Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th February 1873.

No. 124. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th February 1873, No. 162:—

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 7th November 1872, No. 404:—

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 889, dated 6th February last, I have the honour to bring to their notice a difficulty which stands in the way of the reward offered for killing poisonous snakes being availed of.

2. The notification requires the head and skin of the snake to be forwarded by the Village Munsif to the Tahsildar, as a voucher in proof of the payment of the reward; but the peeling of the skin is no easy operation, and, whether rightly or wrongly, is considered to be attended with some personal risk. The natives have no instruments by which this operation can be performed, and must do it with their own hands; they are afraid the poisonous thorny bones of the snakes would inflict wounds which cannot be easily cured. This perhaps is a groundless prejudice; but it does exist as a fact.

3. The rate of the reward is itself not very inviting, and the condition as to producing the skin renders the reward practically useless. This town of Vallam and the surrounding villages are infested by Cobras and other poisonous snakes to a really fearful extent; but of the four Village Munsifs in this neighbourhood, not one has yet given a single reward for a snake killed. For the first few days after the publication of the notification, there was a rush with killed Cobras and Viriyans for rewards; but the Village Munsifs would not pay unless the skins were peeled off and produced. So all attempt to get the reward has been given up.

4. Even if the difficulty I have mentioned did not exist, and those who killed the snakes did undertake to produce the skins, I really doubt whether the system of rewarding the destruction of snakes would have any general operation, the task devolving on the Village Munsifs is neither light nor agreeable; for how, and when, are these heads and skins to be sent to the Tahsildar? Village remittances are, as a rule, sent once a month, and if the heads and skins of the snakes were to be sent therewith, they will have to be preserved by the Munsif for a month. At any rate, Bramin Munsifs would not undertake this task.

5. As, however, it is very desirous to diminish the number of these venomous reptiles, and which are no doubt a considerable source of mortality, I would take leave to suggest, whether the condition above referred to may not be dispensed with, and any other form of voucher prescribed. Each Village Munsif might be required to keep a book in which all payees of the rewards shall sign their names or put in their marks in token of having received the rewards, and the Revenue Inspectors, Deputy Tahsildars or Tahsildars, when they visit the villages, might, by inquiries of a few of the alleged payees, satisfy themselves that the rewards have been actually paid, and initial the books in token of their having so satisfied themselves; or, if it is considered inexpedient to trust the Village Munsif, the more responsible officers named might be empowered to authorize the payment of rewards on their own authority, upon the condition that they shall see the snakes

entire and have them cut in two pieces before their own eyes, in order that they might not be brought up again for reward. In this latter case, a small chit of paper containing the words "pay the bearer 2 Annas for a snake killed" signed by the authorized officer, and signed below by the payee in token of having received the payment might form the voucher in support of the payment made by the Village Munsif. The latter plan would ensure snakes being actually killed, at least where any one of the responsible officers named is within easy reach, and is better than snakes being killed nowhere at all.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., 19th January 1872, No. 119.

2. The Board consider that the sending the heads and skins of the snakes to the Tahsildars may be dispensed with. Subject to the supervision of Taluq Officers and Revenue Inspectors, Village Munsifs may be trusted to pay the rewards and they are probably as competent as the Tahsildars to decide whether the snakes killed are of the kinds for the destruction of which the reward is sanctioned. The Village Munsif should keep a list showing (1) the name of the claimant (2) the kind of snake (3) the number (4) the amount of reward and the signature of the recipient in acknowledgment of receipt; and should append to it a certificate that the snakes were of the kind specified and were cut to pieces in his presence. The lists should be forwarded with the vouchers as vouchers, and the Revenue Inspectors should be instructed to check them from time to time by enquiry from the payees.

3. The difficulty now mentioned does not seem to have been experienced in North Arcot. The Collector will report whether the requirements of the notification were complied with in that district.

No. 125. ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1873, No. 195.

Miscellaneous. APPROVED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

Prepared

Govt. of India

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February 1874.

Read

Read

G. O., 10th February 1874, No. 195.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 124-125.

Rewards for Destruction of Venomous Snakes.—Suggestion of the Collector of Tanjore to dispense with the rule requiring heads of snakes killed snakes being sent to Tahsildars as vouchers for payment, approved.

B.C. 19 Feby 1873 No 233-4

Revenue 1873. Sept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Pr. 418.

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH FEBRUARY 1873, No. 162.

Dep^t 12 Feby 1873.

Encl.

Received 13th July

FEBRUARY.

No. 162.

Rewards for destruction of venomous Snakes.—Letter from Collector of Tanjore suggesting that the rule requiring heads and skins of killed snakes to be sent to Tahsildars as vouchers for payment of —, may be cancelled, and another form of voucher prescribed, submitted to Government, with remarks in favour of Collector's suggestion.

#195 Passed

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H. Stokes
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Officiating Collector of Tanjore.

Encl. G. A. Turton.

Re. Rs 62 Os 0 Cs

Read 24 Feby 1873

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