

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3257	Press ~~Mis.~~
<u>261-262</u>	
Dated 18 th Dec 1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th December 1869.

No. 261. Read the following Endorsement of the Under-Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated 9th December 1869 :—

Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Foreign Department—General, dated Fort William, 26th November 1869, No. 2,305.

Read the following letter from the Officiating First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, with G. G., dated 25th October 1869, No. 35.

I HAVE the honour, under instructions from the Resident, to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, copy of a Report from the Commissioner, West Berar, No. 3,314, of the 12th instant, with enclosures, describing the method used with great success for trapping wolves by the Pardees of the Bassim District.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Commissioner, West Berar, to the Officiating First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, dated 12th October 1869, No. 3,314.

DURING the seven months of 1869, ending with the 31st July, the number of wolves killed in the small district of Bassim was 224. It occurred to me to ask Captain FitzGerald, Assistant Commissioner of Bassim, for some account of the method which has been so successfully used to catch these animals, and he has sent me a minute description which very well explains the whole process. The snares are made of the sinews of animals principally of the vulture; they are smooth running nooses, strong as the best whipcord.

2. The Resident may possibly think that the art of wolf-trapping has sufficient general interest to render Captain FitzGerald's letter (herewith sent) worth transmission to the Government of India for circulation in other provinces. In some parts of Upper India these animals are even more savage and mischievous than in the Deccan, but comparatively few of them used to be destroyed, because they were not easily caught. To the best of my memory no such effective contrivance is known in Rohilcund or the Saugor Districts for ridding the country of the wolves that infest it.

3. A specimen of the snare could be sent if required.

4. The Pardees are a vagrant, gipsy tribe, who live by their snares and nets, and by thieving.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Captain J. FITZGERALD, Assistant Commissioner, in charge Bassim District, to the Commissioner, West Berar, dated 6th October 1869, No. 1,708.

In reply to your No. 3,150 I have the honour to state as follows :—

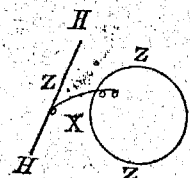
2. The wolves are caught by *Phansee Pardees* only. The system they follow will be best explained by the appended sketch. The dotted lines are the snares; the points marked A. A. A. A. A. are white pieces of skin, formed by cleaning and stuffing the skin of the breast of a deer, which is of a glossy white; the point B. is supposed to be the jungle in which the wolves are lying; the points D. D. D. are men posted to prevent the wolves escaping in that direction. The white skins are in certain positions used in preference to men, because one man on the side of a trained bullock furthest from the wolves can place skins much closer to where the wolves are lying.
absolutely placing men on one side and in charge Bassim District.

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white glancing skins on the other, have only one point of exit, and that is across the snares. Towards these they are driven very quietly, because if they go across the snares at a run they take fewer steps and the chances of their being caught by the foot are proportionately less.

3. In a hunt of this kind it is necessary that the whole gang should join, in order that between the points Z. Z. there may be such a large number of snares as will facilitate the capture of animals walking across it.

4. It may not be out of place to mention, and may not generally be known, how the snares are made. They consist of one continuous chain of loops, connected by a strong intermediate line sufficiently long between each loop to prevent the one loop getting entangled with those on each side of it. The loops again are kept in their required position on the ground by a small peg two inches long, to the middle of which one end of the loop is fastened.



5. The sketch in the margin will demonstrate my meaning. H. H. is the two-inch peg, sharp at one end, so that it can be easily struck into the ground; Z. Z. Z. is the snare, one end of which is fastened to the middle of the peg H.; the other forms a running noose, which draws tight when the animal's foot enters it. The animal, however large and strong it may be, cannot run away with the line of snares, because all grass, reeds, etc., are caught between the points Z. and X. The loop is so tied on to the

peg H. H. that the two together are about as ingenious a hook for catching grass, reeds, etc., as can well be imagined, so much so that a full-grown pig cannot run away with a snare across an open runnah, if the grass be of any height and at all green and strong.

6. The snares are made of the tendons of the leg of the common vulture, and are so strong as to be unbreakable, except at the joinings. For some reason or other there are in this district several gangs of *Phansee Pardees*; a whole gang of them working together consider themselves fortunate if they catch in the month from 15 to 20 full-grown wolves. Sometimes they are very fortunate, and their catch is proportionately large.

7. The method followed in trapping wolves is that followed in catching deer, only more men are required. Any trapped wolf must be killed at once, or it will get away by biting through the snare by which it is caught. This is made of twisted gut till a cord is formed as thick as a small pencil. It is not so sufficiently well twisted as to enable an animal to separate it at one bite.

8. Wolves and deer are snared in the middle of the day as a rule. They are watched into some piece of jungle where they are likely to stop till the evening. Round this piece of jungle, or in it, as the case may be, the watchers are placed, as are the white skins. The wolves could not be approached near enough if it were not for the *Phansee Pardee's* trained bullock, which he keeps between himself and his prey.

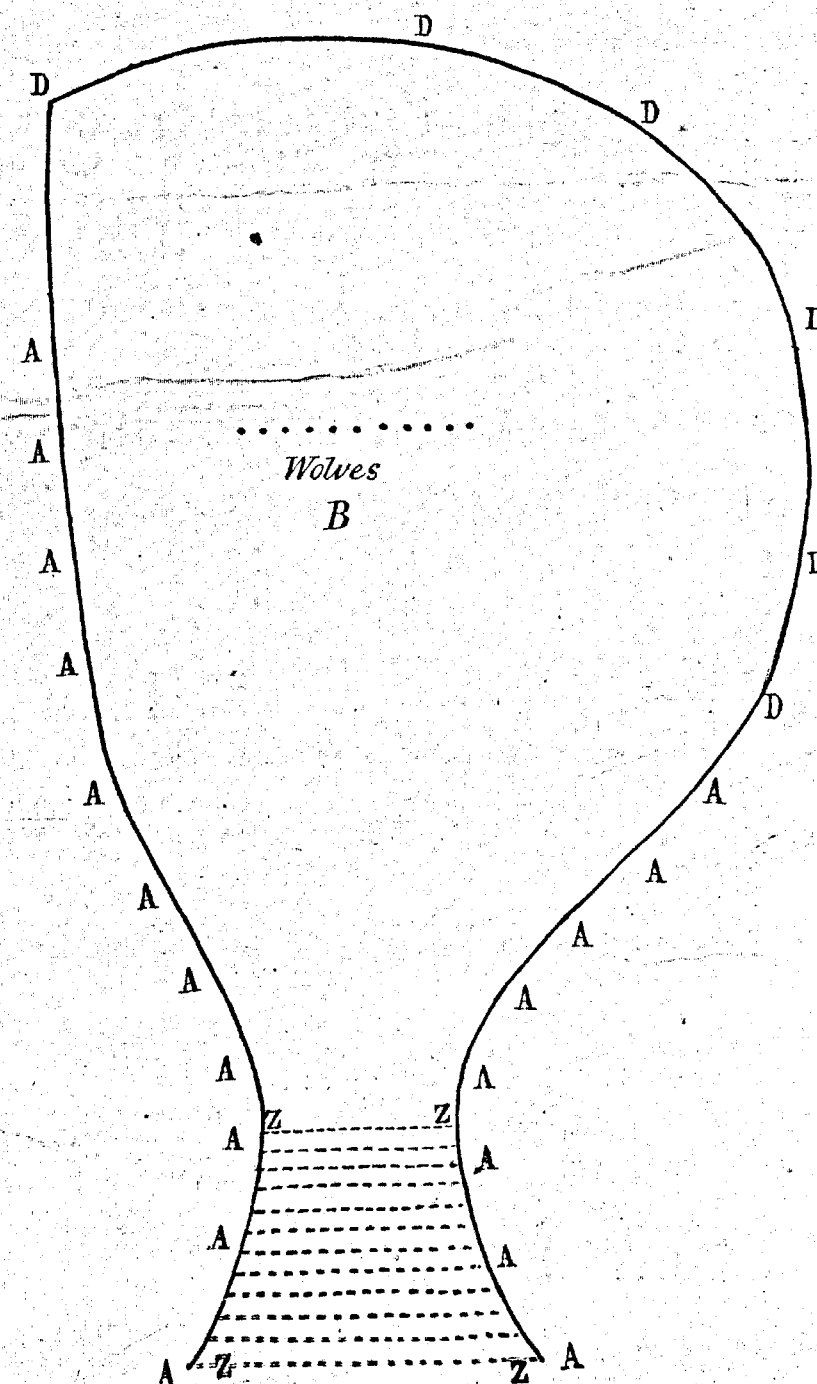
9. Every *Phansee Pardee's* encampment is surrounded with the feathers, skin, and bones of vulture, etc. These attract the wolves, who are sometimes caught at night, but I believe not often, as the damage to the snares more than makes up for any good bags which may be made. Damage ensues to the snares from the delay which occurs in killing the animal caught in the dark, who have thus time to bite through what is detaining them.

10. A "kola" or old jackal has a skin not unlike a small wolf cub. I cannot distinguish between them, and therefore give rewards for only full-grown wolves.

11.

12. In August last, when at Keence, I saw on two occasions large herds of wolves. They would appear to come up here in the rains, and because the spread of cultivation has left them without a habitation in the districts in the plain.

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A. A. A. A. A. Glistening white skins placed at these points which the wolves not understanding will not go near.

B. Position of wolves.

D. Men posted to prevent wolves running in that direction.

Z. Z. Z. Z. And dotted lines are snares across a gorge or other natural feature in the ground, towards which wolves are quietly driven.

(Signed) J. FRIZGERALD, Captain,
Assistant Commissioner,
in charge Bassim District.

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Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, for information.

(Signed) J. T. WHEELER,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary.

No. 262.

ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1869, No. 3,207.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of
Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

The 26th November 1869. Assistant Secretary to the Government

N 2207.

18 Dec

11. To the P. & R. Secy 22

Revenue Secy
P. & R. Secy
19th Dec 69
To the Secy of India
London with
5. 2. 5. 5.

22 Dec
P. & R. Secy
19th Dec

No 2651

Forward for information
the papers descriptive
of the system pursued
in the Revenue for
trapping Wolves.

With Order
N 2207. 18 Dec

Transferred

Transferred to the
Revenue Secy.
H. E. Walker
17th. November.

Genl. of 1869

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated December, 18th.

Recd.

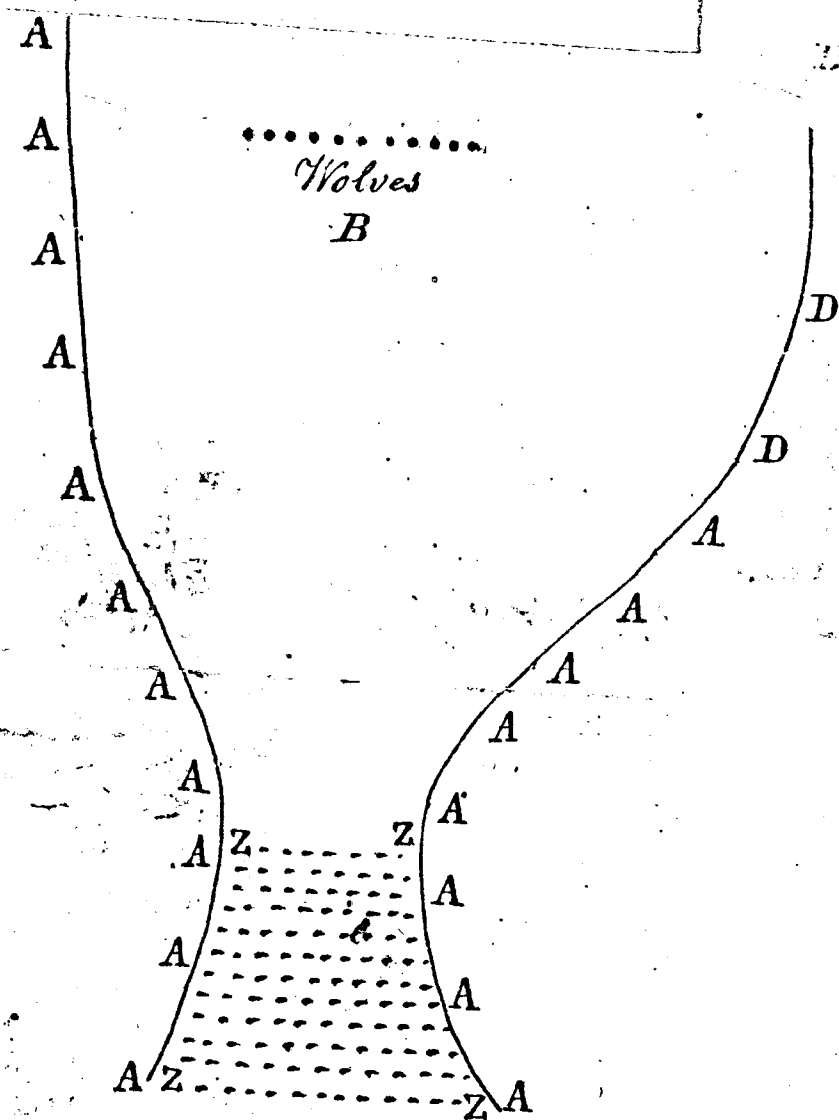
Enc.

G. O., 18th December 1869, No. 3,207.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 261-262.

Trapping Wolves.—Circular from Govern-
ment of India on the system pursued in the Dec-
can in connection with it, communicated to Board
of Revenue.



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(Sd.) J. FITZGERALD, Capt.,

Asstt. Commr. in charge,
Bassim District.