No. 209. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th May 1873, No. 793 :—

Read the following letters :—

From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1873, No. 783.

I HAVE the honour to submit a statement of rewards paid for venomous snakes during March.

2. Contrary to my anticipations, the amount is higher than ever, being Rupees 41,340; making the total for the six months Rupees 1,27,390, representing 1,019,128 snakes.

3. I received the Proceedings of Board dated 12th instant, No. 2,269 (Miscellaneous), forwarding G. O. of 9th idem, No. 404, two days ago, and issued immediate orders thereupon.

4. I beg to observe, with reference to this order, that under it snakes will probably be killed in the surrounding taluqs, and brought into villages in the Nellore and Gudur Taluqs for the reward, and that it will be impossible to prevent this occurring.

5. It has now come to my notice that comparatively few cobras are being killed owing to the existence of superstitious feeling on the subject. Cobras are, however, far the most dangerous of all snakes.

6. Taking everything into consideration, I would now suggest that the grant of rewards for all the other kinds of snakes be discontinued everywhere, and that, in future, two Annas be paid for each cobra.

5. I do not believe that much fraud has occurred, but a few rumours have begun to reach me, and the temptation to fraud on the part of village-officers is enormous. I am now going on leave for three months, and, seeing that 1½ lakhs of rupees will have been spent by the end of this month, and that there must be some limit to the value even of human life, I respectfully request the Board to recommend the Government to adopt my present suggestion.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th April 1873, No. 878.

ADVERTING to the Board's Proceedings dated 12th April, Miscellaneous No. 2,269, communicating G. O. of the 9th idem, No. 404, and in continuation of my letter of the 16th instant, No. 783, I have the honour to submit a statement showing the expenditure up to date incurred in rewards for venomous snakes. The statement has been brought up to the 31st March, up to which date only the accounts from the taluqs have been received.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th May 1873.

THE Collector of Nellore reports one million of snakes as having been killed in the last six months, but says that this vast number includes few cobras. He now recommends the discontinuance of the reward for all but cobras, for which he proposes that two Annas each should be paid. The Board think that this course should be followed for the future.

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1873, No. 543.

Miscellaneous.

IN supersession of the orders contained in the Proceedings of Government dated 9th April, No. 404, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council resolves to direct that, pending further instructions, a reward of one Anna each shall be paid for the destruction of cobras only in the districts of Nellore, Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot, Bellary, and Tanjore.

2. The report called for in the Proceedings just quoted should be submitted without further delay.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 1481

No 543. 28 May '73

In supercession of the orders contained in the Govt of Fort dated 9 Apl 1404 the Rt Honble the Govr in Council resolves to direct that, pending further instructions, a reward of one anna, each, shall be paid for the destruction of cobras only, in the Districts of Nellore, Madras, Chingleput North Arcot, Bellary and Tanjore.

The report called for in

in the proceedings just quoted should be submitted without further delay.

WWD

14 To the Board of Res. dec 5 June
6 - The Accountant General's
1 - J Stewart Esq. hon. Sec. dec 6 do

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Rewards for destruction
of Snakes in the Nilla Dt

Nr. 209-210

Mon. Prop. Com.
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