

885

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th August 1873.*

Read the following:—

No. 169. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th June 1873,
No. 1,648.

From the Ag. Collector of Madras,	dated 7th April	1873, No. 95.
" " of " "	7th May	" " 115.
" " of Chingleput,	8th March	" " 62.
" " of North Arcot,	11th December	1872, " 654.
" Collector of Bellary,	12th March	1873, " 67.
" Offg. Collector of Tanjore,	2nd February	" " 33.
" " of " "	4th April	" " 113.

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of G. O., 9th April 1873, No. 404, the Board of Revenue enclose a statement of snakes killed and rewards granted during the official year 1872-73.

2. The effect of the grant in Nellore has been already before Government.

3. The Collector of North Arcot considers that the reward is producing a good effect, and that it is fairly earned. In Chingleput as in Nellore the destruction of snakes reported is very large; this appears to be due to the presence of the caste of Yanadies in considerable numbers.

No. 170. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd July 1873,
No. 1,365.

Read the following letters:—

Read the following letter from the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Tanjore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Point Calimere, 30th June 1873, No. 226:—

AGREEABLY to the Order of Government, dated 28th May 1873, No. 543, communicated in the Board's Proceedings of the 9th instant, I have issued a notice reducing the rate of reward for killing snakes to 1 Anna and restricting it to cobras; but I deem it right at the same time to place before the Board facts which, I trust, will induce them to recommend to Government a reconsideration of the present order so far as Tanjore is concerned.

2. The sum of Rupees 1,27,390 paid in Nellore for the enormous number of 10,19,128 snakes stated to have been killed in the course of six months is certainly a reason for imposing restrictions in that district, for the number is clearly fabulous; but I can seek no reasons for extending the restrictions to a district where there is not the slightest ground for supposing that any fraud is practised.

3. The number of snakes killed in Tanjore during the twelve months from March 1872 to February 1873 is, as reported in my letter of the 4th April 1873, No. 113, 722, the amount of rewards paid for the same being Rupees 90-4-0. The number of snakes killed during the subsequent three months—March, April, and May—is 321 and the rewards paid for them Rupees 40-2-0. Hence it is

rupees. By far the largest expenditure has been incurred in Nellore and Guntur, and this is ascribed to the presence in these districts of the caste of Yanadies who kill the snakes.

6. The experiment has, therefore, been a costly one, and His Excellency the Governor in Council is not disposed to advocate its continuance even in a modified form, though he is willing to give it a further trial, should the Government of India be willing and be prepared to supply the requisite funds.

7. The cobra, the most deadly snake of Southern India, is protected by superstitious veneration, and, until that feeling is dissipated by education, its extirpation, especially in villages and about houses where it is most destructive to human life, is almost hopeless. As regards poisonous snakes, generally, their destruction is attended with little risk, and, owing to their being so prolific and to the great extent of jungle, in which they obtain secure shelter, any energetic attempt to extirpate them must, as in the case of this partial experiment, entail a very heavy expenditure, whether successful or not.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Revenue Dept.

Memo. for Orders on N^o 1842.

Pro: Board of Revenue.

Statement of snakes killed and
rewards granted during 1872-73 in
Madras, Chingleput, &c. Districts.

18 June 1873, N^o 1048

In the Proceedings of
the Govt of India dated 29th
January and 2nd February 1870
N^o 600 and 638 the Local Govts
were requested to submit their
views on the general question
of the destruction of noxious
animals, and the grant of
rewards for killing venomous
snakes was directed to be
discontinued everywhere pending
further orders.

In their Proceedings
dated 23 Nov. 1870, N^o 6793
the Board of Revenue submitted
the following report -

a general report on the subject, and, in view to the serious loss of life which occurred in this Presidency from snake bite, they recommended that the prohibition against granting rewards for the destruction of venomous snakes should be removed, especially as owing to the small expenditure hitherto incurred the question was not one of any financial importance.

3. This Govt., in their Proceedings dated 21 Jan'y 1871, No. 136, supported the views of the Board, and in their Resolution dated 11 Sept. 1871, No. 4202 the Govt. of India sanctioned the grant of rewards not exceeding

if the system is followed in the Presidency. It should be distinctly stated that he cannot incur the expense in the form of a Civil or Forest Guard about Rs 500 per annum on the average. I have not known of any person being headed from any of the districts. If it be, very desirable is that this is a matter which may be left to the local authorities for their consideration. This is little

or less danger of being the subject of a matter - they are not to be taken to the tiger. & a long stick is given to every one. Still as he has in current to himself expense in the matter, I would continue the system there. as an experiment in natural history if money is available to see in how long a period we can practically exterminate the cobra. I doubt the possibility

exceeding two annas per head, for the destruction of cobras or other snakes known to be deadly in localities to be determined by the Local Govts, for periods not exceeding two years, after which a report on the subject was to be made to the Govt. of India. In the order of this Govt. under date 19 Jan'y 1872 No. 119 the grant of a reward of two annas each for every Cobra, Bungarus, Russell's Viper, or Carpet Viper, was sanctioned experimentally, for two years, in the Districts of Tanjore and Madras, and in consequence of the representations of the Inspector General of Police

Police in his annual report,
the experiment was extended to
the Districts of Nellore, Bellary,
North Arcot and Chingleput.
in the P.O. of Govt. Rev. Dept.
24 May 1872, No. 156.

5. In October last, the
Collector of North Arcot reported
that 22,570 venomous snakes
had been killed in that
District and that rewards
amounting to Rs. 2814. 6. 0
had been disbursed. In
March last it was brought
to the notice of Govt. that
in Nellore no less than
Rs. 86,049. 2. 0 had been
disbursed for rewards in

fine

myself - considering
how prolific snakes
are - how easily they
conceal themselves -
and what a large
extent of waste land
still exists - it seems
in the whole very well
help for that: but I
must confess we
could spend the
money much better
in many other ways.

J. D. S.

With many snakes
the cobra is almost
sacred - except
the "good snakes"

Russells Viper is
much dangerous
than the Cobra -
but in it I was
numerous
yes

5
five months, and, in May,
that in six months, upwards
of a million snakes had been
killed; in the District, for which
Rs. 1,27,390 had been paid as
rewards; though but very few
of the snakes had been cobras.

6. In consideration of
the very large expenditure which
had been incurred in this one
District, the Govt., in their order,
dated 28 May 1873, No. 543,
directed that the reward was
everywhere to be restricted to
one anna per snake, and to
be given for cobras only.

7. The Board of Revenue
in reply to the call made by
Govt. in the order dated 9 April
1873, No. 404, now submit a
Statement showing the results

7

of the experiment up to 31st
March last, in the other five
Districts in which it was
being conducted. It appears
that it has been in full
operation since July last
year, and that in the nine
months upwards of 238,000
snakes have been destroyed
at an outlay of a little under
Rs 30,000, or including the
Nellore experiment, over a
million and a quarter of snakes,
at a cost of upwards of a lac
and a half of rupees. By
far the largest expenditure
has been incurred in Nellore
and Chingleput which is
ascribed to the presence in
these Districts of the caste of
Ganadies

23800, Rs 30000
in 9 months

Nellore
1,000,000 - Rs 120,000
in 6 months

Ganadies who kill the snakes.
8. The Board make
no recommendation as to
whether or not the experiment
(as modified in regard to the
amount of the reward and
the class of snake, in G.O.
28 May 1873, No 543) should
be continued, or whether in
any District it would be
advisable to revert to the
higher rate, nor do the
Collectors express any opinion
on the subject, with the
exception of Mr. Vansaignes,
who recommended that two
annas should be continued
for each cobra in Nellore,
and Mr. Whiteside, who
considered that the experiment
had

had been fairly successful
and the rewards well earned.

Orders are requested.

HA

I think we must report to the
Govt of India the result of the
offer of reward with ref. to
former correspondence and state
our own view on the practical
inferrence - we have spent in ~~the last~~ less than a year
over £15,000 in the destruction
of snakes in 75 or 6 districts; and
it appears that very few of the
snakes killed have been cobras,
which (I suppose) coincided
with ref. ~~to~~ to numbers and
to destructive power, and by far the
most formidable. This ought not
to go on: but we must continue the
reward of ^{perhaps 1000} 1000 for cobra, ^{perhaps the most} ~~perhaps the most~~
only: for though I don't suppose ^{perhaps the most} ~~perhaps the most~~
especially the prejudice of the people ^{which all part}
means ^{in time} that cobra will be killed that means that
the influence will be trifling. ^{workshop of evil}

Jul 24/73

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over a million and a
quarter of snakes, at a
cost of upwards of a lac
and a half of rupees. By
far the largest expenditure
has been incurred in
Nellore and Chingleput
and this is ascribed to
the pressure in these districts
of the caste of Yanadies
who kill the snakes.

6. His Excellency the
Governor in Council cannot
but regard these facts
as satisfactory. But
with grave apprehension.
The enormous expenditure
incurred utterly precludes
the extension of the experi-
ment on its former footing
and it seems to him to have
failed

failed precisely where
 success was most needed.
 The cobra which considered
 with reference to numbers
 as well as to destructive
 power he apprehends to
 be the most formidable
 of all snakes has escaped
 with ^{comparative} almost perfect im-
 punity, and he is therefore
 disposed to continue the
 rewards for this sort of
 snake only at the rate
 of 1 or 2 annas per
 head. While, however,
 His Excellency would thus
 endeavour directly to
 encourage the extermina-
 tion of these pests he
 fears that little will
 be

I think this is a
 mistake. Every
 man who is killed by
 a snake is said to
 have been killed by
 a "cobra". In truth
 however the sluggish
 snakes are more dan-
 gerous - they are quite
 as venomous - and they
 do not get out of the way.
 The cobra too is susceptible
 of a kind of domesticity
 which the others are not.
 When cobras are more
 numerous in a house to
 say - but it is clear
 that the others are more
 numerous every where.
 Now if when 2 are
 offered Cobras are spared
 will they be killed for
 one anna? The result
 will be that while

a strong belief
 up to guide it
 her trust that the
 of India so diverse
 the opinion of the
 out of rewards for
 destruction of snakes
 as for his own part
 little further he is prepared
 to object in view of the
 obtained

effected until the growth
 of Education having put
 an end to the worship of
 the "Evil Power" the cobra
 shall be no where regard-
 ed as an object of veneration
 and thus the work
 of destruction may be
 achieved by itself.
 left to the natural impulse
 of the people
 Sir.

Cobras are not killed.
 - It is well again
 to see. A snake
 easily killed - I
 would let the people
 kill or not kill, as
 they please.

End

The alternatives seem to be (1) to pro-
 ceeds for snake-killing altogether at 2/6
 limit them to one or two heads of snake.

To

The Govt of India

Department of Public Works

I have little faith in
the efficacy of the 2nd
alteration, and am
quite ready to adopt the
first, which I understood
to be that proposed by
Mr. Linn.

Yrs

Aug 12/3

Memo. for Orders
Statement of Snakes
killed & rewards granted
during 1872-73 in Madras
Chingleput & 85

Let country rewards
stand till we get
order for put of India. For
open that no reward
is needed

885

C

Understand to
prepare letter to
put of India
accordingly from
H.B. the Govt. order
T.M.

R.C. 15 Aug 73 to 10 Aug 73
C. 18 Aug 73 R.C. 24 July 73 29/7/73



No. 885 Revenue Dept.

Pros of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 20th Aug 1873.

Read the following
Pro. of the Bd. of Revenue

Submg. Statement of Snakes
Killed & rewards granted during
1872-73 in Madras, Chingleput,
N. Arcot, Bellary & Tanjore Ds.

H.E. 18 June 1873, No. 1048.

Submg. letter from Col. of Tanjore
requesting reconsideration of order
reducing rate of reward for destruction
of snakes to 1 Anna per snake &c.
as regards Tanjore D.

H.E. 23 July 1873, No. 1365.

he has got a number
killed - & he looks
he had he then say
Does not consider
it & he sent to Com
time the cost of

His Excellency the Governor
in Council [cannot regard as
satisfactory the results of the
experiment of granting rewards
for the destruction of snakes,
but before directing its discon-
tinuance he resolves to address
the Govt. of India on the
subject.]

12 J.S.

The Bd. of Revenue
with 8 Dec. 73
28/8

90
Rewards for destruction
of snakes

Perpetit

No. 169-171

C. 15 Aug 93 to 20 Aug 93

Dep 20/8



Revenue Dept.
No. 886. 20 Aug 72

2/6

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Financial Dept.

Sir,

The attention of this
Govt has recently been turned
to the consequences that have
followed the permission to
grant rewards for the des-
truction of deadly snakes
in certain selected Districts
of this Presidency, and I
am directed to report upon
the results of the experiment
undertaken in pursuance of
the course sanctioned by the
Govt of India in their
Resolution No. 4202 of the
11th September 1871.

2. In the order of this
Govt under date 19 January

1872

L. D. S.

~~W. C. C.~~
~~W. C. C.~~

1872 No. 119 the grant of a
reward of two annas each
for every cobra, Bungarus,
Russell's Viper, or Carpet Viper;
was sanctioned, experimentally
for two years, in the Districts
of Tanjore and Madras, and
in consequence of the representa-
tions of the Inspector General
of Police in his Annual Report,
the experiment was subse-
quently extended to the
Districts of Nellore, Bellary,
North Arcot and Chingleput.

3. In October last, the
Collector of North Arcot re-
ported that 22,570 venomous
snakes had been killed in
that District and that
rewards amounting to
Rs. 2814. 6. - had been
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131
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was brought to the notice of this
Govt. that in Nellore no less
than Rs. 86,049. 2. - had been
disbursed for rewards in
five months; and, in May,
that in six months, upwards
of a million snakes had
been killed, in the District,
for which Rs. 1,37,390 had
been paid as rewards, though
but very few of the snakes
had been cobras.

4. In consideration of
the very large expenditure
which had been incurred
in this one District, this Govt.
retracted the grant of rewards
to two of its Taluqs & reduced
the rate to 1 anna per snake,
and subsequently on receipt
of further information
directed

directed in their order dated
28 May 1873, No 523 that the
reward should everywhere
be restricted to one anna,
and be given for cobras only.

5. The Board of Revenue
were also called upon to
report the total expenditure
incurred in the other selected
Districts, and they have now
submitted a statement show-
ing the results up to the 31st
of March last. From this
it appears that the experi-
ment has been in full
operation since July last
year, and that in the nine
months upwards of 238,000
snakes have been destroyed
at an outlay of a little
under Rs 30,000, or including
the Nellore experiment,
over

I don't think we
can say this, especially
the number
destroyed.
I would say
the number
destroyed.

over a million and a quarter
of snakes, at a cost of upwards
of a lac and a half of rupees.
By far the largest expendi-
ture has been incurred in
Nellore and Chingleput and
this is ascribed to the presence
in these Districts of the caste
of Yanadies who kill the
snakes.

6. The experiment has
therefore been a costly one:
in some Districts it has in-
duced a peculiar class of
people to make the slaughter
of snakes the business of
their lives; but, generally,
its effect has been insignifi-
cant, and His Excellency the
Governor in Council is not
disposed to advocate its con-
tinuance even in a modified
form, though he is willing to

give

give it a further trial should
the Govt of India desire.

In the efficacy of the pay-
-ment of rewards for the
destruction of snakes he has
for his own part but little
faith. He is of opinion that
the object in view can never
be attained until the growth
of education having put
an end to the worship of
the "Evil Power" the snake
shall be nowhere regarded
as an object of veneration;
and then the work of destruction
may he believes, be safely left
to the natural impulse of
the people.

all willing, and be
willing to supply the
requisite funds

X A

only the cobra is the

B X

X A to B
I would rather
put the argument
than I do

The Cobra - the most deadly snake
of S. India - is protected by the
superstition & veneration - and until
that feeling is dissipated by education
its destruction is especially
about houses where it is most destructive to human life
in villages is almost impossible - and
as reports of poisonous snakes generally,
their destruction is attended with
little risk - ^{and} owing to their
being so prolific & to the great extent
of jungle in which they remain
secure shelter; any energetic attempt
to exterminate them must - as in the case
of their partial extermination - entail
a very heavy expenditure, shelter.
unsuccessful or not. 3/40

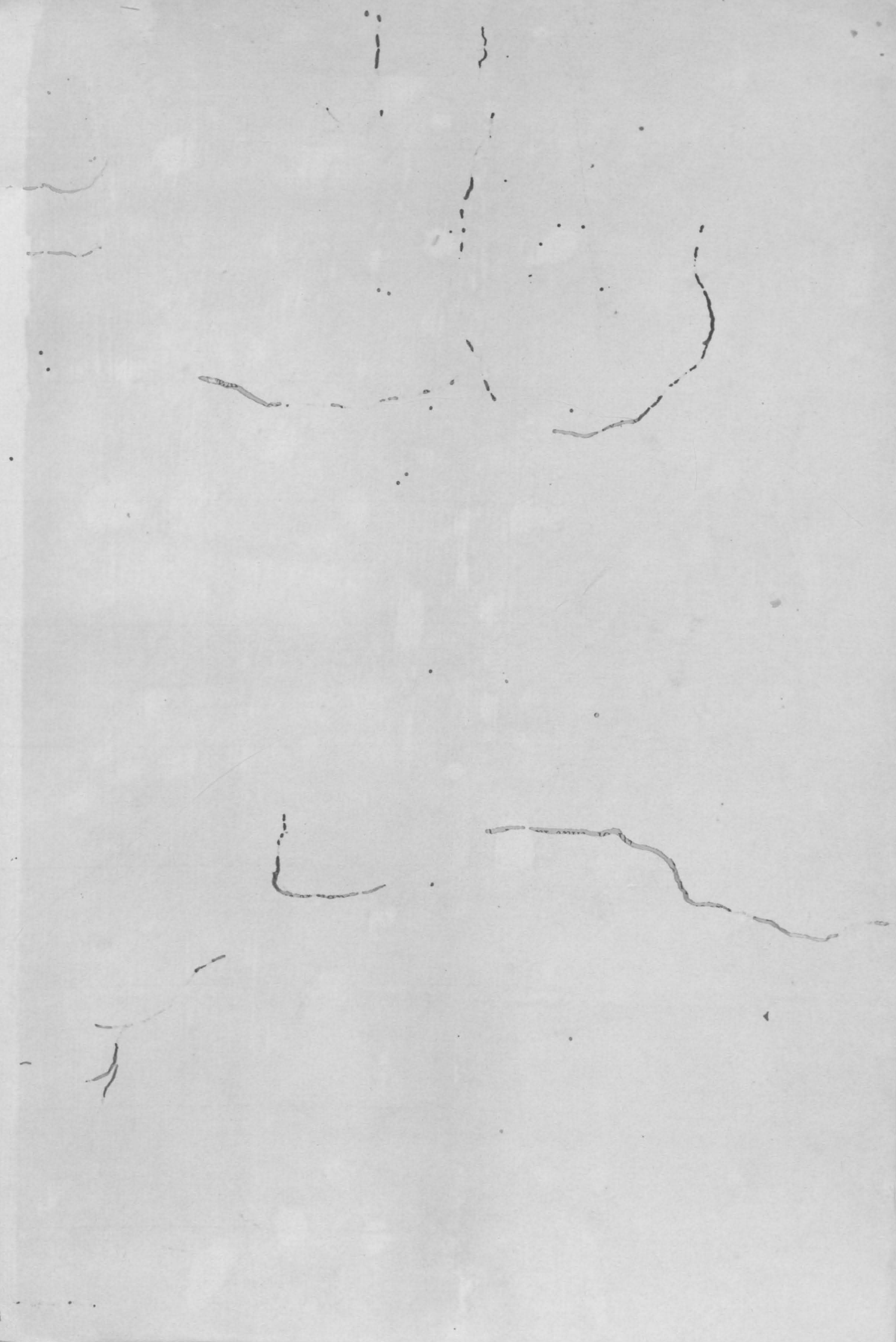
The Govt of India

Orders for destruction
of mules

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text appears to be a list or set of instructions.]

No. 173

c. 15 Aug 73 to 20 Aug 73



Obdt. of 18731 *Shabir*.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated August 26th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 20th August 1873, No. 885.

AUGUST.

Nos. 169—171.

Snakes.—Considering it inexpedient to continue the costly experiment of granting rewards for the destruction of —, but resolving to address the Government of India on the subject before directing its discontinuance.



5/11/85
18-5-73