

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2009	Press
511-512	Mis.
Dated	31-10-1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st October 1860.*

No. 511. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th October 1860, No. 4,701:—

Read letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 13th September 1860, No. 161.

(In Cons., 24th September 1860, No. 4,765.)

Read also letter from the Conservator of Forests, dated 26th September 1860, No. 191.

(In Cons., 27th September 1860, No. 4,856.)

1. In the first of the above letters, the Collector of Coimbatore proposes, that Government should bear one-half the expense of eradicating the Prickly Pear in every village, the inhabitants of which may be willing to bear the other moiety of the expense. "Some villages," he states, "are completely overrun" by this plant, which is particularly abundant in the Coimbatore District.

2. The Conservator of Forests concurs with the Collector as to the advisability of endeavoring to keep down the plant.

3. The Prickly Pear is found in greater or less profusion all over the Presidency, and it spreads with such rapidity that any partial or desultory efforts to eradicate it would be an almost useless expenditure of public money. Moreover without a legislative enactment any one might re-introduce the plant (as the S. W. Railway Company are doing), because it is a cheap and effectual fence. At the same time it is very desirable that the villagers should be encouraged to keep it down, and the Board think that the best course would be to place a moderate annual grant at the disposal of Collectors to be expended, as Mr. Thomas proposes, according to circumstances.

4. The Board resolve to submit the Collector and Conservator's letters for the consideration of Government. They are not disposed to recommend that Government should pledge itself to such indefinite expenditure as Mr. Thomas proposes; but if Government are inclined to make an annual grant, as suggested above, the opinions of the Collectors of some of the Districts where the Prickly Pear prevails greatly might be obtained on the subject.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 512.

ORDER THEREON, 31st October 1860, No. 2,009.

1. With these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Conservator of Forests on the subject of measures to be adopted for the extirpation of the Prickly Pear. Mr. Thomas proposes that in every instance in which the inhabitants of a village engage to defray half the expense of eradicating the Prickly Pear growing on their lands, the Government should pay the other half.

2. The Board are unable to support so large a proposal; and prefer a moderate annual grant to be at the disposal of Collectors; and they propose if the suggestion is approved by Government, to take the opinions of the Collectors on the subject. The Government approve the Board's proposal, and request them to obtain the opinions of the Collectors as to the detailed arrangements to be adopted.

3. With reference to Dr. Cleghorn's letter, the Government regret that the Madras Railway is adopting the use of Prickly Pear as a hedge. The correspondence will be sent to the Consulting Engineer, with an intimation that the Government are desirous that the Railway Company should cease to make use of this pernicious plant. The aloe is equally efficient and not mischievous like the Prickly Pear.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

21 *Specimens of the Prickly Pear are taken for the purpose of the Prickly Pear*

Read the following

No. 4,701.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th October 1860.

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(In Cons., 24th September 1860, No. 4,765.)

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1. In the first of the above letters, the Collector of Coimbatore proposes, that Government should bear one-half the expense of eradicating the Prickly Pear in every village, the inhabitants of which may be willing to bear the other moiety of the expense. "Some villages," he states, "are completely overrun" by this plant, which is particularly abundant in the Coimbatore District.

2. The Conservator of Forests concurs with the Collector as to the advisability of endeavoring to keep down the plant.

3. The Prickly Pear is found in greater or less profusion all over the Presidency, and it spreads with such rapidity that any partial or desultory efforts to eradicate it would be an almost useless expenditure of public money. Moreover without a legislative enactment any one might re-introduce the plant (as the S. W. Railway Company are doing), because it is a cheap and effectual fence. At the same time it is very desirable that the villagers should be encouraged to keep it down, and the Board think that the best course would be to place a moderate annual grant at the disposal of Collectors to be expended, as Mr. Thomas proposes, according to circumstances.

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(A true Extract.)

J. D. Bourdillon

Secretary.

o J. D. Bourdillon, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to E. B. Thomas, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

„ Lieutenant R. H. Beddome, Acting Conservator of Forests.

sd. J. Wright.

*For order - with reference to the
"Cleft" letter, it is a great pity that
the Western Railway is adopting the
use of this pernicious plant - the above is
permanently efficient, and better & not
open to the objection that the Prickly Pear is*

From H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests,
dated Madras, 26th September 1860, No. 191.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Proceedings dated 25th September 1860.

1. I have always considered the propagation of the prickly pear (*Opuntia Dillenii*), to be most injurious to agriculture, and under certain circumstances to health. I fully concur with the Board and Mr. Thomas as to the importance of keeping it under. The introduction is easy, but the eradication is both difficult and expensive.

2. I believe that the best mode of eradication is to bury the plant in pits and cover it up with earth, so as altogether to exclude air and light. If the pit contains water, the destruction is more speedy.

3. I have observed with regret the introduction of this plant along the Madras Railway although it be a cheap and effectual fence to the line, it is prejudicial to the adjoining fields. A few articulations accidentally thrown upon arable land will take root—and the plant has so great a tendency to spread, that it is difficult to keep it within bounds. In two or three places within my own knowledge (St. Thomé, particularly, and Masulipatam) Government has been put to great expense in taking measures for its extirpation.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Received 1860 September
2nd of 1860 for October.
No. 2329.
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

October 13th
 Sept 20th }
 W. J. 22nd
 Bonds 2 weeks 10th End²
 23 End²
 1st 4th 1
 Returned

submitting with the Board
observations corresponding
with the Call of Semitane
and the Convention of Texas
on the subject of educating
the ^{colored} ~~black~~ ^{free} ~~slave~~ ^{people} in every
the ^{colored} ~~black~~ ^{free} ~~slave~~ ^{people} in every
the ^{colored} ~~black~~ ^{free} ~~slave~~ ^{people} in every

[illegible]

Enclosure No 2 on the South
Side of the building to the Standard
Government of the United States.
The enclosed is the 15th of the 17th

Q 2329 do.

With reference to enclosed address from a Tahsildar of this District, I beg to request the Government sanction for advancing (paying) one half the necessary cost to any village willing to bear the other half of the expense of eradicating the prickly pear in their limits. Some villages are completely overrun, to the detriment both of the comfort and health of the village. The prickly pear forms a harbour for snakes and vermin of all sorts; and gradually overpowers the village: it is peculiarly bad in this District, and needs, at once, some check on the yearly encroachment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Translation of an Urzee addressed to E. B. Thomas, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, by Vencataramaniah, Tahsildar of Danaikencottah Talug, under date the 21st February 1860.

1. The Board consider it very desirable that systematic and continuous efforts should be made to keep down the Prickly Pear; but it prevails in every District, and they are not prepared to suggest that Government should in general terms offer to pay half the expense of removing it. An annual money grant to each Collector, to be disbursed at his discretion in aid of private efforts and subscriptions, seems a better mode of action.

2. The Board resolve in the first place to request Dr. Cleghorn's opinion on the subject.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To H. Cleghorn, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests.

Copy to E. B. Thomas, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev Dept

N^o 2009

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 31st October 1860.

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Submitting with the
Board's observations corres-
pondence with the collector
of Coimbatore and the Com- (Here enter 13 Oct 1860)
servator of Forests on the
subject of eradicating
the Mischly Pear in every
Village.

With these Proceed-
ings the Board of Reve-
nue submit letters from
the Collector of Coim-
batore and the Com-
servator of Forests
on the subject of
measures to be adopt-
ed for the extirpation
of the Mischly Pear.
Mr Thomas proposes
that in every instance
in which the inha-
bitants of a Village
engage

Enclosure N^o 1 in the Board's
Proceedings to the Secretary to
Government Revenue Dept.
sent dated 13 October 1860 per
4901.

Encl^{re} 1 of 2

2029/6

Letter from the Collector of
Coimbatore to the Secretary to
the Board of Revenue dated
13 Sept 1861 regarding
the eradication of the
Mischly Pear in every village.
and the Board's Resolu-
tion thereon.

engage to defray half
the expense of erad-
icating the Prickly
pear growing on their
lands, the Govt should
pay the other half

2 The Board are un-
able to support so large
a proposal; and pre-
fer a moderate annual
grant to be at the
disposal of Collectors;
and they propose if
the suggestion is ap-
proved by Govt, to
take the opinions of
the collectors on the
subject. The Govt
approve the Board's
proposal, and request
them to obtain the
opinions of the collectors
as to the detailed
arrangements to be
adopted

3. With reference to Dr
Colghorn's letter, the Govt
regret that the Madras
Railway is adopting
the use of prickly pear
as a hedge. The corres-
pondence will be sent
to the Cons. Engineer
with our intimation
that the Govt are de-
sirous that the Rail-
way Company should
cease to make use of
this pernicious plant.
The aloe is equally
efficient and not
mischievous like the
prickly pear all

[Signature]

12 Copies
Board of Revenue - Disb. 1st
1 Cons. Eng. Railways with papers
4 - Govt. Party Papers

