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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th July 1878, No. 1,115

Read the following paper:—

No. 227. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1878, No. 1,872.

Read the following letter from J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kalvoi, 27th June 1878, No. 456:—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Board, a copy of the Tinnevelly Tahsildar's account of some experiences amongst the locusts.

2. His is the first account I have received of the locusts being actually detected in the act of laying eggs, and I would suggest that the packet of eggs (which I have not opened) together with the specimens in the bottle* should be sent to Dr. Bidie.

* Railway receipt is enclosed.

3. From information received from other quarters, it seems clear that the full grown winged locusts are being driven to the east and north-east by the strong west wind now prevailing; but if they have generally succeeded in laying their eggs as described by the Tahsildar, it is to be feared that fresh swarms will soon take the place of those that are gone.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from the Journal Book of the Tahsildar of Tinnevelly.

LOCUSTS.

MADAVAKURICHI—17*th June* 1878, *Monday.*—"This morning I went out to see the square pond intended for cattle by the Local Fund Board; the trees round it are cared for, and the waterman is worthy of his hire; the thorn bushes inside the tank need be cut off.

"To the west of it in a grassy plain I noticed insects hopping about; I went near them; I found them to be of two species; they are unable to fly. One kind looks green, looks as parrots, has four legs besides a stretcher (capable of being folded) on each side, has long nose with two horns (paddle-like) disproportionately long, hops about, has wings; the other kind (grasshopper perhaps) is of flat nose unlike the former, has variegated colors, is spotted in the wing, cannot fly for more than a couple of yards, hops about. These are numerous; smaller ones of this kind are to be seen. I guess the first kind 2 per cent. of the latter. The ryots say that the locusts came flying from the west a week back and flew away eastwards. In the Chola fields, 100 yards to the east, I noticed little insects of the kind. The crops of this field is a yard high, and so grown up that the ryot would not seem to have much concern about this. The villagers are entirely ignorant of locusts, and seem indifferent in their extirpation. These young insects are seen only to the west of this village. The Kar cultivation has not begun. The man now standing by me says that locusts came here from Pavur in the Tenkasi Taluq.* Another tells me that locusts are to be seen plenty at Therkupatti. I read out to the ryots the Collector's last supplement to District Gazette about locusts.

* *I. e.*, from the west.

(Initialled) J. P.

18*th June* 1878, *Tuesday.*—"This morning I am here at Therkupatti; no flying locusts are to be seen; the ryots say that the locusts came in swarms flying about and alighted a week back on the bund of the Manur tank and then flew away to the east after tarrying a couple of days. They say the locusts came from the west; some little ones are however seen hopping about; I have caught four of them; one would seem to be a female; so I have put them in an Uthal (ஊத்தை) and left the same in the Curnam's house for report at the expiry of a week. I see these insects hop about in grass; could not fly for more than a couple of yards; there is not much of Kar cultivation in the Therkupatti village, and so the presence of the little leaf-destroying insects is not much felt. These insects would also cut the leaves of crops; for I have tried them. I see no locusts on the bund of the Manur tank; only their excrements are to be seen plenty.

ALAGIAPANDIAPURAM—*19th June* 1878.—"The locusts came here and flew away.

SELIANALLUR—*20th June* 1878.—"It was 7½ A.M. when I alighted in this village. On inquiry about locusts the villagers tell me that a swarm of locusts came in a week ago from the south-west; that they flew away easterly and that they left behind them little ones which may be found in the fields and meadows.

"I went over at once to the fields lying south and south-west of the village and found there young locusts hopping about in each field, say five or ten in each field. There were three species of insects; one was of the parrot type and color, locust of course; and the two others snuff colored with thick nose; these are perhaps grasshoppers. [illegible] specimen of the three having been [illegible] five minutes in two or three places; [illegible]ist shooting out; some of them are eaten, I mean the leaves; these insects are unable to fly, but can hop about; smoke was of no avail; at the instance of the ryots I tried to drag behind Kavolai (dried leaf of palmyra with stem); by the rustling noise the locusts were driven out 100 yards distance. The crops are but one inch high, and dry crops are they. This would seem, so the ryots say, the best way of expelling the young locusts in fields where the crops are *dry* and 1 or 1½ high. On my way to the village at about 9 A.M. I happened to see two locusts of the second species (with thick nose or face) near each other lie motionless; I stopped there, and shifted one; it would not move; she was then laying eggs with the hind part thrust in loose earth; it was a grassy plain within two yards of the surplus channel. I watched the female insect five minutes; sat down close by; the locust drew forth her body from under ground; with her hind legs she filled the hole with earth and tamped it for two minutes and then retreated. This has also four legs with stretchers as in the case of locusts. I then laid my hands on the happy pair and made captives of them. I am feeding them as one would seem to be a female. I then exhumed the eggs which stick with earth; a view with microscope will show the eggs which I have put in an envelope. I have conserved in liquor three specimens of what I call locusts, and I must send them to Collector with the clod of earth containing eggs. The first kind of locust is of the parrot kind or peacock-like; the second is thick faced unlike the parrot kind; the third is short, of the same genus, but is an indigenous one; I mean not a new comer."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. V. CHINNATAMBI,

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Packet of Eggs and specimens of Locusts.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The district authorities should be on the alert to destroy the young locusts as soon as they appear. The specimens will be sent to the Museum.

(A true Copy and Extract.),

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

No. 228. ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1878, No. 1,115.

Miscellaneous. Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

JULY.

Nos. 227-228.

Rec'd. 2nd July 1878.

Read.

G.O., 20th July 1878, No. 1115.

Index.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue submitting certain information regarding the Tinnevelly District.

Rec'd Dept.

No. 1878

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue. Dated 6th July 1878.

Read the following:—

No. 456.

From J. B. Pennycuick Esqr.
Collector of Tinnevelly

To C. A. Gratten Esqr.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the information of the Board a copy of the Tinnevelly Revenue account of some experiments connected with locusts.

This is the first account I have received of the locusts having actually deposited the eggs, and I would suggest that the pans of eggs (which I have not opened) together with the specimens in the bottle should be sent to Dr. Bidie.

Money receipt is enclosed.

3. From information received from other quarters it seems clear that the full grown winged locusts are being driven to the East and North East by the strong west wind now prevailing; but if they succeeded in laying their eggs as described by the Tahsildar it is to be feared that fresh swarms will soon take the place of those that are gone.

I have &c.

Tinnevelly Collectors Circuit Camp Cutcherry Kalroi 27th June 1878.

J. B. Pennycuick
Collector.

Enclosure

Enclosure.

In No. 456.

Extract from the Journal book of the Sahaildar of Tinnevelly.

Locusts.

16th June 1878. Thursday. Madavaperichi.

This morning I went out to see the new pond intended for cattle by the Local Fund and; the trees round it are. Cared for, and the fence is strong & well done - the thorn bushes inside the tank need be cut off.

To the west of it, in a grassy plain I saw red insects hopping about. I went near them; I found them to be of two species; they are unlike fly. One kind looks green; looks as parrots; has head beside a Shield (Capable of being folded) on each side; has long nose, with two horns (pride-like) disproportionately long; hopes about; has wings; the other kind (Grass hoppers perhaps) is of flat nose unlike the former; Can't fly for more than a Couple of yds & hops about. These are numerous; Smaller ones of this kind are to be seen. I guess the first kind 2 per cent of the latter. The ryots say that the Locusts Came flying from the west a week back, and flew away Eastwards. In the Chola fields 100 Yards to the west I noticed little insects of the kind. The Crops of this field is a yard high, and so from it that the ryot would not seem to have much crop from this. He was right in saying of swarms of locusts and seem indifferent in their Satisfaction. These Young insects are seen only to the west of this village. The Rain cultivation has not begun. The man now standing by me says that locusts Came here from Pavur in the Tenkasi Taluq; and they tell me that locusts are to be seen plenty at Shenkottai. A send out to the ryots the Collectors last Supplement to District Gazette when 18th June 1878. — Tuesday.

This morning I saw here at the tope flying locusts are to be seen; the ryots say that locusts came in swarms flying about and alighted with back on the bund of the Manur Tank and flew away to the East. After having eat a Couple [illegible] were here Can't say of them; one was female. so I have put them in an Official (2 and left the same in the Carnatic house for report at the Sapping of a week. I see them hop about in grass; Could not fly for more a Couple of yards; there is not much of Cultivation in the Thenkasi Village and so. presence of the little leaf-destroying insects is much felt. These insects would also eat the lean [illegible]. I see no locusts; for I have tried them; I see no locusts [illegible]

19th June 1878. Alaudipandiaperam.

The locusts Came here and flew

20th June 1878. Sekiamallur.

I was 7½ A.M. when I also in this village. On enquiring about locusts, villagers tell me that a swarm of locusts came a week ago from the South-west; that they were Coastal and that they left behind [illegible] meadows. I went over all over the fields to South and South-west of the village and found there Young locusts hopping about in each field to 5 or 10 in each field. There were 3 species of insects; one was of the parrot type & Colour locust of course; and the two others sniff colour. with thick nose; there are perhaps races by

A

Specimen of the 3 having been secured, I tried
dispel the locusts by turn. time: tried it for 5 minute
2 or 3 times; the locusts did not shift; in the
fields I saw rafty plants just shooting out: some
of them are eaten. I guess the leaves these
ects are unable to fly, but can take short
ts. He was of no avail. At the instance of the
ves I tried to drive behind Kavalai (Coast leaf
palmira with stem); by the rustling noise the
ts were driven out 100 yards distance. The insect
no use to us. I do by other devices
This would seem — to the eyes say — the best way
expelling the Grey locusts in fields when the
Crops are dry and are 1 or 1½ high. On my way
the village at about 9 A.M. I happened to see
locusts of the 2d species (with thick nose or face)
clear each other lie motionless. I stopped there and
shifted one; it would not move; she was then
laying eggs, with the hind part thrust in loose earth.
was a grassy plain within 2 yards of the footpath
tunnel. I watched the female insect 5 minutes, but
does in the ground; with her hind legs she formed the hole
with earth and tramped it for 2 minutes and then
retreated. This has also been with Specimen 2 in
the Case of locusts. I then laid my hands on the
copulating pair and made captives of them. I am
heeding them as one would seem to be a female. I
then exhumed the eggs which stick to earth. A view
with microscope will show the eggs which I have put
an envelope. I have conserved in liquor 3 Speci-
mens of what I call locusts; and I must send them
Collector, with the clod of earth containing eggs.
first kind of locust is the barest kind or
peacock-like. the second is thick jawed unlike the
parrot kind; the third is short, of the same
power, but is in its genus one, I mean not
a new comer.

I have &c,
S. G. Chinnatamby
Tahsr.

I have &c,
S. A. B. Pennington
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Govt.

2. The District Authorities should be on the
alert to destroy the Grey locusts as soon as
appear. The Specimens will be sent to the
Museum.

I have &c, and Secretary

Acting Secretary.

To The Secretary to Government
Rev. Dept.

Panama 1878 Dept.

No 2923.

Pd. of the Bs. of Rev.

Dated 6th July 78.

Disp. 8th July 78.

Sub mitting for the information of Govt. Timewell Colfax's forwarding Isabella's account of some experimental gardening at Socuata.

No 1115

Received.

20 July 78

C.D. 7-78

No 2 to No 227.