

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1748

Press

Mis.

605-606

Dated

31-7-1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st July 1867.*

No. 605. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department :—

Passing orders on letter from Acting Magistrate
of South Canara, submitting report on the
ravages committed in his district by beasts of
prey, and the measures suggested for their
extirpation. } (Here enter 20th July 1867, No. 878.)

No. 606.

ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1867, No. 1,748.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Accountant General and Board
of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant General, }
,, the Board of Revenue, } With Proceedings Public Department, No. 878.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department
20th July 1867.

No. 218. Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Acting Magistrate of South Canara, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Mangalore, 2nd July 1867, No. 23.

Having just received the Orders of Government marginally quoted, I have the honor to submit the required report on the ravages committed in this District by beasts of prey, and the measures which I would suggest for their extirpation.

Public Department, dated 5th June 1867, No. 612, and
 26th April 1867, No. 426.

2. A reference to the Death Register kept in my office shows that in the official year 1865-66 no less than 40 human beings were killed by wild beasts, and that in 1866-67 the number of similar violent deaths promises to be equally high, having in ten months risen to 33.

DEATHS BY WILD BEASTS.		
	1865-66.	1866-67.
July... ..	5	0
August... ..	2	1
September... ..	2	3
October... ..	6	0
November... ..	2	3
December... ..	1	4
January... ..	3	3
February... ..	2	7
March... ..	7	7
April... ..	7	6
May... ..	3	33
June... ..	2	
	40	

3. These returns, it will be remembered, show only the deaths known and reported by the village authorities, and are rather under the mark than otherwise. If we add a slight margin, therefore, for a few cases of neglect to report a not unusual accident, and for ignorance of those occurring in the more jungly localities, it will be found that death by leopards is an occurrence that, on an average, takes place once a week in this District.

4. But it is doubtful whether this loss of human life is by the people themselves considered more serious than the almost daily depredations on cattle, goats, and watch dogs. The great majority of tigers and leopards are, for known reasons, not man-eaters. The great majority, therefore, must live on wild game or domestic cattle. There are few localities here in which deer are yet to be found. On the cultivator, therefore, falls the main burden of breeding and providing herds and flocks to feed these beasts of prey. One man alone complained that he had lost fifty head of cattle by leopards.

5. I should here mention that tigers are few here comparatively, and that it is by leopards that this destruction of life and property is wrought. Even since my arrival here, one little child has, at dusk, been taken away from the street of the village, and one poor woman from the very verandah of her house, when asleep at night, and both by leopards.

6. The Government Orders sanction the payment of an enhanced reward for man eating tigers but not for man-eating leopards, for I believe it is not generally known that leopards are capable of being as formidable as in South Canara they are. The largest reward at present sanctioned for the destruction of any leopard is Rupees 17-8-0.

7. And yet, I would not seek sanction for any special reward for man-eating leopards, for I should be unable to award it—unable to satisfy myself as to which was, and which was not, a man-eater. In most Districts, a man-eater is well known by wide repute; his beat is known, and the surrounding open plain of ploughed fields prevents his changing it. Here, the cover is thick—nearly every quarter of a mile contains a well wooded ravine—the cultivated valleys even are full of cocoanut, areca-nut, sugarcane, catechu, and shrubs on Kumaki lands, which afford such good shelter that any leopard can change his habitat without being noticed; and, in practice, they generally take up their quarters within a mile of a village till they have cleared it of dogs and such goats and cattle as are not safely housed, when they remove to another village, and follow the same course; and it is by no means in special localities that human beings are carried off, or killed in self-defence. I believe it to be here generally the accident of their finding no other food on the occasion, or being interfered with. For reasons that I could give, a mangy skin too is by no means the sure indication of a man-eater that it is supposed to be—man-eaters are sometimes particularly sleek.

8. My predecessor, Mr. Cadell, seems to have had in view this difficulty of recognition when he enhanced the reward on all leopards generally. His letter on the subject is enclosed.

To Board of Revenue, dated 16th February 1867, No. 28.

9. The accompanying return of leopards and tigers killed in this District will show that Mr. Cadell's enhanced rewards were not without good effects, though, possibly, the increased numbers killed may, in some degree, be owing to the increase in leopards, which I shall explain below.

10. I conceive the most practical way of inducing an increased destruction of these beasts of prey is to hold out the extra encouragement of higher rewards. The present rewards—a tiger, 10 Star pagodas (*i. e.*, Rupees 35); a Cheetah, five Star pagodas (*i. e.* Rupees 17-8-0)—were fixed in 1836, since when the price of the staple grain of this District has risen 228½ per cent., and Rupees 35 and Rupees 17-8-0 are not the liberal rewards they were. Their equivalents would now be Rupees 114-13-0 and Rupees 57-7-0. Moreover, the jungles then provided deer enough to obviate the leopards' present necessity for feeding on the cattle of the cultivator.

11. Considering the gravity of the evil to the cultivator, both in person and property, I venture to hope the Government may be induced to consider the present rewards inadequate, and accord me permission in this District to grant rewards of Rupees 60 and Rupees 40, respectively, for tigers and leopards, and especially for leopards. If other Collectors do not agree with me, I venture to think it is because they are not similarly circumstanced.

12. The successful sportsman feels it a great tax to leave his house and march 50 or more miles with a heavy skin to Head and Divisional Head Quarters for the sake of the reward—it is discouraging. I should, therefore, propose to let all Tahsildars pay it on the spot, and, to preclude a temptation to malpractices, I would

secretion, but order one uniform sum to be paid in every case, man to take his luck of male or female, large or small, man-eater should take means to make it thoroughly well known all over the District. A uniform sum was in every case to be had immediately on application of an unmarked skin of a tiger or leopard killed in the District. They have to support their payments, each month, with the skins as they would be instructed to mark when paying the reward. The course is very different since 1836; and, thus checked, I think there is fear of the money not reaching the right hands. They are trusted to be and imprison for a month, and commit for murder, and I think they be trusted in this matter.

I should add that, pending instructions, I have taken upon me to authorize to pay the present sanctioned rewards on the spot, and that one who complained of losing 50 head of cattle, has undertaken to do ten or fifteen of his farm laborers to the one duty of tiger and goat. Mr. Whiteside sent him powder, and I have arranged for his temporary loan of 12 muskets. If the reward is enhanced, and these successful, they may be encouraged to keep to their new pleasant profession, and their example may, as in other Districts, be followed to live by their gun. I think nothing is so well calculated as a reward to induce the right class of men to take up this occupation, when successful, are also made welcome visitors by all cultivators. It is a very precarious existence: there are many blank days and much watch to one successful shot, and nothing but a high reward will attract the blanks, the difficulties, and, to the Native mind, the dangers are not for sport, but bread.

The Government may desire to know whence this increase in the number in this District. The Natives hasten to impute it to their old cry—the restrictions placed on the Coomery clearings have, they say, more cover; but this, I think, is prejudice. Mr. Cadell has already shown the restrictions hitherto sought to be placed on Coomery cultivation to be unsuccessful and generally evaded. Coomery has not diminished, it affects the matter. Moreover, if it did, it would rather affect it than the underwood that springs up after a Coomery clearing, forms a cover more open virgin forest. I am of opinion that the real increase of leopards and tigers is to be looked for in the extensive effect on the tops of the Ghats in Coorg, which are kept open and the wild animals naturally retreat from them to the jungles below, allowing the cattle, &c., to the villages.

In reference to the high rewards I have sought, I will venture to say it is good economy to be liberal. It will be very much cheaper in the long run to bid twice or thrice as much for the heads of the present tigers, than to moderate sums for many years for all the many cubs that they and their keep on rearing from year to year. So far do I urge this argument,

that I think it would be good economy to enhance the reward in those Districts also in which there are few tigers, for then there would be some chance of their being thoroughly exterminated, and the evil and the expenditure for ever brought to an end. It was done in England with the wolves, when the country was densely wooded, and not so well armed as India now is. I venture to think it a stain on our Administration that at this date the beasts of prey should still contest the field with us, and no man dare leave his flocks out at night, except in those Districts and localities where we have completed the work of extermination. I specially refer to such beautiful grazing grounds as the Neilgherries, the Palanics, and the Mookh, where man can claim the mastery for himself and his herds only by sufferance, only by day-light; whereas in Australia, the cattle, sheep, and horses, are unhoused by day and night for months. The expense of secure housing is itself a very serious difficulty in the way of the grazier.

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras; dated Mangalore, 16th February 1867, No. 28.

		RS.	A.	P.
Objection Statement for September, dated 14th		29	8	0
December 1866		7	5	0
Do. for October dated 11th do.		37	0	0
In Under Taluq.				
4 Cheetahs at Rupees 25		100	0	0
1 Cheetah		20	0	0
In Mangalore Taluq.				
1 Do.		20	0	0
Admitted at Rupees 174		140	0	0
Retrenched		105	0	0
		35	0	0

The Board have disallowed, from my contingent bills, the sum shown in the margin, in the grant of rewards over the sanctioned maximum scale for killing six cheetahs in September and October, and the Accountant General has consequently called on me to refund the amount of Rupees 35. I beg, however, to lay before the Board the circumstances under which these increased rewards were given, with the view of procuring their special sanction upon the same.

2. The depredations caused by tigers and cheetahs have, of late, been somewhat serious in the District, and even the town of Mangalore itself is not free from their incursions. In the month of June 1865, it was reported that, during the previous 12 months, no less than 16 human beings had been carried off in the Udipi and Candapur Taluqs, and in the rest of the District the loss of life by this cause only was gradually on the increase. In addition to this, the losses by the villagers of their cattle, goats, and pigs, were in some localities very considerable. As a stimulus to the people to track out and destroy these obnoxious animals, I took advantage of G. O., dated 2nd February 1865, No. 184, which gives authority to Magistrates to offer as high a reward as Rupees 100 for man-eating animals, and issued a notification allowing a reward of 50 Rupees in the two above Taluqs for a cheetah, and 35 in the vicinity of Mangalore. In pursuance of this notification, the excess now retrenched was disbursed with reference to the dangerous character of the animals killed, and the depredations committed by them. These orders, I may observe, have had a very beneficial effect, and a large number of animals have been since destroyed by the people; in proof of this, I may mention that Lieutenant Thompson, of the Artillery, has since the date of the above, killed 5 cheetahs or panthers, in the very vicinity of this place.

3. Under these circumstances, I beg to request that the Board will be pleased to pass the small amount of Rupees 35, now under retrenchment.

4. The amount of Rupees 2, retrenched out of 7, paid upon the skin of a hyena in September, also under retrenchment, will be refunded.

Months.	1861-62.		1862-63.		1863-64.		1864-65.		1865-66.		1866-67.		Remarks.
	No.	Rewards.	No.	Rewards.	No.	Rewards.	No.	Rewards.	No.	Rewards.	No.	Rewards.	
May	...	...	3	20 0	3	26 0	3	35 0	1	12 0	9	196 0	* The enhanced rates of rewards were allowed from this month, viz., June 1865.
June	...	...	2	8 0	2	30 0	2	15 0	4	70 0	14	518 8	
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	36 0	5	60 0	4	112 8	
August	...	...	...	...	1	7 0	...	...	6	124 0	...	75 0	
September	11	119 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	359 8	6	104 0	
October	11	137 0	1	10 0	...	...	...	...	9	242 8	8	143 0	
November	4	51 8	...	...	1	6 0	...	...	5	122 8	8	190 8	
December	1	6 0	...	...	...	...	2	44 0	...	...	...	...	
January	1	8 0	1	18 0	6	66 0	2	50 0	14	324 0	7	169 0	
February	7	64 0	2	16 0	3	55 0	9	128 0	14	305 0	...	90 0	
March	8	55 0	5	85 0	...	...	...	...	12	241 0	6	122 8	
April	2	12 0	8	85 0	6	108 0	8	162 0	10	242 0	88	1,855 0	
Total	45	453 0	22	242 0	22	298 0	28	477 0	97	2,103 0	...	...	

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Acting Magistrate.

Magistrate's Office, Mangalore,
2nd July 1867.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
20th July 1867.*

No. 219. ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1867, No. 878.

In the above letter, which the Governor in Council has read with much interest, the Acting Collector of South Canara describes the ravages which are annually committed by wild beasts in the District under his charge. The loss of human life during the years 1865-66 and 1866-67 is lamentable, no less than 40 persons having been carried off in the former year, and 33 in the ten months of the present year; while the loss of cattle and domestic animals must have been proportionately great.

2. Mr. Thomas represents that the rewards at present sanctioned are not sufficient to induce the people to undertake the risk and labor of pursuit; that the scale of rewards now in force was sanctioned 30 years ago, when the value of money was undoubtedly greater, relatively, than it is now, and proposes that permission shall be accorded to him to grant rewards of Rupees 60 and 40, respectively, for every tiger or leopard killed. Mr. Thomas would also, as a further inducement to sportsmen, authorize the several Tahsildars throughout the District to grant the above rewards at the Head Quarters of their Taluqs, immediately on application, and on production of the head and unmarked skin of the slain animal, the skins being forwarded to the Collector's Office, each month, by the Tahsildar, as vouchers in support of the payments made.

3. Mr. Thomas would not recommend special increased rewards for the destruction of man-eating tigers or leopards, owing to the facility which the peculiar nature of the country affords for shelter and easy migration from one place to another, and to the difficulty of deciding whether or not any particular tiger or leopard is an habitual man-eater or not.

4. The Government, as an experimental arrangement, approve the proposals made by the Acting Collector, and they trust that the increased rewards, which will be promptly paid for every tiger or leopard killed, without entailing unnecessary trouble on the sportsman, may induce the inhabitants to devote themselves to the extirpation of the wild beasts which at present devastate their fields and homes.

5. Mr. Thomas will report at the expiration of six months the result of the measures now sanctioned.

6. On the receipt of the tiger and leopard skins, the Acting Collector will take care that they are marked in such a manner as to preclude their being again offered for the reward.

7. The Collectors of Districts will forward, in January 1868, a return of the number of persons who have been killed by wild beasts in their respective Districts during the years 1865-66 and 1866-67, and the amount paid in rewards for the destruction of these animals during each of these years.

(True Extract).

M. M. M.
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of South Canara.
Collector of
Revenue Department.

Rsd. J. H. Barna.

Comm. to the Collector
27. July 1867
21st July 1867
W. H. M. M.

Copy to the Collector of South Canara
27. July 1867
W. H. M. M.

Dec. 1867. Report
No of Court for July
H. 2003.

Proceedings in the
Public Report.

Noted 20th July.
Received 27th 1867.
H. 8781

Passing order
in letter from Acting Master
of the State of South Carolina
submitting report on the
roadway Committee in
his District by means
of pay and the mea-
sures suggested for
their explanation.

No 60000.

With order
H. 8781 31st July 1867