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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

354

~~Press~~~~B.P. No.~~

Mis.

Dated

4. 3. 1875-196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

354

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th March 1875.*

No. 50. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1875, No. 320:—

Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 7th December 1874, No. 289:—

I HAVE the honor to forward copy of a letter, dated 21st October 1874, No. 715, received from the Deputy-Collector, Wynaad, on the subject of the Lantana weed. This is becoming as great a curse to Malabar, more especially to Wynaad, as prickly-pear is to Coimbatore. It is especially abundant in North Wynaad, and a great deal of it is in Government land.

2. I think that Government land covered with it should be given, free of rent, for twelve years, provided that during the first four years a quarter of the land is effectually cleared each year.

3. The plant, when left to itself, grows some 15 feet high, and gradually forms an impenetrable thicket, destroying all other vegetation. It increases from the root and seeds, freely. The seeds are eaten by birds, and germinate readily on any soil, so that the plant spreads rapidly.

4. The only effectual way to grapple with the scourge would be by a law similar to that in Scotland prohibiting the injury of a neighbourly thistle growing; and, no doubt, this would be to the advantage of all. I do not, however, think the feeling on the subject is such as to warrant the propriety of such a law.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy-Collector of Wynaad, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Manantoddy, 21st October 1874, No. 715.

You will have observed yourself how the Lantana plant is spreading in and about Manantoddy and other parts of Wynaad. No better shelter than this bush gives can be possible for cheetahs and other wild animals, and so secure are they, that, frequently by day, they spring out and kill cattle grazing on grass-land adjacent, returning and hiding in the Lantana, where pursuit after them is impossible.

2. The destruction of cattle in this and other parts of Wynaad, where this plant covers any extent of land, is becoming quite alarming; and, adjacent as their lairs are, in a large populous village like this, should they once attack, either in defence or other cause, human beings, the result might be of their becoming man-eaters.

3. The Lantana is also making the grass grazing-lands fast disappear.

4. I would submit that the evil if now grappled with, and the plant destroyed, it can be done without much difficulty; but, spreading as it is most rapidly every year, if no steps are now taken the expense and the difficulties will be much greater.

5. Most of the lands here belong to private owners, and the difficulty would be to compel them to clear their lands.

6. It cannot but be admitted that the growth of the plant on their lands is the means from whence the plant spreads; and the shelter it affords to wild animals causes great destruction in property, of cattle, and may of human life.

7. Some of the forest land, there is not much, is thus covered, and I have been frequently asked by Planters and others to bring the matter to your notice, whether some steps could not be taken by Government to enforce the clearing of the plant. Various ways have been suggested;—by subscription, Government giving as much again; by a small extra cess on the tax paid; if

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th March 1875.*

insufficient, Government supplementing the amount by a further sum; by a tax on every Jenny or proprietor's holding—; but all agree that it is a growing evil, that should be contended with as soon as possible. I have the honor to submit the subject for your consideration.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Lantana is the curse of Ceylon, and estates are so overrun by it that the Planters would give any sum to be freed from it. If it is spreading in the Wynaad, as is now reported, it is a serious matter.

3. The grant of cowles would only affect a percentage of the area infested by this plant, and it is not at all certain that such grants would have the desired result even on the area granted; at all events, cowles would not check the general spread of the plant.

4. The Board think the Collector might be authorized to attempt to root up the plant in scattered localities, and so keep it back within limits which might be specially dealt with later. If the Collector spends some 500 Rupees on the project, he will be able to form an idea as to whether final destruction is feasible, and the Board resolve to recommend Government to place that amount at his disposal.

Acting Secretary.

No 51.

ORDER THEREON, 4th March 1875, No. 354.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are not at present
disposed to move at all in the matter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. W. H. French.

Lantana Weed in Wynaad.—Intimating the Government are not at present disposed to move in the matter of the destruction of the



MARCH.
Nos. 50-51.

G. O., 4th March 1875, No. 354.

Dated March 4th.
Recd.

Encl.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

REVENUE.

Oct. of 1875

No. 320.

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

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4. The only effectual way to grapple with the scourge would be by a law similar to that in Scotland prohibiting the injury of a neighbourly thistle growing; and, no doubt, this would be to the advantage of all. I do not, however, think the feeling on the subject is strong enough to induce a large majority to acquiesce in the propriety of such a law.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy-Collector of Wynaad, to A. MacGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Manantoddy, 21st October 1874, No. 715.

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2. The destruction of cattle in this and other parts of Wynaad, where this plant covers any extent of land, is becoming quite alarming; and, adjacent as their lairs are, in a large populous village like this, should they once attack, either in defence or other cause, human beings, the result might be of their becoming man-eaters.

3. The Lantana is also making the grass grazing-lands fast disappear.

4. I would submit that the evil if now grappled with, and the plant destroyed, it can be done without much difficulty; but, spreading as it is most rapidly every year, if no steps are now taken, the expense and the difficulties will be much greater.

5. Most of the lands here belong to private owners, and the difficulty would be to compel them to clear their lands.

6. It cannot but be admitted that the growth of the plant on their lands is the means from whence the plant spreads; and the shelter it affords to wild animals causes great destruction in property, of cattle, and may of human life.

7. Some of the forest land, there is not much, is thus covered, and I have been frequently asked by Planters and others to bring the matter to your notice, whether some steps could not be

taken by Government to enforce the clearing of the plant. Various ways have been suggested;—
by subscription, Government giving as much again; by a small extra cess on the tax paid; if
insufficient, Government supplementing the amount by a further sum; by a tax on every Jenmy
or proprietor's holding—; but all agree that it is a growing evil, that should be contended with as
soon as possible. I have the honor to submit the subject for your consideration.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

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the Planters would give any sum to be freed from it. If it is spreading in the
Wynaad, as is now reported, it is a serious matter.

3. The grant of cowles would only affect a percentage of the area infested
by this plant, and it is not at all certain that such grants would have the desired
result even on the area granted; at all events, cowles would not check the general
spread of the plant.

4. The Board think the Collector might be authorized to attempt to root up
the plant in scattered localities, and so keep it back within limits which might be
specially dealt with later. If the Collector spends some 500 Rupees on the project,
he will be able to form an idea as to whether final destruction is feasible, and the
Board resolve to recommend Government to place that amount at his disposal.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H. French

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Exd. W. H. French.

*For the Collector of Malabar
14th March 1875*

*The Government are not of opinion
disposed to make any
the matter for
No 354*

*Lantana Weed—in Wynaad Taluk of Malabar
District—Letter from Collector on the subject
of—, submitted for orders of Government with
remarks. Opinion expressed that Collector
might be authorized to attempt to root up the
plant in scattered localities, and so keep it back
within limits; and Government recommended to
place Rupees 500 at his disposal for the purpose.*

FEBRUARY.
No. 320.

Received
No 354. 4th March 1875

For the Collector of Malabar
Encl.

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH FEBRUARY 1875, No. 320.

Despatch 1875. No. 320.
BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

No 564

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 564.

From B² of Rev.

Dated 12th February 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

*I am not in favor of this
proposal at present. By
tentative of cultivation in the
and efficient & permanent
means of eradication
20/2*

*I think it would be
well to plant this small
sum in order that experi-
ments may be made as to*

the best: and most
permanent way of getting
rid of the pest

Ed

2072

I am not disposed to give
over 500 Rs without seeing
an way of something effectual.

It is stated that the weed is

in good (for the worst part) on land
belonging to private owners - who

250/5
cannot expect for to remove
it for them -

21/2