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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1226	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3.8.1878	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1226
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

3rd August 1878, No. 1,226.

Read the following paper:—

No. 35. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1878, No. 2,015.
Read the following letter from C. W. W. MARTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector,
to H. J. STOKES, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul,
29th June 1878, No. 336:—

In acknowledging receipt of Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 1,060, dated 17th April 1878, and No. 1,497, dated the 5th instant, with your foot-note, I have the honor to suggest that a notice may be published in the District Gazette offering a reward of 2 Rupees to any person giving information of the existence of bodies of locusts so young as to be capable of destruction.

2. I had been about applying to you upon the subject of incurring expenditure for destroying locusts when the Board's orders arrived on the 18th instant.

3. I came across a very large swarm of young locusts on the railway near Ammianaiknūr on the 4th June. I was not able to stay there myself because I had to meet the ryots for distribution of puttas, but I sent word to Nelacottah Deputy Tahsildar to collect the neighbouring ryots and destroy as many of the swarm as possible. Three days afterwards I went down by night to Ammianaiknūr and found that the Deputy Tahsildar had not been able to do very little, because all the country there is Zemindari, and his influence was not sufficient to make the people work without pay. I got together, by the help of the Tahsildar, whom I had also sent to the place, between forty and fifty people by promising them pay for their trouble. We then attacked the locusts with small tamarind branches from the neighbouring trees, and after about two hours' hard work we killed a large part of the swarm. I learnt from these the following lessons:—

- (1) To destroy them effectually you must attack them very young and before the swarm has time to split up. The swarm that I first directed the Deputy Tahsildar's attention to had split into many detachments before I got back to the place, the locusts had also increased considerably in size and strength. Had I got at them ten days before, I feel confident that I could have accounted for the whole swarm.
- (2) It is useless to expect the people to do much towards destroying locusts until the evil becomes much more serious than it is as yet in any part of this division. They assert that the spirits of their deceased ancestors and neighbours are in the locusts, and that they will only suffer if they destroy them. They say that one man who refused to kill the locusts reaped fifty kalums more grain than he ever did before while another who killed them freely got fifty kalums less. They have also got the idea that the first heavy rain that comes will sweep the locusts off the face of the earth, and that they will only waste their labor in destroying them now. I do not therefore hope for organized resistance from ryots, and I think that if undertaken at all it must be undertaken by Government. Twenty men armed with efficient weapons ought to destroy an enormous swarm of young locusts in a couple of hours, and each man would be amply rewarded by 8 Pies for that amount of labor, making the total expenditure less than 14 Annas. The principal expenditure ought to be in rewards for news of swarms breaking out of the egg. Village toties will come long distances to earn a couple of rupees.

James ... and ... Nelacottah
Deputy

(3) Young locusts do not seem to do much damage to white cholam. This crop has suffered somewhat in parts, but though I have just completed the Jamabundy of both taluqs and seen a very large numbers of ryots, there were no complaints of utter destruction of crops. Damage was spoken of to a considerable extent by individuals, but more through grasshoppers than locusts. I also remarked that the locusts seemed to prefer sticking to the railway line and the luxuriant grass about it to going into the neighbouring fields. As the railway runs along the base of the Sirumalai Hills, it has very likely kept the locusts in some instances from doing damage.

4. The locusts seem to be bred either in the hills or at their base. I hear nothing of them in those villages far removed from any of the hills. They are reported as coming down either from the Sirumalais or Palanies, and their flight appears to be in a line perpendicular to the hills at the point where they descend.

I have the honor to request that you will sanction the following expenditure incurred by me on the 8th instant:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Paid to coolies for killing the locusts	3	0	0
Bandy-hire from Dindigul to Ammianaiknūr and back for carrying lamps	2	10	0
Total	5	10	0

No. 243.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for information.

PERIACOLAM,
9th July 1878.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,

Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information and orders of Government.

2. The suggestion that a reward of Rupees 2 should be offered by District Gazette for the first information of the appearance of wingless young locusts has the Board's approval, and may with advantage be followed in all districts. It should be borne in mind that the younger the locusts are when attacked the greater the chance of their destruction. The trench system is preferable to that of beating to death with branches.

3. Mr. Martin's zeal is commendable.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,

Acting Secretary.

No. 36.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1878, No. 1,226.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government sanction generally the reward recommended by the Board of Revenue as a contingent charge.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

1226
2

REVENUE (FAMINE) DEPARTMENT.

No. 3197.

1226
3

From Board of Revenue

Dated 19th July 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

*No sanction
generally
24/7 Mr.
certainly can
be the result thereof
A.B.*

Obdt. of (1878) 30 adits.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Ac, Ac,

Dated August 3^d.

Printed 7th

Reol.

Reol.

G.O., 3rd August 1878, No. 1296.

AUGUST.

Nos. 35-36.

Locals.—Sanctioning generally the revenue
recommended by the Board of Revenue for im-
formation given at the expense of—as
contingent charges.

No 3197

FOR ORDERS.

C 23-7-78
R 31-7-78

Locals. - Sanctioning generally the reward
promulgated by the Board of Revenue for the
information given of the appearance of - as
subsequent change.

No. 2015.

Revenue Department.

12/2/78

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 19th July 1878.

Read the following.

No. 336.

From

C. W. W. Martin Esquire
Ag. Collector, Madras.

To

A. J. Stokes Esquire
Acting Collector, Madras.

Sir

In acknowledging receipt of Revenue Board's
Proceedings No. 1060 dated 17th April 1878 and
No. 1497 dated the 5th Instant with your post-note,
I have the honor to suggest that a notice may be pub-
lished in the District Gazette offering a reward
of 2 Rupees to any person giving information of the
existence of bodies of locusts as young as to the extent
of destruction.

I had been about applying to you for the subject of increasing expenditure
for destroying locusts when the Board's orders arrived on the 18th
Instant.

3

I came across a very large swarm of
young locusts on the Railway near Annamalai
on the 4th June. I was not able to stay there
myself because I had to meet the agents for distri-
bution of puttees but I sent word to Kelacottah
Deputy

Deputy Tahsildar to collect the neighbouring ryots and destroy as many of the swarm as possible. 3 days afterwards I went down by night to Annianaikums and found that the Dy. Tahsildar had been able to do very little because all the country there is Zemindary and his influence was not sufficient to make the people work without pay. I got together by the help of the Tahsildar, whom I had also sent to the place between 40 + 50 people by promising them pay for their trouble. We then attacked the locusts with small tamarind branches from the neighbouring trees and after about two hours hard work we killed a large part of the swarm. I learnt from them the following lessons:-

(1) To destroy them effectually you must attack them very young and before the swarm has time to split up. The swarm that I first directed the Dy. Tahsildar's attention to had split into many detachments before I got back to the place; the locusts had also increased considerably in size and strength. Had I got at them 10 days before I feel confident that I could have accounted for the

the whole swarm.

1228/6
(2) It is useless to expect the people to do much towards destroying locusts until the evil becomes much more serious than it is as yet in any part of this Division. They assert that the spirit of their deceased ancestors and neighbours are in the locusts and that they will only suffer if they destroy them. They say that ^{one} man who refused to kill the locusts reaped fifty columns more grain than he ever did before while another who killed them freely got fifty Kalums less. They have also got the idea that the first heavy rain that comes will sweep the locusts off the face of the earth and that they will only waste their labor in destroying them now. I do not therefore have hope for organized resistance from ryots and I think that if undertaken at all it must be undertaken by Government. Twenty men armed with efficient weapons ought to destroy an enormous ~~swarm~~ swarm of young locusts in a couple of hours and each man would be amply rewarded by 8 pias for that amount of labor making the total expenditure less than 14 annas. The

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4. The locusts seem to be bred either in the hills or at their base. I hear nothing of them in those villages far removed from any of the Hills

Hills. They are reported as coming down either from the Srimalai or Palanias and their flight appears to be in a line perpendicular to the hills at the point where they descend. 1226/7

I have the honor to request that you will sanction the following expenditure ^{incurred} by me on the 8th Instant.

Paid to Coolies for Killing the locusts	Rs 3-0-0
Bandy hire from Dinidigul to Annianacikun & back for carrying lamps	2-10-0
Total	5-10-0

Madura Subbathis Office } I have per
Dinidigul 29th June 1878 } (S^d) C. W. W. Martin
No. 243. (True Copy) }
Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for information. }
Camp Periacolam } (S^d) H. J. Stokes
9th July 1878 } }
Ag. Collector.

Submitted for the information and orders of Government.

2. The suggestion that a reward of Rs 2 should be offered by District Gazette for the first information of the appearance of wingless young locusts has the Board's approval and may with advantage be followed in all Districts. It should be borne in mind that the younger the

the locusts are when attacked the greater the
chance of their destruction. The trench system
is preferable to that of heating to death with bran-
ches.

3.

Mr. Martin's zeal is commendable.

(True Copy and Extract)

W. Martin
Sg. Secretary

To
The Secretary & Government R.O.

1226
-8-

Received
 from the
 Board of Revenue
 dated 19 July 1878
 Rs 12

22

81

Rs 12

On 12th July 1878

For order
 of the

Submitting with a
 statement of the
 Board of Revenue
 of the 19th July 1878
 first information of the
 of the Board of Revenue

The Government
 of the Board of Revenue
 as a continuing charge
 as a continuing charge

Rs 12

11-12-1878
 11-12-1878
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