M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3138 Press / Mis.

208-257

Dated 17-12-1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 258. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th December 1868 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kurnool, 24th November 1868, No. 404.

1. I have the honor to forward a copy of a letter I received from Revd. J. Clay last month, complaining of the ravages of man-eating tigers in the neighbourhood of his house, and requesting measures may be taken to rid the country of them.

2. I refrained forwarding that letter till I had made some enquiry on the subject. The village of Mutialampad is situated at a considerable distance from the Nandikanama Ghaut, and I cannot believe that the tigers there wander so far in quest of prey, and conclude that the troubles about Mutialampad are caused by other tigers as ravenous as those to be found in the pass.

3. Though matters are not quite so bad as Mr. Clay's fears would make them appear, they are bad enough to require some special measures to be adopted for their alleviation.

4. In August, one man was carried off in Pedda Kambalur; in September, two persons from Bachepalli, and one from Ahobalam; and in October, one from Mutialampad, one from Settivid, one from Rudravaram, and one from Ahobalam, making a total of eight persons carried off in three months.

5. Great fear has in consequence ensued, and I find

	Acres.	Cents.
that of ordinary lands	182	89
and of land newly taken up	196	69
have been left fallow.	379	58

The total assessment on these lands is Rupees 182-7-2, which light assessment shows the lands to be very poor.

5. It is quite possible that the fear of tigers is not the only cause for these lands not being cultivated, for it is a known fact that poor lands near the Nallamallas are not cultivated every year; but there can be no doubt that a good deal of the waste must be due to the fear of tigers, for it is hardly probable that the lands would have been taken up for cultivation and left fallow the first year.

6. In the Sirwell Talook are a number of Jungea Kattubadies, whose Inams have not been enfranchised, whom I hope to encourage, with promises of high rewards, to make an onslaught in the jungles on tigers.

7. The sum of 35 Rupees, the highest reward for a Royal Tiger, (Board's Standing Circular, No. 3,) is not a large enough inducement, I fear, to compensate for risking life, and the disagreeables of a lengthened stay in the jungles. But unless a tiger is shewn to be a man-eater, for which 100 Rupees under Government Order, No. 184, dated 2nd February 1865, and 300 Rupees under No. 1,278, Public Department, dated 16th October 1867, are authorized, the tiger killer is only entitled to the small sum of Rupees 35.

8. The proof after death that a tiger was a man-eater during its life is not easily established. A man who kills a tiger generally does it alone, and but

seldom, if ever, while the tiger is killing a man, and, according to his own account, would make out every tiger killed to be a man-eater.

A short time ago a man was killed near Guzalupalli, and a few days after, not far from the spot, a tiger was caught in some nets laid for other game, and killed by a crowd of people. It was, however, impossible to say that the tiger caught and killed was the identical one which killed the man near Guzalupalli. The tiger so killed had a fine glossy skin, which is generally considered a proof that the tiger is not a man-eater, or rather the converse seems to be generally believed that a mangy skin is proof that the tiger had fed on human beings.

9. The proof, therefore, that a tiger is a man-eater, and that the killer is entitled to the higher rewards being so difficult, and as 35 Rupees reward is found in this district not to be a sufficient inducement to encourage the slaughter of tigers, I recommend that for this district, for the period of a year, as a trial, the reward for killing any tiger, man-eater or not, may be increased to Rupees 300.

10. I feel sure that unless some such encouragement be offered, the tigers will greatly increase, and that several villages near the hills may be entirely deserted.

From Revd. J. CLAY, Missionary, S. P. G., to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Mutialampad, Nundial, 13th October 1868.

1. I have the honor to bring to your notice the sufferings of the people of this part of the Kurnool District from a man-eating tiger, and trust you will so represent the matter to Government, as to induce them to organize measures for effectually ridding the country of this calamity.

2. It is now more than three years since the hills near Mutialampad have been infested with man-eating tigers, and within my knowledge more than fifty lives have been lost. This is far below the actual number that has been carried away.

3. Within the last month the ravages of this tiger have increased very considerably, and in proportion the sufferings of the people. On an average one has been carried off every four days. The people have ceased going to the hills for wood, and the ryots to work the lands there. A large quantity of waste land was taken up for cultivation this year near the hills. The fields have been ploughed and prepared for sowing horse-gram, but the ryots are afraid to go near them now, as one man was carried off by the tiger last week while engaged in sowing, consequently all these fields will remain unsown this year. A large quantity of land near the hills has been sown with areca, which will be ready for cutting in a few days. This too perhaps will have to be abandoned, and so the ryots will lose the fruit of their year's labor.

THE Board do not consider it necessary to offer a higher reward for *all* tigers killed in the district of Kurnool; but, under the circumstances stated by the Collector, the Board resolve to recommend that a reward of 300 Rupees be offered for tigers killed either in the vicinity of the Nundikanama Ghaut, or in the tract specially referred to in this letter, in the vicinity of the village of Mutialampad. They will be prepared to recommend extension of these liberal terms to any other tracts seriously infested by dangerous tigers, if the Collector will name them, and give reasons believing that it is required.

2. With reference to Mr. Chase's remarks, of the difficulty in obtaining proof that a tiger killed is a man-eater, they observe that legal proof is not sought, and that when the circumstances admit of the fact being reasonably inferred, the reward should be disbursed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 17th December 1868.

No. 259. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1868, No. 3,138.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions the grant of a reward of Rupees 300 for tigers killed in any portions of the Kurnool District, in which the Board deem it necessary to increase the reward.

2. The instructions contained in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Govt. of Madras Quarantine

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 17th.

Recd. Read.

G. O., 17th December 1863, No. 3,133.

DECIDED.

Nos. 258-259.

Reward for killing Tigers.—Grant of Rupees 300 sanctioned for tigers that may be killed in Kurnool District.

Mutyalapad Nundial

13th October 1868.

From,

Revd John Clay

Missionary S.P.G.

To, T. Chase Logre

Collector Kurnool

Sir, I have the honor to bring to your notice the sufferings of the people of this part of the Kurnool District from a man-eating tiger, and trust you will so represent the matter to Government as to induce them to organize measures for effectually ridding the country of this Calamity.

It is now more than three years since Mutialapad have been infested with man eating tigers and within my knowledge more than 50 lives have been lost. This is far below the actual number that has been carried away.

Within the last month the ravages of this Tiger have increased very considerably and in proportion the sufferings of the people. One on an average ~~one had been carried off every~~ four days. The people have ceased going to the hills for wood, and the ryots to work the lands there. A large quantity of waste land was taken up for cultivation this year near the hills. The fields have been plough and prepared for sowing horse gram, but the ryo

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I have &c

/Signed/ John R. Clay
Missionary S.P.G.

(True Copy)

/Signed/ T. Chase
Collector.

/True Copy/

A. Cearfield
Acty Secretary.

R 3902/61

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Ft. 3138.

The Ht. Hble the Gov. in Council sanctions the grant of a reward of Rs 300 for Tigers killed in any portion of the Tinnevelly District in which the Board deem it necessary to increase the reward.

The instructions contained in para 2 of the Bd's Prs. are approved

Fort St. George 17th Decr 1868

Mr Rapes Letter Bd of Rev dated 11th Decr 1868 (Encld Cyclo 1)