

(1) Number of pages 12
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	399	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29. 1. 1877	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th January 1877.*

No. 875. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th January 1877, No. 283 :—

Read the following letter from J. F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have been considering the subject of keeping the cattle alive until the present distress is over, and have come to the conclusion that the ryots are too wedded to their own peculiar notions to attempt to effect this object by the only available means that I can see—the use of the prickly-pear.

2. The wells and river channels of this district will furnish fodder enough to save a certain percentage of animals, but there will not be nearly enough for all; there is no source from which forage can be drawn, and the coming hot weather will put an end to the small quantity of indifferent grass now procurable from the hills.

3. I see nothing for it but to propose that I should be authorized to make feeding cattle upon prickly-pear a famine work. I believe that I could induce the people when they know that they will have nothing to pay to hand their cattle over to us to be fed. We could easily make depôts, the necessary implements would not cost much, and coolies could be, without difficulty, tasked in preparing the pear. This would give an opportunity of employing many persons too old or infirm to do the rough work of digging, breaking stones, &c.

4. I must say that I have long been a disbeliever in the merits of prickly-pear as an article of food for cattle, but from what I saw during the latter part of my stay at Bellary, I have changed my opinion. Many animals which would otherwise have died have been saved there, and though some require at first feeding with the leaf mixed with bran, as far as I could see ended by eating it with avidity.

5. Notices in District Gazettes, &c., are not of the slightest use, and are mere waste paper. If the attempt is made at all it must be one taken in hand by Government. I dare say that after a time it will, as it has been about Bellary, be adopted by the ryots, especially if the needful apparatus, which costs about a couple of annas, is supplied gratis. In that case Government can then discontinue the work. Feeding the cattle will, as a famine work, be of more advantage to the people and the State at large than will the construction of a quantity of new roads which Local Funds can never in future years maintain.

THE Collector is authorized to try the experiment on a small scale, say to the extent of an outlay of Rupees 500, to be charged to Relief Funds; and will report results after a month's trial.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 876. ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1877, No. 399.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are disposed to give the experiment a more extended trial and authorize the Board to instruct all Collectors of districts where fodder for cattle is not procurable to try the effect

of feeding them on prickly-pear from famine funds within the limit proposed by the Board and subject to report at the end of a month. They have reason to believe that where fuel is easily procurable the best method of destroying the prickles of the plant is by roasting it, cattle then eat it readily.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Financial Department.

14-8-16

Brigle

Gobt. of 1877 Madras.
REVENUE.

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 20th.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 29th January 1877, No. 399.

JANUARY.
Nos. 875-876.

Feeding Cattle upon Prickly-pears.—Authorizing the Board of Revenue to instruct all Collectors of districts where fodder is not procurable to the effect of— from famine funds subject report at the end of a month.

Handy Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 24th January 77
Mr. 28315

Read the following

No 27

From

J. R. Price Esquire
M. J. Meston of Cuddalore

To

H. S. Stokes Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir

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you that I have been considering
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Cuddalore District Office

18th January 77

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1st, J. F. Price Esq
By Collector.

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True copy & Extract,

Ld, A. E. Stokes

Ag Secretary

To

The Collector of Cuddalore

True copy,

Johnston

Ag Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

File

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Proceedings of the

Donald Heuer

Dated 24 January 77

Dec 25

the King's Coll of Cambridge

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think the experiment

Heating cattle

to which I have

with H. Stearns
of Portland

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And copy to the Oregon Pioneer Co Jan
the General Off