M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2030 Press ~~Mis.~~

137-138

Dated 11-11-~~19~~1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 137. Read the following letter from Colonel JOHN HILL, Commissary General, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 31st October 1863, No. 205.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government No. 1,931, dated 27th October 1863.

2. The Officer at Hoonsoor has been requested to furnish such information as he can afford, regarding the disease now prevailing with such fatal effect among the horned cattle in the Kurnool District, which information shall be transmitted to you as soon as received.

3. In the meantime I may mention that Major Loudon, who was for many years at Hoonsoor, states that the disease appears to be a form of that known by the public cattle attendants as the Burra Azar, or Murrain, and I herewith forward reports* describing the outbreaks among public cattle, of a disorder somewhat similar to that brought to notice by Captain Nelson, and the remedies used on these occasions.

* Letter from Captain Harvey to the Commy. Genl., 19th August 1811.
Copy of a letter from Lieut Cubbon to Captain Harvey, 25th do.
Letter from Captain Harvey to the Commy. Genl., 30th August 1811.
Do. from do. to do. 15th October 1811.
Do. from Lieutenant Loudon to do. 15th Nov. 1852.

4. The diseased parts should be thoroughly cleansed two or three times a day with Alum water, and a solution of Sugar of Lead applied, after which Camphorated oil to keep off the flies. The animal should have drenches of Raggy flour and Onions boiled to the consistency of gruel, given three or four times a day.

5. Dr. Gilchrist recommends bleeding. Firing the animal on the top of the neck on both sides, and fomentations of the usual native kind over the whole body, together with warm drenches according to the nature of the disease.

6. Every means should be used to prevent the spread of the disease; healthy cattle should if possible be moved from the neighbourhood of infected localities; this proved particularly successful in Mysore, when the Amrut Mahal was in existence, and in seasons of sickness when the casualties among private cattle, which were not moved, were counted by thousands, the Government herds very frequently escaped unscathed.

7. If Government move in the matter, it should look chiefly to prevent the spread of the disease. In view to this, the outbreak and site of the disease should be made as public as possible. Cattle owners should be warned to avoid as much as possible the infected districts.

8. Where the disease has shown itself, change of food should be recommended, and likewise a change of place if possible.

9. In most cases of recovery, the animal will be found useless for months, if not for life, the old saying that "prevention is better than cure," is therefore in this instance, particularly applicable.

Extract from a letter from Captain HENRY HARVEY, Assistant Commissary General, to the Commissary General, dated Seringapatam, 19th August 1811.

Para. 2. "The cattle in reserve having been moved from their usual stations and separated into small portions, were distributed amongst those pastures in the vicinity, which appeared to promise most favorably, and the detachments which returned from command were retained at some distance on this side of the farm, and no communication was permitted with the parties before grazing there.

3. "The result of these arrangements, I am happy to say, has been tolerably successful. The disease has evidently abated amongst those portions which might be considered to have been exposed to the infection; and of those returned from command and kept separated from the rest not one bullock has been attacked. Up to the 15th instant, twenty-nine draft bullocks including calves; three carriage bullocks; and seven forage bullocks have died. The number of casualties is certainly great, but within these few days they have been decreasing, a less number than before are taken sick, and of those a greater proportion recover. It may therefore be inferred that the severity of the disorder is abating.

4. "I am, however, sorry to remark that some of the detachments which have left this Depôt appear to have carried the distemper with them. Five bullocks have died and thirteen have been left behind sick of the carriage cattle which marched on the 16th ultimo to Bellary. One bullock has died and four are sick of the detachment of nineteen bullocks which marched on the 22nd ultimo to Chittledroog, and the party is unable to proceed. Eleven bullocks have died of the party which marched to Nundidroog and Rayacottah on the 26th ultimo, all are said to be

affected with the *great* disease. I have not received particular accounts from other detachments, but I apprehend that many casualties may be expected at Bangalore.

5. "The strong, bleak westerly winds which have prevailed for some time, unaccompanied with the fall of rain which is usual at this season of the year, are generally considered, and I think justly so, to be the remote but generating cause of the disorder. The air has now been purified by some smart showers; and a conclusion may be drawn from the facts above stated, that the exciting cause (whatever it might have been) existed before the departure of the detachments abovementioned, and that it has now ceased or abated, as appears to be shown by the cattle in reserve gradually growing better, and those which return from command not being affected at all.

6. "Whether the disorder is contagious or simply epidemic, in what part the animal is originally affected, and what mode of treatment should be adopted for his relief, I have as yet been unable satisfactorily to determine. As the safer mode, however, the malady has been treated as infectious, and the diseased cattle separated from those which are unaffected. The Natives have administered those medicines which by them are considered advantageous, although it is evident from the name which they apply to it and by their mode of treatment, that they are entirely ignorant of both the cause and the seat of the disorder.

7. "I am, however, inclined to think it approaches nearly to the description given of the malignant epidemic fever, which has so frequently ravaged the herds on the Continent of Europe, and which in superstitious times, was there then as it is now by the inhabitants of India, attributed to the wrath of a Divinity. Religious ceremonies were performed to appease it, and in the present instance, I have of course indulged similar prejudices of the Natives.

Extract from a letter from Lieutenant M. CUBBON, Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to Captain H. HARVEY, Assistant Commissary General, dated Bangalore, 25th August 1811.

Para. 3. "The party of cattle that arrived at Bangalore in the latter end of last month, did not appear at that time to have brought the disorder which has prevailed at Seringapatam; but some of the bullocks must certainly have been infected, for I am sorry to say the disease has broken out with exceeding violence, and continues to extend notwithstanding the precautions taken to separate the infected from the sound bullocks on the first appearance of disorder. Out of 67 bullocks that were taken sick, 10 only have recovered, 28 have died, and 19 are not expected to live. The disorder is considered to be contagious, and the most dangerous to which the cattle are subject. It assumes the appearance of a violent dysentery, extremely rapid in its progress, as a bullock seldom outlives the fifth day, and continues to defy any sort of Mussaul. The only medicine from which any benefit has been derived is a cooling Mussaul, the chief ingredient of which is Opium; but even this has been ineffectual to subdue the disorder excepting in a very few cases."

Extract from a letter from Captain HENRY HARVEY, Assistant Commissary General, to the Commissary General, dated Seringapatam, 30th August 1811.

Para. 10. "With regard to the nature of the disorder itself, I cannot form any correct judgment. On dissection every part of the body appears perfectly sound, and I am induced to consider the head as the seat of the disease, although the bowels are afterwards affected. A purulent discharge from the nostrils, eyes, mouth and ears, excoriating and ulcerating the parts, and a violent diarrhœa, accompanied of course with minor symptoms are the principal characteristics of the disorder, which I do not think is inflammatory. Many remedies have been tried, and relief is certainly afforded by one Mussaul composed of a variety of leaves and woods, the effect and even the names of which are probably unknown to Europeans."

Extract from a letter from HENRY HARVEY, Assistant Commissary General, to the Commissary General, dated Bangalore, 15th October 1811.

Para. 2. "I have the greatest satisfaction in acquainting you that the influence of the contagion which lately prevailed amongst the public cattle in Mysore, has nearly, if not entirely, ceased; as well amongst the cattle to the westward as amongst those which were temporarily stationed to the northward of Seringapatam.

3. "Although the air has been purified by a very heavy fall of rain, and the distemper in consequence subsided, I cannot avoid supposing that the greatest benefit has been derived from the mode of treatment latterly adopted, and my opinion has been strengthened in this respect by the judgment of a medical gentleman, who accidentally paid some attention to this subject, on a former occasion.

4. "I have already in my communications on this subject, described the symptoms, and what I apprehended to be the seat of this disorder. I have yet seen no reason to alter my opinion in this respect, but although the treatment adopted by the Natives did not coincide with the theory I had formed, it appeared to me imprudent to reject it altogether, more especially as it did not interfere with the system I proposed to pursue.

5. "Their Mussauls therefore to which they ascribed the effect of cooling the blood, continued to be administered; and I observed they were well calculated to support the strength of the animal, who for many days refuses all kind of sustenance; but being convinced that the disorder was, in the first stages at least, confined to the head, that a purulent and most offensive matter was discharged from the nose, and afterwards from the eyes, mouths and ears, I resolved to try the effect of injections with the view of healing the putrid sloughs that might have been formed in the nostrils. A solution of Sugar of Lead, afterwards of Alum, was employed for this purpose, and I am happy to say that the result answered my expectations. The disorder was certainly rendered more mild, the animal sooner recovered his spirits and relished his food, the proportion of casualties was not so great, and I think I may venture to assert the progress of contagion was in a great degree diminished."

From Lieutenant J. LOUDON, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, to Colonel A. TULLOCH, C.B., Commissary General, Madras, dated Hoonsoor, 15th November 1852, No. 59.

SIR,

Dated 5th November 1852.

1. In continuing my report on the Burra Azar, from which the fifth batch of calves of the Training Depôt is suffering, I have the honor to state that about the date of my last letter the disease suddenly increased and continued to do so until the 10th instant, since which no fresh cases have taken place.

2. Twelve casualties have occurred since my last report, and eleven calves remain very sick, I am led from their appearance, however, to hope that the majority of these will recover.

3. The disease as it has shown itself in the present instance, is known to the servants of this Department by hearsay only, and Dr. Gilchrist's Treatise contains no description corresponding with it. It is I am told of frequent occurrence among the young stock of the Amrut Mahal to which it chiefly confines itself.

4. Captain Harvey's account of the Burra Azar, as it appeared in the months of June, July, August, September and October 1811, entirely coincides with the symptoms of the present disorder, I have accordingly adopted the remedies which he then tried and found beneficial, and their application has been attended with the best results.

5. The disease first shows itself in the eye, and has at first the appearance of the inflammation, which frequently affects that organ in the hot season; on examination, however, the discharge is found to be of a purulent nature, and that a similar fœtid fluid is commencing to run from the nose and mouth, causing extensive ulceration and emitting a most offensive smell, the flies attracted by this, speedily deposit their ova on the diseased parts, but more especially about the eye, which if not treated in time is completely eaten out.

6. The disorder seems in its first stages to be confined to the head alone, and if not allayed extends after three or four days to the stomach and bowels, as after that time the chief symptom of the Murrain ensues, viz., violent Diarrhœa.

7. Captain Harvey's treatment, which has proved so successful, consists in frequent injections of a solution of Sugar of Lead into the nose and ears, and applications of the same to the ulcerated parts of the mouth and eyes after they have been cleansed with Alum water, after which to prevent the flies from depositing their eggs on the diseased parts Camphorated oil is freely applied.

8. The remedies if applied at the commencement of the disease are found to stop its progress, the animals soon recover their spirits and begin to graze, and in a few days the symptoms of disease entirely disappear. The annexed Memorandum shows the numbers of calves seized, the number recovered and under treatment, and the number of casualties since my last report.

MEMORANDUM.

The number remaining sick as per last report							2
The number since taken ill							132
							134
Deduct.							
The number recovered						93	
Do. under treatment						29	
Do. of casualties						12	
						—	134

Cont

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th November 1863.

No. 138. ORDER THEREON, 11th November 1863, No. 2,030.

1. Copies of these papers will be forwarded to the Collector of Kurnool for communication to Captain Nelson, and for publication of the information they contain in his Gazette.

2. Mr. Minchin will report to what locality the disease is limited at present, and warn cattle owners of the risk of contagion.

3. Colonel Hill is requested to forward any other papers in his possession connected with the diseases of Cattle, which he considers it would be desirable to publish.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Collector of Kurnool.
" Commissary General.
" Editor's Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

3

Revenue Department

No. 2030

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 11th November 1863

Read the following letter from the Commissary General

Acknowledging Order of Govt. No. 1931 dt. 27th October 1863, informing that the Cam. Officer Hoonsoor has been requested to furnish the information regarding the disease now prevailing with fatal effect among the Horned Cattle, Kurnool Dist., in the meanwhile affording information in connection with the disease stated by Lieut. Major Loudon who was for many years at the Hoonsoor Farm.

Here enter 31st October 1863 No. 205

Copies of these papers will be forwarded to the Collector of Kurnool for communication to Captain Nelson, and for publication of the information they contain

contain in his Gazette.

Mr. Minchin will report to what locality the disease is limited at present, and warn cattle owners of the risk of Contagion. —

Colo. Hill is requested to forward any other papers in his possession connected with the diseases of Cattle, which he considers it would be desirable to publish.

J D S

14 Copies to the Bp of Pret Chapl. Chan
1 — Coler of Kimnoch
3 — Commissary General Lentle 5 Rue Lob

Revenue 1862 c/p 1st
Pro: of Govt for Nov.

No 2030.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dt 11th Nov 163.

Further Proc. 18th Nov 163
No 2071.

Pro 310-311
27-12-63

Commissary General's letter affording certain information as to the cause of the Cattle Murrain forwarded to the Collr of Kurnool with certain instructions.

No 137 to 138.