Revenue Vol 4
9-3147
Govt. of [illegible] Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE MAGISTRATE OF COIMBATORE.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 1812.

Read 4 16 *Encl.*

G. O., 13th September 1809, No. 1277.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 00-00.

Sanctioning the rewards proposed by the Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore to be granted to the six trackers through whose assistance a man-eating tigress was killed by Major Davies.

No 61- 8 Sept- 14

No. 68. Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 24th August 1869, No. 40.

In their Proceedings of the 17th April 1867, No. 595, Government sanctioned a reward of Rupees 300, for the destruction of a man-eating tigress at Kongarapolliem. The offer of the reward has been of no effect, and the animal has been continuing its depredations. The cubs were, I believe, destroyed by poison sometime ago, but all the efforts of the native Shikarries to kill the mother have been ineffectual.

2. As many of the deaths occurred among travellers from the Balaghaut, it is more than probable that we have not obtained any accurate returns of the ravages caused by the animal. Our Police returns show thitry-five deaths during the last two years, principally among wood-cutters. This tigress had two or three regular beats, and though from the accounts I have heard of her, generally cowardly, was sometimes very bold in her attacks.

3. During last month I received reports of the death of no less than five persons, and as it was evident that none of the villagers would attempt to kill her, I determined to organize a beat, and to try whether we could not get the animal destroyed. The villagers, though unwilling to run the risk of a personal *rencontre* with the tigress, had some months ago offered a reward of Rupees 1000 in addition to the Government reward. I, therefore, told them that, instead of offering a reward, if they would only construct Machans (platforms) [illegible] nish beaters, I had no doubt that some one would get a shot at the animal. They agreed to follow my advice, and the platforms were constructed by the villagers under the superintendence of Police Inspector Mr. Chatelier.

4. On the 12th instant all being ready, I started in company with Major Davies, Superintendent of Police, Mr. Irvine, Acting Head Assistant Collector, and Captain Norie, who was on his return from the Anamalies, and who willingly agreed to help us. We arrived at the jungles on Friday, and on that day and Saturday traversed about ten miles of jungle in the villages of Kondapanaickenpolliem and Kempanaickenpolliem, which formed part of the animal's beat. We saw several marks of tigers, but not that of the man-eater, which is known by a peculiar dragging mark behind the pug of the left forefoot. On Monday we started for the Kongarapolliem valley, and came on the tracks of the man-eater. The trackers at once pointed out to us the distinguishing mark, and we tracked the animal for nearly two hours. We got close to her at one place where she had been lying down. She, however, heard us, as the jungle was very thick, and we could not help making some noise. On leaving her lair she made straight up towards the hills, and we then separated, Major Norie and I trying to head her should she make for the next valley; Major Davies and Mr. Irvine keeping to the tracks. After going about half way up the hill, Major Davies caught sight of the animal standing broadside on about fifteen yards off and looking round. He fired and killed her with the first shot.

5. I have the honour to enclose translation of a Mahazernamah given by the villagers as to the identity of the tigress. She was evidently a very old animal, her incisor teeth being much worn, and her canine teeth very blunt. Considering the peculiar marks of which I had been informed two days previously, and the opinion of the villagers as expressed in their Mahazernamah, I have no doubt but

that the old tigress killed by Major Davies was the man-eater for which the reward was offered. I have, therefore, ordered the amount to be paid to him.

6. I beg, however, to request that the Government will be pleased to take favourable notice of the plucky conduct of the undermentioned trackers, without whose assistance the animal would not have been destroyed. Considering the almost universal panic among the villagers, and the impossibility of getting them to beat even with numerous tom-toms and a large supply of rockets, the conduct of these men should not, I think, go unrewarded. During the morning track, I can, from personal observation, speak of their courage; and Major Davies tells me they continued to behave admirably, and seemed as if they were determined to at least take him up to the tigress, and give him a fair shot. I beg, therefore, to recommend that Government will be pleased to allow me to present to each of the six men a silver bangle as a mark of their approval. The bangles would not cost more than Rupees 20 each.

7. The names of the trackers are as follow :—

(1.) Vellian, of Kongarapolliem.
(2.) Dassen, of do.
(3.) Nunjun, of Kavilaykombay.
(4.) Mylandy, of do.
(5.) Seerungar, of Kambinoor.
(6.) Rungan, of Thookanaickenpolliem.

Translation of a Mahazernamah given by the undersigned parties, inhabitants of Konga- [illegible] *dated 10th August* 1869.

We saw the tigress which is said to have been killed by Major A. M. Davies, Superintendent of Police, at the foot of the hills near Kongarapolliem village. This is the man-eater. Some of us have seen her before. When people went to fetch bamboos, she has been seen by those who were present, taking away men. There is no doubt that this is the man-eating tigress.

(Signed) CHINNATAMBI GOUNDAN, *Monigar*,
and forty others.

(True translation).

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Actg. Collector and Magistrate.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1869, No. 1277.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has much pleasure in sanctioning the rewards proposed in the letter above recorded.

2. His Excellency in Council desires that Mr. Webster and the gentlemen* who formed his party will accept the thanks of Government for the public service they have rendered in destroying the man-eating tigress which had killed so many persons in the Coimbatore district.

*Major Davies.
Captain Norie.
Mr. Irvine.

(True Extract).

R. S. Ellis
Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Coimbatore.
" Accountant General.
To A. McC. Webster, Esq.
" Major A. M. Davies.
" Captain E. M. Norie.
" G. D. Irvine, Esq.
To the Revenue Department.

No. 61
Comm. to the Board of Revenue.

Revenue Vol. 1.
No. 3147
Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE MAGISTRATE OF COIMBATORE.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 1868.

Read 4 16 Encl.

G. O., 18th September 1868, No. 1277.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 63-69.

Sanctioning the rewards proposed by the Acting Magistrate of Coimbatore to be granted to the six trackers through whose assistance a man-eating tigress was killed by Major Parker.

No 61. 18 Sept. 68

Lt. Col.