Statement of Accounts of the late Elephant Hunt

Chief Assistant to the Conservator of Forests
Coimbatore -
25 Sept 1858.

1858.

C15 Sept. 1858

are now in the Collector's Cutcherry at Coimbatore I have not sold them as from a communication I have lately received from the Collector it appears that the Mouegars and Land-holders in the neighbourhood of Seermoogay have proposed capturing the Elephants themselves and should they be successful these ropes will come into use and I shall in all probability be able to dispose of them at prime cost should the ropes not be required I will hereafter sell them to the best advantage and place the amount to the credit of Government.

87

4. I beg to enclose some rough sketches referring to the late Elephant Hunt which with a brief description may be of some interest shewing the method adopted in the Coimbatore District for capturing wild Elephants. (vide Pl. 1&2)

5-6 The spot selected for the hunt on this occasion was at the entrance of a valley at the foot of the Neilgherries near Seermoogay where — are the remains of an old Coopum or Kraal — the situation was an Excellent one, for the river on one side, and steep hills on the other, left only a narrow gorge at the entrance of the valley; so that once having got the Elephants into the valley, it appeared easy enough to drive them into the Coopum. (vide Pl. II)

The

Description of the method adopted in the Coimbatore district for catching wild Elephants. By Capt. D Hamilton aftd. Conservator of Forests.

7 6/280 The Coopum consisted of a circular trench 280 Feet in diameter the breadth of the ditch being 13 Feet narrowing at the bottom to a few inches the depth 10 feet. The causeway at the Entrance 27 feet broad was composed of blocks of light wood and earth the object of using wood was to Enable the causeway to be quickly demolished on the Elephants Entering the Enclosure. From the Entrance strong palisadings were erected, diverging in one direction towards the river and on the other to the foot of the nearest hill, the length of the right palisading looking from the coopum was 600 feet, that on the left 800 feet consisting of stems of trees firmly fixed in the ground and strongly bound together 2,800 of these stems were used in forming the palisadings — beyond these strong abattis were laid down — Extending on the right side 2,900 feet and on the left 3,200 for 400 feet on each side behind the palisading a ditch 5 Feet 7 inches broad and 3 Feet 6 inches deep was dug; beyond this a ditch 4 Feet by 4 Feet was continued but on the river side of the palisading and abattis on the right side to the distance of 310 feet and on the left 180 feet. This completed all the preparations with the Exception that (vide Pl. III)

that on the day of the drive the whole of the palisadings were covered with green branches to conceal them from the Elephants: All trees and bushes were left standing and the causeway was made to look as like the natural jungle as possible. the ditches at the sides being carefully concealed by bushes.

94 It took several days to bring the Elephants into the valley above the Coopum as they have to be moved in the direction required without alarming them. parties had to be stationed day and night watching certain passes to stop the herd from proceeding in any direction but towards the valley - at nights a line of fires are lighted for this purpose. On the day of the drive people are stationed at intervals outside the palisadings and abattis to drive back the Elephants if they attempt to break through - two small bon-fires are made on each side of the Entrance within the Coopum concealed by bushes and the moment the Elephants enter two men are ready to rush in and light them - faggots which have been previously collected and piled near the Entrance are quickly thrown on and soon two immense fires are formed which effectually prevent the Elephants attempting to recross the causeway while a number of Coolies detailed for the purpose are demolishing it. 1/980

95 Muskets, rockets, crackers, Tom-toms and horns are used in the drive which combined with the shouting of several hundred men is enough to intimidate the boldest Elephant from charging back, but it is difficult to get natives to believe this Every thing depends on their having good leaders.

96 Besides those employed in guarding the Enclosures and driving, a number of men are placed on the planks beyond the arms or Enclosures of the Coopum - as soon as the drive commences they light small fires. the Elephants have such a dread of fire that if well driven, on seeing the fires on each side of them they are sure to make straight for the Enclosures.

(Vide Pl 2)

97. — Hoping these few remarks will give you a slight insight into the system of catching Elephants in this part of India.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt Servt
Douglas Hamilton Captain
Asstt Consr of Forests.

Asstt Consr Office
Toonacadavoo
13th August 1857.

Memorandum Viewing

95/980

Re Amount Expended up to the 21st April 1857 being the 1st day's drive of the Elephant Kheddah as also the 25th & 26th of the same month.

To Cash paid 777 Coolies at 4 as each				194	4	-	
" Do. 152 Do. @ 3 Do.				28	8	-	
" Do. 3895 Do. @ 2½ Do.				608	9	6	
" Do. 332 Do. @ 2 Do.				41	8	-	
" Do. 968 Do. @ 1½ Do.				90	12	-	
" Do. 277 Do. @ 1 Do.				17	5	-	
" Do. 3 Maisties from 1st to 21st April @ 7 Rupees per Mensem				14	11	-	
" Do. for Gun Powder				70	-	4	
" Do. for Rope				223	-	9	
" Do. 1 Tongdar from 14th to 31st March & from 1st to 21st April @ 7 Rs per Month				8	15	4	
" Do. 1 Do. for 21 days in April @ Do.				4	14	4	
" Do. 1 Jemadar from 14th to 31st March & from 1st to 21st April @ 7 Rs per Do.				8	15	4	
" Do. 6 Mahouts from 14th to 31st March & from 1st to 21st April				34	11	-	
" Do. 1 Do. for 13 days in April				2	-	6	
" Do. 2 Do. from 9th to 21st Do. @ Do.				5	-		
" Do. 1 Do. from 1st to 21st April @ Do.				3	4	6	
Do. Rockets men				26	4	-	
Do. to Substitute Peons				155	13	10	
Do. to Musketmen				29	2	-	
Total Rupees						1567	11 5
To amount Expended on the 25th & 26th April 1857. for the two additional drives						256	10 9
Total expended as per A/Current Ab.						1824	6 2

A/Asstt Comrs Office
Toonacadavoo
13th August 1857.

Boyle A Hamilton Captain
A/Asstt Comr of Forests.

9980

Dr. The Elephant Hunt sanctioned under date 23d June 1856, in Account Current with Captn D. Hamilton Asst. Conr Travancore Annamallay

1857 February 4th	By Cash paid to Syales Naik Daregah of the Hunt through the Tahsildar of Coimbatore		70	- -
March 25th	By Do. paid through the Tahsildar of Danaikencottah		1256	4 -
	By Do. Do. for Ropes through the Tahsildar of Coimbatore		58	15 9
	By Do. Do. through the Tahsildar of Puttadeum		60	- -
	By Do. Do. through the Tahsildar of Puttachee		33	12 -
	By Do. Do. to Mootoosawmy Pillay Head Writer for Ropes		50	- -
	By Do. Do. being the hire of a Cart with Muskets from Coimbatore to Seermoogay		18	-
				1530 7 9
	By amount paid to Collector of Coimbatore being the amount due to the Peons Employed as substitutes for those Engaged in the Elephant Hunt			65 7 10
				1595 15 7
	By amount paid to Coolies hired by Captn D. Hamilton to meet the unforseen Expenses of the Hunt			228 6 7
	Total Company's Rupees			1824 6 2
	By amount sanctioned by Government		1500	- -
	Amount requiring the sanction of Govern.t		324	6 2

Asst. Conr Office
Toopacadavoo
13 August 1857.

10/980

Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 640. Cr

with Captn D. Hamilton Asst. Conr Forests.

1857 March 21st	To Cash paid to 777 Wudders @ 4as. each		194	4 -
	" Do. 152 Coolies @ 3as. Do.		28	8 -
	" Do. 3895 Do. @ 2½as. Do.		608	9 6
	" Do. 332 Do. @ 2as. Do.		41	8 -
	" Do. 968 Do. @ 1½as. Do.		90	12 -
	" Do. 277 Do. @ 1 anna Do.		17	5 -
	" Do. 58 Do. @ 4as. Do.		14	8 -
24	" Do. 19 Do. @ 3as. Do.		3	9 -
	" Do. 888 Do. @ 2½as. Do.		141	1 6
	" Do. 243½ Do. @ 2as. Do.		30	7 -
	" Do. 142 Do. @ 1½as. Do.		13	6 -
	" Do. 2 Do. @ 1 anna Do.			2 -
	" Do. 3 Maistries from 1st to 26th April at 7 Rs. per month each		18	3 -
	" Do. to Sundries		11	13 8
	" Do. for Gunpowder		70	- 4
	" Do. for Rupees		223	- 9
	" Do. 1 Tenzdar from 14th March to 26th April at 7 Rs. per month		9	12 9
	" Do. 1 Do. for 24 days in April @ Do.		5	9 7
	" Do. 1 Jemadar from 14th March to 26th April at 7 Rs. per month		9	12 9
	" Do. 6 Mahouts from 14th March to 21st April @ 2½ annas per day each		34	11 -
	" Do. 1 Do. for 13 days in April at Do.		2	- 6
	" Do. 2 Do. from 9th to 26th Do. @ Do. Do.		5	10 -
	" Do. 1 Do. from 1st to 26th Do. @ Do.		4	1 -
	" Do. Rocket man		2	4 -
	" Do. to the Peons Employed as substitutes in lieu of those sent to the Elephant Hunt		155	13 10
	" Do. to Musket man		58	4 -
	" Do. Coolies		3	14 -
	" Do. being the hire of a bandy for conveying muskets to Seermoogay from Coimbatore		1	8 -
				1824 6 2
	Total Company's Rupees.			1824 6 2

Douglas Hamilton Captain
Asst. Conr of Forests.

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Revenue Department

№ 980

Extract from the Minutes of Council at Colombo

Under date the 25th September 1857

Read the following letter

from the Conservator of Forests

Kornegalle 28th Augt 1857 No 119

To

The Right Honorable

the Governor in Council

I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to sanction the sum of Rs 1500 to be expended by Captain Hamilton Superintendent of the Annamalai Bay Forests in excess of Rs 1500 authorized on Gr. Mens. Coun. 15th January 1857 No 62. for organizing a hunt for the capture of wild elephants, amounting to Rs (324-4-2) Three hundred and twenty four annas six and pies two

This

This expenditure will reduce
the balance of 10,000 Rs au-
thorized in the order of the
25th July last for expendi-
ture in the purchase of
elephants at the market
rate.

2. In regard to the
other parts of Dr Cleghorn's
letter, the Government observe
that they have already in
G. Mems. Coun. 17th August
1857 directed all proceed-
ings for organizing another
Elephant Hunt to be stopped,
until the Collector of Coim-
batore is enabled to report
that there is a reason-
able prospect of success
Dr. Cleghorn's report will however
in the meanwhile be
communicated

12/980

communicated to the Coll
particulars
-lector and his attention
drawn to paras 3 & 5
& his opinion
requested on the sugges
suggestion made
Reserve

Copies to the Conservator
of Forests - Circ. No. 26

1 — to the Coll. of Coimbatore
with Copy of the letter
& Capt. Hamilton's report. N

1 — Accts. Genl. N

1 — Civil Auditor N

24/8/00

Revenue 1857 Dept.
Ext. to Cons. 29th Sept.

No. 980

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 25th Sept. 57.

From the Coll. of Coimbatore
of 21 Sept. 57 C. No. 1130 in
From Do. Do. 15 Oct. 57 C. No. 1262
in

Sanctioning the sum
expended by Captain Hamilton,
Superintendent of the
Annamallay Forests,
in the Elephant Hunt
at Seermoogay.—

No. 1849.

Ext. Sept. 1857