M.R. G. 1—50,000—16-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1389 A Press ~~Mis~~

426 A–426 O

Dated 18th May ~~19~~ 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 426 A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th May 1869 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on circuit at Gurramkondah, 10th May 1869, No. 61.

I HAVE the honor to request the Board to sanction a reward of Rupees 300 for the destruction of a man-eating tiger which has already killed ten, if not more, people. I first heard of him over a month ago as having killed four men on the Palkonda range of hills that separate the Royachoty from the Pulivendala and Cuddapah talooks. He then disappeared, and the next thing I heard of him was that he had killed three persons on the Sidhout hills. He then returned to the Palkonda hills. In company with Messrs. Hardinge, Kilgour, (Superintendent of Police,) and Mayer, of the Revenue Settlement Department, I went up these hills, and on the tiger killing a shepherd about three miles from our camp, we tracked him to where he was eating the body.

2. It was a dark thick place, and he got away as we came up, without affording a shot. It was decided to erect a stage on a tree from whence to shoot him when he returned to the body. It would have been better to have done so at once; but the general impression was that he would not return before 3 P.M. at the earliest, and the Shikarries refused to work without their food. We had gone out in another direction in the morning before we got information, and had had a hard walk; so we left the place for some shade about a quarter of a mile off, where we had left the coolies, and thence sent off for supplies of food.

3. On returning to the spot an hour or two afterwards to build the stage, the party found that the tiger had returned and carried off the body. In fact, it appeared he had never gone 100 yards away. He was again tracked for some distance, and the body recovered; the tiger again only making off on the near approach of the party, but without giving a fair chance of a shot at him.

4. Then it became evident that he had instilled great dread of him into the hearts of the Shikarries, for they positively refused to build a stage on a tree, and sit up for him. The party remained on the ground watching over the body till dark, and then returned to camp unsuccessful. Thus the opportunity afforded by the death of this shepherd of destroying the tiger was unfortunately lost.

5. We had been four days on the hills, and, as the coolies would not venture into the jungle to beat, we could not find the animal again until he killed some one else; and even then it might be at such a distance from us that, unless we received the information very early, we could not calculate on being in time. None of us could stay away from our offices indefinitely, and therefore we were obliged to leave the hills. Since then I have heard that the tiger has killed two men: one on the Royachoty side at the foot of the ghaut we went up; and one on the opposite or Pulivendala side of the hills.

6. I have stated these particulars, because, although I am asking for a reward of Rupees 300 to be sanctioned, I do not believe that this bold and dangerous tiger can be destroyed, unless special means are taken, and meanwhile he will be killing a human being every third or fourth day, shifting his range, as he has already done,

whenever the supply of victims falls short. He is doubtless growing bolder and bolder; and the Goovalcheroovoo Ghaut on the Trunk Road is at one extremity of his present range, and if he takes to that, all traffic will be stopped.

7. I have no faith whatever in the native Shikarries: we had the best of them with us, and it was evident they were afraid to meddle with this tiger. Instead of assisting us, they threw every obstacle they could think of in our way; and promises of high rewards, which were made them, would not induce them to stop on the ground, when there was a chance, though certainly a remote one, as there was no moon, of getting a shot at the animal at night.

8. Still when we left the hills, they declared that they would manage to kill the tiger, and, as it occurred to me that possibly the reluctance they had displayed to assisting us, might be owing to an impression that it would be more profitable to them to do the thing by themselves, I have given them the chance under promise of a large reward. But as the tiger has since then killed two more men, and probably more by this time, and they have apparently done nothing, I think it right to bring this state of matters to the notice of the Board, in case they may concur with me in thinking it proper to request the Government to adopt some special means for ridding the district of this destructive beast. Perhaps some gentleman, who has been accustomed to tiger-shooting, and is fond of it, might be found willing to devote a month or two to the undertaking, if leave were granted to him, and his expenses paid.

9. He would have to wait in the neighbourhood of the tiger, until he heard of a man being killed; and if he got the news in time, hasten to the spot, and track the body down. Even if frightened off, this tiger is not likely to leave the body for long; and I am convinced that the only chance there ever will be of killing him in the locality he ranges over will be over the body of one of his victims.

10. And no person is likely to succeed but a thoroughly experienced sportsman, who has time to make it his business. The district Officers have neither the time nor the special experience essential to success; and I do not believe that even for a reward of Rupees 300, the native Shikarries will venture to meddle with this tiger, so cunning and dangerous do they hold him to be.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government, who are recommended to grant the special reward of Rupees 300.

2. The Board suggest that this letter be communicated to the Press, and that Government intimate that special inducements will be offered to any sportsman who undertakes to destroy this terrible animal.

No. 426 B.

ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1869, No. 1,389 A.

Miscellaneous.

TRANSFERRED to the Military Department, with the request that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may be moved to place the services of Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Lindsay Chrystie at the disposal of Government for the destruction of the animal, should that Officer be willing to undertake the duty.

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

2. It is observed that ten persons have already been killed, and that the Acting Collector anticipates still greater loss of life, unless effectual measures are taken for the destruction of the tiger.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1st Despatch

1. Lieutenant H. The Lindsay Chrystie with the consent of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief may be removed to Culdepah the seat of the Civil Establishment of the Chingleput District for the purpose of destroying a man-eating tiger which has been killing and severely injuring the inhabitants of that village.

2. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief requests that the Civil Authorities may render every assistance in their power to Lieutenant Chrystie in the execution of the duty he undertakes.

18. 5. 69.

Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 18th.

Recd. 1869.

G. O., 18th May 1869, No. 1,389A.

MAY.

Nos. 426A-426B.

Man-eating tiger in Cuddapah District.—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to be moved to place the services of Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Lindsay Chrystie at the disposal of Government for its destruction, should that Officer be willing to undertake the duty

Middleburg 1809 Octr

No 24 62

Docket

from [illegible] Secondary

to Lord [illegible]

£/18 } 3 May 12

£/18

The accompanying Paper

of the Bd of [illegible] with a

request that the [illegible] of

[illegible] the Rt Chaplain may

be placed at the disposal

of Lord [illegible] for the distribution

a [illegible]

Paid [illegible] 18 May 09

Referred

Referred to the Commander in chief

Adjutant Genl's Dept

Fort St George }
18 May 1809 }

A. Wilks Col

Offg Secy to Govt

To the Adjutant General With [illegible] (To be returned) } 18th [illegible]