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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1261. Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 14. 2. 1875 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 129. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th August 1875, No. 2,261 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 8th May 1875, No. 1,193.

Read also the following letters :—

From the Collector of Nellore,	dated 12th June 1875,	No.	1,605.
,,	Collector of Madras,	,, 10th ,,	,,	,,	150, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 17th June 1875, Miscellaneous No. 5,454.
,,	Collector of Madras,	dated 17th July 1875,	No.	211.
,,	,, of Chingleput,	,, 9th June	,,	,,	321.
,,	,, of North Arcot,	,, 1st July	,,	,,	366.
,,	,, of Bellary,	,, 30th June	,,	,,	249.
,,	,, of Tanjore,	,, 5th July	,,	,,	2,192-22.

In their Order of the 18th March 1875, No. 537, the Government requested the Board to call upon the Collectors of certain districts to furnish information, called for by the Government of India, as to the manner in which very heavy [illegible] been incurred in the destruction [illegible]. Officers acted. The letters above recorded are the replies of the officers concerned.

2. The Government of India having sanctioned the grant of rewards not exceeding 2 Annas for the destruction of the cobra, and some other species of snakes known to be deadly, experimentally for two years in certain selected districts, the grant of 2 Annas each for every Cobra, Bungarus, Russels Viper, and the Carpet Viper destroyed in Tanjore and Madras was authorized (G. O., 19th January 1872, No. 119), and the districts of Nellore, Bellary, North Arcot and Chingleput were subsequently added (G. O., 29th May 1872, No. 156). The grant of rewards was restricted to the taluqs of Nellore and Gudur in the district of Nellore under G. O., 9th April 1873, No. 404, in consequence of the very large expenditure reported to have been incurred in that district; and in their order of the 28th May 1873, the Government restricted the reward to 1 Anna for cobras only in all the districts in which the experiment was in operation. All further expenditure in this direction was discontinued from the end of the official year 1873-74, under G. O., 17th February 1874, No. 99. These orders appear to have been generally conformed to.

3. The accompanying statement shows that the total expenditure incurred under the orders above quoted, during the years 1872-73 and 1873-74, amounted to Rupees 2,44,985-4-10 for the destruction of 2,131,592 snakes, of which 82 per cent. was disbursed in the district of Nellore alone, and 15 per cent. in Chingleput. The figures for 1872-73 (Rupees 1,57,292) now reported do not exactly tally with those entered in the statement submitted with Board's Proceedings, dated 18th

June 1873, No. 1,048, but the discrepancies are not material. The outlay therein given for the five districts marginally noted was Rupees 29,899-3-0, and the expenditure for Nellore had been previously reported as Rs. 1,27,390, making a total of Rupees 1,57,289-3-0.

Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot, Bellary and Tanjore.
Board's Procs., 15th May 1873, No. 793.

4. NELLORE.—The expenditure in this district during the two years under report amounted to no less a sum than Rupees 2,01,247 for the destruction of 1,779,306 snakes, the rate of extermination having exceeded 2 lakhs and a half per mensem from January to July 1873. The Collector states that snakes were killed both near and afar from human habitations; the special report which the Collector was directed in paragraph 3, G. O., 28th October 1874, No. 1,837, to furnish on this point, appears to have been submitted direct to Government.

As regards the system adopted for disbursing rewards and checking payments, the Collector refers to certain circulars issued on the subject, which specify the source from which payments were to be made, and contain directions for exhibiting the expenditure in the accounts; but there is nothing to show what precautions were taken against the fraudulent production a second time of snakes, for the destruction of which a reward had already been obtained. On the production of snakes before the Village Munsif, the reward was to be paid out of the collections, a bill countersigned by the Curnam or a respectable ryot being transmitted to the Tahsildar, and by him to Head-quarters in support of the charge. Nowhere were authorized, and that they had been so mutilated before payment that they could not be produced again, appears from the circulars referred to, to have been required, although the Board prescribed such a certificate in their Proceedings, dated 6th February 1873, No. 162, approved in G. O., 19th February 1873, No. 195. At the same time it is presumed that all proper precautions were taken, as the Collector's frequent reports, quoted in paragraph 3 of his letter recorded above, show that the startling expenditure was carefully watched and duly brought to the notice of the Board and Government month after month. The Collector's explanation was to the effect that the district swarms with venomous snakes, and that the Yanadies were devoting their whole time to the pursuit. He stated that after the strictest inquiry, he had no reason to doubt the *bonâ fides* of the operations. The result of these reports was that the grant of rewards was at first restricted to the taluqs of Gudur and Nellore, and shortly afterwards the amount was reduced to 1 Anna for the destruction of cobras only.

5. MADRAS.—The outlay in Madras was inconsiderable. The rewards were disbursed by the Commissioner of Police for the destruction of snakes in the several divisions of the town.

6. CHINGLEPUT.—The expenditure in this district was Rupees 37,151-5-6 for 299,309 snakes. It appears that at first the grant of rewards was not limited to the four descriptions of venomous snakes specified by Government, and that till March 1873, rewards were paid for all venomous snakes. Proper precautions appear to have been taken to prevent the fraudulent production of snakes a second time. The destruction was not confined to any particular locality. The

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14*th September* 1875.

expenditure in this district was not specially brought to the Board's notice, but the outlay incurred in 1872-73, was in reply to a call from the Board reported in the Collector's letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 18th June 1873, No. 1,048, and entered in the statement submitted to Government therewith. The extensive destruction was then attributed to the presence of the caste of Yanadies in considerable numbers. No mention is made of the discontinuance of the rewards in accordance with the orders of Government, dated 17th February 1874, and it would appear that rewards are still being paid under Board's Standing Order, No. III. The Collector will report whether this is so.

7. NORTH ARCOT.—The number of snakes killed was 47,267, and the rewards aggregated Rupees 5,901-6-4. The snakes were mutilated on production, and every care appears to have been taken to prevent deception. The large amount of rewards disbursed by the Sub-Magistrate of Punganur attracted the attention of the Collector, and led to the suspicion of trickery, but no proof was forthcoming, and with that exception, the rewards appear to have been fairly earned.

8. The outlay in Bellary and Tanjore does not call for notice.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 130. ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1875, No. 1,367.

in that Department, dated 9th March 1875, No. 540.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Financial Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

Govt. of [illegible] Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 14th.

Rcd.

Encl.

G. O., 14th September 1875, No. 1,367.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 129-130.

Destruction of Venomous Snakes in certain Districts during 1873-74 and 1874-75.—Communicating to the Financial Department Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reviewing reports on the manner in which very heavy expenditure had been incurred in the — and on the system upon which the District Officers acted.

No. 2,261.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th August 1875.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 8th May 1875, No. 1,193.

Read also the following letters :—

From the Collector of Nellore,	dated 12th June 1875,	No.	1,605.
,, Collector of Madras,	,, 10th ,,	,,	,,	150,
recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 17th June 1875, Miscellaneous No. 5,454.				
,, Collector of Madras,	dated 17th July 1875,	No.	211.
,, ,, of Chingleput,	,, 9th June ,,	,,	321.
,, ,, of North Arcot,	,, 1st July ,,	,,	366.
,, ,, of Bellary,	,, 30th June ,,	,,	249.
,, ,, of Tanjore,	,, 5th July ,,	,,	2,192-22.

IN their Order of the 18th March 1875, No. 537, the Government requested the Board to call upon the Collectors of certain districts to furnish information, called for by the Government of India, as to the manner in which very heavy expenditure had been incurred in the destruction of venomous snakes during the years 1872-73 and 1873-74, and as to the system upon which the several District Officers acted. The letters above recorded are the replies of the officers concerned.

2. The system of rewards for the destruction of venomous snakes was introduced in the Madras Presidency in 1871-72, the reward being fixed at 2 Annas for the destruction of the cobra, and some other species of snakes known to be deadly, experimentally for two years in certain selected districts, the grant of 2 Annas each for every cobra, Bungarus, Russels Viper, and the Carpet Viper destroyed in Tanjore and Madras was authorized (G. O., 19th January 1872, No. 119), and the districts of Nellore, Bellary, North Arcot and Chingleput were subsequently added (G. O., 29th May 1872, No. 156). The grant of rewards was restricted to the taluqs of Nellore and Gudur in the district of Nellore under G. O., 9th April 1873, No. 404, in consequence of the very large expenditure reported to have been incurred in that district; and in their order of the 28th May 1873, the Government restricted the reward to 1 Anna for cobras only in all the districts in which the experiment was in operation. All further expenditure in this direction was discontinued from the end of the official year 1873-74, under G. O., 17th February 1874, No. 99. These orders appear to have been generally conformed to.

3. The accompanying statement shows that the total expenditure incurred under the orders above quoted, during the years 1872-73 and 1873-74, amounted to Rupees 2,44,985-4-10 for the destruction of 2,131,592 snakes, of which 82 per cent. was disbursed in the district of Nellore alone, and 15 per cent. in Chingleput. The figures for 1872-73 (Rupees 1,57,292) now reported do not exactly tally with those entered in the statement submitted with Board's Proceedings, dated 18th

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dated 6th February 1873, No. 162, approved in G. O., 19th February 1873, No. 196. At the same time it is presumed that all proper precautions were taken, as the Collector's frequent reports, quoted in paragraph 3 of his letter recorded above, show that the startling expenditure was carefully watched and duly brought to the notice of the Board and Government month after month. The Collector's explanation was to the effect that the district swarms with venomous snakes, and that the Yanadies were devoting their whole time to the pursuit. He stated that after the strictest inquiry, he had no reason to doubt the *bonâ fides* of the operations. The result of these reports was that the grant of rewards was at first restricted to the taluqs of Gudur and Nellore, and shortly afterwards the amount was reduced to 1 Anna for the destruction of cobras only.

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8. The outlay in Bellary and Tanjore does not call for notice.

(A true Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a Statement and six original letters, with enclosures,
,, the Collector of Chingleput, with Statement; also copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 17th June
Copy to the Collector of Nellore, with do.
,, to the Collector of Bellary, with do.
,, to the Collector of Madras, with do.
,, to the Collector of North Arcot, with do.
,, to the Collector of Tanjore, with do.

Engd. W. H. French.

Rev: 1875: Aug.
No 3433.
No 1067

1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH AUGUST 1875, No. 2,261.

Despd 20 Augt 1875
Encls
Rs 1100
&

Received 3d Septr

AUGUST.

No. 2,261.

Destruction of Venomous Snakes—in certain districts during 1872-73 and 1873-74.—Reports of Collectors concerned on the manner in which very heavy expenditure had been incurred in — and on the system upon which the district officers acted, reviewed and submitted to Government. Collector of Chingleput to report on certain points connected with the subject.

No 1067. 14 September 1875

No 1067
Communicated to the Finance Department with Reference to the Letter
Department with Reference to the Letter
in that Department dy. 5th March 1875 No 93
14th September 1875

5 Folds Stamped Paper
14 Sheets Ordinary Do