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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1634 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 12-11-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

163

No. 170. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1875, No. 2,769 :—

Read the following letter from Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Disease, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 2nd September 1875, No. 82.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, Miscellaneous No. 7,182, ordering me to proceed to Wynaad to report on certain cattle disease said to exist on the coffee estates, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Board, that, on visiting the locality, I found that the disease had there entirely ceased. I have the honor to forward a copy of my letter to the Collector of Malabar, with its five enclosures, on the subject thereof and of disease amongst the native cattle in Wynaad.

Enclosures.

1. Letter, No. 80, to Collector of Malabar.
2. Its enclosure No. 1—letter No. 81, to Deputy Collector, Manantoddy.
3. Its enclosure No. 2—short account of rinderpest.
4. Its enclosure No. 3—short account of quinsey.
5. Its enclosure No. 4—short account of foot and mouth.
6. Its enclosure No. 5—rules for prevention of contagious disease in cattle.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Disease, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Madras, 31st August 1875, No. 80.

With reference to your letter No. 949 and Proceedings of Revenue Board, Miscellaneous No. 7,182, ordering me to proceed to Wynaad to ascertain the nature of the disease therein referred to, I have the honor to inform you that, having visited the locality in question, I found that the disease had entirely ceased, there being no sick animals remaining and no fresh cases having occurred for a fortnight.

2. From inquiries made on the various estates on which animals have recently died, I am of opinion that the three diseases known as (1) rinderpest or *doda roga*, (2) malignant sore-throat or *mundi roga*, and (3) foot and mouth disease or *koomari* have been the chief cause of the mortality. These diseases still prevail to a great extent among the cattle belonging to the natives of the different villages in Wynaad ; and as they are all exceedingly contagious, and no precautions of any kind are adopted to prevent their spread, sick and healthy being herded together frequently in the close vicinity of the public roads, or on grazing grounds used also by cattle belonging to the estates, it is fair to presume that it was by contact with village cattle that they were communicated to those of the planters.

3. In the particular instance of the Culpetta estate, on which so many buffaloes were lost, I regret that I am unable, from the description I have been able to obtain, to form a decided opinion as to the exact nature of the disease ; but if it were not a form of rinderpest, which seems to me most probable, it must have been simple distention of the *rumen* or paunch from overfeeding on coarse rank grasses in swamps. It is desirable that I should receive immediate intimation by telegraph in the event of a future outbreak of similar disease in order that I may be on the spot without delay. From what I have seen during my visit to Wynaad and from information there received, I imagine that but little care is bestowed on their store cattle by the planters, who keep them solely for the sake of the manure they give. The cattle themselves are of but little worth; and as their carcasses are worth about half their original cost as manure, and keeping in view the difficulty of obtaining labor and the wild untamable character of the animals, it appears to me that medical treatment would hardly prove satisfactory in a pecuniary point of view, the more so that, from the nature of these diseases, the number of recoveries could be but small, and the cost of the medicine necessary would be large in proportion to the original cost of the animals,

but there is no reason why they should not, in most instances, by a strict observance of precautionary measures, be kept entirely free from these diseases. At present the cattle are mostly kept crowded together in sheds wet and filthy to a degree, exposed to wind and cold, and usually in the close vicinity of accumulated and decomposing heaps of manure. The changes of climate are excessive in Wynaad. Severe drought is quickly followed by heavy rains and superabundance of rank forage on which the previously half-starved animals is permitted to gorge as it pleases. Indeed, the causes which would tend to render animals susceptible to the attack of any existing contagious disease seem to me to be there existing to an unusual extent. Contact with village cattle could easily, in most cases, be entirely prevented, and new purchases, by being kept in quarantine for two months, would no longer be capable; of introducing disease as they frequently appear to do at present I herewith forward a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Deputy Collector at Manantoddy on the subject of cattle disease amongst the native cattle in Wynaad ; also a short description of each of the three diseases therein referred to with medical treatment and precautionary measures advised ; also a copy of rules for the prevention of cattle disease in general, as published by the Bengal Government. I have also left with him a supply of Mr. Thacker's medicine, which has, in numerous instances proved of value in the treatment of rinderpest, diarrhœa, and dysentery, but which, for reasons already given, will, I fear, only be used in the case of more valuable cattle than those usually met with in Wynaad.

4. In conclusion, I would respectfully urge that it is essential to the public interest that natives of the district should be compelled to adopt precautions to prevent the spread of contagious diseases amongst their cattle, and in particular be prevented from permitting the sick to graze in the close vicinity of the public roads as they do at present.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 171. ORDER THEREON, 12th November 1875, No. 1,634.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE.

Dated November, 12th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 12th November 1875, No. 1,634.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 170-171.

Cattle disease on the Coffee Estates in Wynaad.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on letter from Inspector of Cattle Disease reporting disappearance of —

No. 2,769.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1875.

Read the following letter from Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Disease, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 2nd September 1875, No. 82 :—

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, Miscellaneous No. 7,182, ordering me to proceed to Wynaad to report on certain cattle disease said to exist on the coffee estates, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Board, that, on visting the locality, I found that the disease had there entirely ceased. I have the honor to forward a copy of my letter to the Collector of Malabar, with its five enclosures, on the subject thereof and of disease amongst the native cattle in Wynaad.

Enclosures.

1. Letter, No. 80, to Collector of Malabar.
2. Its enclosure No. 1—letter No. 81, to Deputy Collector, Manantoddy.
3. Its enclosure No. 2—short account of rinderpest.
4. Its enclosure No. 3—short account of quinsey.
5. Its enclosure No. 4—short account of foot and mouth.
6. Its enclosure No. 5—rules for prevention of contagious disease in cattle.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Disease, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Madras, 31st August 1875, No. 80.

With reference to your letter, No. 249, and Proceedings of Revenue Board, Miscellaneous No. 7,182, ordering me to proceed to Wynaad to ascertain the nature of the disease therein referred to, I have the honor to inform you that, having visited the locality in question, I found that the disease had entirely ceased, there being no sick animals remaining and no fresh cases having occurred for a fortnight.

2. From inquiries made on the various estates on which animals have recently died, I am of opinion that the three diseases known as (1) rinderpest or *doda roga*, (2) malignant sore-throat or *mundi roga*, and (3) foot and mouth disease or *koomari* have been the chief cause of the mortality. These diseases still prevail to a great extent among the cattle belonging to the natives of the different villages in Wynaad; and as they are all exceedingly contagious, and no precautions of any kind are adopted to prevent their spread, sick and healthy being herded together frequently in the close vicinity of the public roads, or on grazing grounds used also by cattle belonging to the estates, it is fair to presume that it was by contact with village cattle that they were communicated to those of the planters.

3. In the particular instance of the Culpetta estate, on which so many buffaloes were lost, I regret that I am unable, from the description I have been able to obtain, to form a decided opinion as to the exact nature of the disease; but if it were not a form of rinderpest, which seems to me most probable, it must have been simple distention of the *rumen* or paunch from overfeeding on coarse rank grasses in swamps. It is desirable that I should receive immediate intimation by telegraph in the event of a future outbreak of similar disease in order that I may be on the spot without delay. From what I have seen during my visit to Wynaad and from information there received, I imagine that but little care is bestowed on their store cattle by the planters, who keep them solely for the sake of the manure they give. The cattle themselves are of but little worth; and as their carcasses are worth about half their original cost as manure, and keeping in view the difficulty of obtaining labor and the wild unmanageable character of the animals, it appears to me that medical treatment would hardly prove satisfactory in a pecuniary point of view, the more so that, from the nature of these diseases, the number of recoveries could be but small, and the cost of the medicine necessary would be large in proportion to the original cost of the animals, but there is no reason why they should not, in most instances, by a strict observance of precautionary

measures, be kept entirely free from these diseases. At present the cattle are mostly kept crowded together in sheds wet and filthy to a degree, exposed to wind and cold, and usually in the close vicinity of accumulated and decomposing heaps of manure. The changes of climate are excessive in Wynaad. Severe drought is quickly followed by heavy rains and superabundance of rank forage on which the previously half-starved animals is permitted to gorge as it pleases. Indeed, the causes which would tend to render animals susceptible to the attack of any existing contagious disease seem to me to be there existing to an unusual extent. Contact with village cattle could easily, in most cases, be entirely prevented, and new purchases, by being kept in quarantine for two months, would no longer be capable; of introducing disease as they frequently appear to do at present I herewith forward a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Deputy Collector at Manantoddy on the subject of cattle disease amongst the native cattle in Wynaad, also a short description of each of the three diseases therein referred to with medical treatment and precautionary measures advised, also a copy of rules for the prevention of cattle disease in general as published by the Bengal Government. I have also left with him a supply of Mr. Thacker's medicine, which has, numerous in instances proved of value in the treatment of rinderpest, diarrhœa, and dysentery, but which, for reasons already given, will, I fear, only be used in the case of more valuable cattle than those usually met with in Wynaad.

4. In conclusion, I would respectfully urge that it is essential to the public interest that natives of the district should be compelled to adopt precautions to prevent the spread of contagious diseases amongst their cattle, and in particular be prevented from permitting the sick to graze in the close vicinity of the public roads as they do at present.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 6.—Enclosures to the foregoing.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with five enclosures to be returned.
Copy to the Inspector of Cattle Disease.
,, to the Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

14 Lbs Boarding Fee Rs 12 Noo

Received 20 October 1875

OCTOBER.
No. 2,769.

Cattle Disease—on the coffee estates in Wynaad, Malabar District.—Letter from Inspector of Cattle Disease reporting disappearance of —, and forwarding certain papers on this subject and on the disease amongst the native cattle, submitted to Government.

PROCEEDING, 4TH OCTOBER 1875, No. 2,769.

Copies to Collr

Encls 5
Recd

BOARD OF REVENUE
MADRAS.

No 4088
Dated 12 Oct 1875
Recd 20 Oct 1875

C. 12 Oct 1875 No 733-134
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C. 25 Oct 1875 No 1