

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	5-44	Press
	30-31	~~Mis.~~
Dated	2 - 3	1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1866.*

No. 30. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1866, No. 1,125.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 8th Februyar 1866, No. 24 :—

1. I have the honor to annex a copy of a letter from J. A. C. Boswell, Esq., Principal Assistant to the Collector of Vizagapatam, to my address.
2. Mr. Boswell's scheme is, in my opinion, an admirable one, and if it can be fully carried out, it will do more to advance our knowledge of the natural history of Southern India, than any other plan that is likely to be sanctioned, and I beg to submit it for the favorable consideration of the Board.
3. It will be desirable that (at least) all doubtful species should be sent here for examination. To obtain specimens in a good condition it may perhaps be necessary to send a Taxidermist into the District; but the expense of this would not be very great. It might be made part of a scheme to collect for the Museum, which ought to have at least three or four collectors in different parts of the country; in no other way can any thing like a complete collection of the Fauna of this Presidency be obtained. It is useless to depend upon the public for this. The majority have no leisure, and those who do collect, as a rule, send their collections home. There have been a few exceptions to this rule, but far too few to be of any great service.
4. I have not thought it necessary to trouble the Board with Mr. Boswell's list of Mammalia, which I am now revising.

From the Principal Assistant Collector, to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, Madras, dated Camp at Kondakerla, 29th January 1866, No. 11.

1. You are probably aware that Government have ordered the preparation of a series of District Manuals, each to be a complete compendium of information regarding the District of which it treats. Mr. D. F. Carmichael, the Collector of Vizagapatam, has undertaken to draw up as a model, the Manual of this District, and I have offered to assist him in the department of Fauna.
2. It has struck me, that if the compilers of those several Manuals were to put themselves in communication with you as a common centre, it would be by far the best means of turning to account the local information they are able to collect, and thus, by simultaneous researches in the nineteen Districts of the Presidency, some really valuable results might be obtained. If each compiler is to work alone, the results will never be so satisfactory as if some scheme of combination were adopted, and the labor will be much greater when each has to go over the same ground, instead of each being able to benefit to some extent from the knowledge, experience, and researches of the others, already made, while he is prosecuting his own inquiries.
3. If you consider this proposal a good one, you might suggest the idea to the Board of Revenue, under whose immediate superintendence the Manuals are to be prepared.
4. To make a beginning, I forward herewith a list, such as I have been able to draw up, of the Mammals of this District. I should be much obliged for any corrections or additions that you can make to it, or any suggestion that you may have to offer in the matter. I have under preparation lists of the birds and reptiles of the District, which I propose similarly to forward to you hereafter, on the return of the list of Mammalia. A list of the timber trees of the District I have forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, for similar revision.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1866.*

Submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that, in Vizagapatam and Madura, the only Districts in which at present Manuals are under preparation, the Collectors be authorized to place themselves in communication with Captain Mitchell, in view to the preparation of the most complete list of the District Fauna that can be obtained, and to incur such moderate expenditure as may be indispensably necessary to allow of the satisfactory identification of doubtful species; the specimens themselves being thus secured for the Government Museum.

No. 31.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1866, No. 544.

Land Revenue.

The Government sanction the proposed arrangement, which should be communicated to all Collectors for their information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Rzd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1,125.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th February, 1866.

Read the following letter from Captain J. MITCHELL, Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 8th February 1866, No. 24:—

1. I have the honor to annex a copy of a letter from J. A. C. Boswell, Esq., Principal Assistant to the Collector of Vizagapatam, to my address.
2. Mr. Boswell's scheme is, in my opinion, an admirable one, and if it can be fully carried out, it will do more to advance our knowledge of the natural history of Southern India, than any other plan that is likely to be sanctioned, and I beg to submit it for the favorable consideration of the Board.
3. It will be desirable that (at least) all doubtful species should be sent here for examination. To obtain specimens in a good condition it may perhaps be necessary to send a Taxidermist into the District; but the expense of this would not be very great. It might be made part of a scheme to collect for the Museum, which ought to have at least three or four collectors in different parts of the country; in no other way can anything like a complete collection of the Fauna of this Presidency be obtained. It is useless to depend upon the public for this. The majority have no leisure, and those who do collect, as a rule, send their collections home. There have been a few exceptions to this rule, but far too few to be of any great service.
4. I have not thought it necessary to trouble the Board with Mr. Boswell's list of Mammalia, which I am now revising.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. A. C. BOSWELL, Esq., Principal Assistant Collector, to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, Madras, dated Camp at Kondakerla, 29th January 1866, No. 11.

1. You are probably aware that Government have ordered the preparation of a series of District Manuals, each to be a complete compendium of information regarding the District of which it treats. Mr. D. F. Carmichael, the Collector of Vizagapatam, has undertaken to draw up as a model, the Manual of this District, and I have offered to assist him in the department of Fauna.
2. It has struck me, that if the compilers of these several Manuals were to put themselves in communication with you as a common centre, it would be by far the best means of bringing to account the local information they are able to collect, and thus, by simultaneous researches in the nineteen Districts of the Presidency, some really valuable results might be obtained. If each compiler is to work alone, the results will never be so satisfactory as if some scheme of combination were adopted, and the labor will be much greater when each has to go over the same ground, instead of each being able to benefit to some extent from the knowledge, experience, and researches of the others, already made, while he is prosecuting his own inquiries.
3. If you consider this proposal a good one, you might suggest the idea to the Board of Revenue, under whose immediate superintendence the Manuals are to be prepared.
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(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. MITCHELL, Captain,
Supt., Govt. Central Museum.

Submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that in Vizagapatam and Madura, the only Districts in which at present Manuals are under preparation, the Collectors be authorized to place themselves in communication with Captain Mitchell, in view to the preparation of the most complete list of the District Fauna that can be obtained; and to incur such moderate expenditure as may be indispensably necessary to allow of the satisfactory identification of doubtful species; the specimens themselves being thus secured for the Government Museum.

(True Copies and Extract.)

W. Wright
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.

to the Collector of Madura.

to the Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

Exd. J. Wright.

W. Wright
22 Feb 1866
1866

No. 1125

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 585

Department.

Recommending that Collectors of Madura and Vizagapatam be authorized to place themselves in communication with Superintendent, Government Central Museum, in view to the preparation of complete lists of District Fauna for Model Manual.