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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	Press.
B.P. No. 1383	Mis.
Dated 30.8.1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

1383
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

30th August 1878, No. 1,383.

Read the following paper :—

No. 350. Endorsement of the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated Ootacamund, 12th August 1878.

Read the following letter from W. DIGBY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Madras General (Famine) Committee, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, dated Madras, 7th August 1878.

I AM directed by the Executive Committee to forward, for the information of His Grace the Governor, the enclosed letters from the Rev. G. O. Newport, of Salem, regarding the destruction of locusts. The Executive Committee is of opinion that grants for the destruction of locusts do not come within the scope of this Committee's operations, and that the letters should be referred to Government. They are therefore forwarded.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Rev. G. O. NEWPORT, Salem, to the Secretary, Famine Relief Committee, Madras, dated Salem, 1st August 1878.

I WISH to make a special application for Rs. 500 for the purpose of encouraging and assisting the destruction of locusts in this district. I do not apply to the Local Committee here for funds for this purpose, because I am only too well aware that they have no money to spare for me.

I have been engaged for about a month in paying one anna for every Madras measure of locusts brought to me. At first, the insects brought were almost entirely grasshoppers of various kinds. Locusts, pure and simple, were rarely brought. The quantity brought each day was very small, varying from ten to fifty measures. This increased to one hundred and even to three hundred per day.

Within the last three days, however, I have had over three thousand measures of *bona fide* locusts brought to me. These insects are part of the swarm that passed over Salem on the 30th ultimo, but they are brought to me from distances ranging from one to twenty miles from Salem. The poor people assure me that this is now their only means of livelihood, and I know that in many cases this is strictly true. Hundreds of persons come daily, some with but *one* measure some with *ten* or more measures. The work necessitates the employment of a special person to superintend the measuring and burying of the insects, and the paying of the people. The work occupies not less than six hours daily.

When I began this, I did so as an experiment, not fully believing that the thing would work at all. I calculated that fifty rupees would amply cover all expenses. Up to date, however, I have spent over Rs. 320 in this way, and fresh supplies of insects are coming in as I write. I can no longer bear the expense out of my own pocket. Yet as the work is of undoubted service to the country and also useful as a means of livelihood to the poor people, I am unwilling to give it up. Indeed, I *cannot* give it up; it would be wrong to do so.

I do not ask for any part of what I have already expended, but for a grant of Rs. 500 to continue this work from this day (August 1st). At the present rate of expenditure, even this sum will not last a week. I have reduced the price slightly from to-day, giving about eight pies per measure hereafter. Please place my application before your Committee at its next meeting.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Rev. G. O. NEWPORT, Salem, to the Secretary, Famine Relief Committee, Madras, dated Salem, 5th August 1878.

MY experiment of catching and destroying the locusts is succeeding to such an extent that I am bankrupt. I have used up all my money, and must now put an end to my operations if funds are not at once forth coming. To-day will be the last day for receiving locusts, except money reaches me by to-morrow's post. I have spent for locusts alone Rs. 474, and I have to employ a writer to see the measuring and the burying, and to take and pay the account. I have also to employ coolies to dig the burial pits. I have altogether spent about Rs. 500, and I have absolutely no more to spend. I cannot pay the people, if they bring in the insects. And if I have to bear the above burden of Rs. 500 alone, I shall be in debt for a long while to come.

On Saturday a veritable army of locust-catchers came with their spoils. 1878 Madras measures of *bona fide* locusts were brought in. The work of measuring began at 2 P.M. on Saturday, and the payment of the last woman took place about 3 A.M. on Sunday. The writer and my servants were busily engaged the whole time.

But I am running on about this, rather than about another subject which, I think, is worth notice. I would bring it to the notice of the Government if I knew the proper routine for doing so. We were all astonished at the enormous quantities of locusts brought in in one day; and this led to inquiries as to how it was managed. The explanation is (in my humble opinion) so valuable that, as I said above, I would forward it direct to Government if I knew the proper mode of doing so. I think all the locust-stricken districts should be made acquainted with it. It seems that in the early morning, before the sun's rays have warmed and dried the earth, while the dew still lies on the ground, and the air is damp, *at this time of day the locusts are unable to fly*. They are either numbed by the cold, or their wings are heavy with dew, or they are affected in some other way by the night air; so that the people go out and catch them wholesale. They throw nets and cloths over them, and catch them easily. The locusts, some of them at least, attempt to fly but cannot rise out of the reach of the people, and are thus an easy prey.

I give the explanation as it was given to me, but as it was given by the successful catchers and was told artlessly to one whom they consider their benefactor, I think there must be truth in it. The locusts are evidently caught alive for they are nearly all alive when they reach here in the evening, though they are so crushed by their close packing in the bags and baskets that they are merely masses of writhing heads and legs when measured. An unusually vigorous one will, however, fly away, even then occasionally.

It appears, then, that if proper advantage be taken of this early morning incapability of the locusts, their destruction may be easily accomplished.

If you think this fact of sufficient importance to communicate to the Madras Government for general information, I hope you will communicate it.

I hope you will be able to make me a grant of at least Rs. 500 *at once* for this purpose.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

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

No. 351. ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1878, No. 1,383.

Miscellaneous.

THIS paper relates to an experiment made by the Rev. G. O. Newport of Salem for the destruction of locusts.

2. The fact stated in Mr. Newport's letter of the 5th August, viz., that locusts are unable to fly in the early morning is very valuable, and the Government desire that the Board of Revenue will cause it to be communicated to all Collectors for wide dissemination and for inquiry whether experience elsewhere confirms the statement that has been made to Mr. Newport. If the locusts are at times in this helpless condition, they are then at the mercy of the cultivators, and the people ought to destroy them wholesale on their own account, and should not expect any reward for so doing.

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3. Mr. Newport asks for a grant of Rs. 500 in connection with his experiment, but the Government do not think that they can rightly engage in this operation. They, however, willingly authorise the Collector of Salem to reimburse Mr. Newport the expenditure he has incurred from his private funds. The Collector will also convey to that gentleman the thanks of Government for the trouble he has taken in the matter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.
,, the Collector of Salem.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. E. R. Bantleman.

Cott. of 11878] 30th

REVENUE.

To

THE REVENUE (FAMINE) DEPARTMENT

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 30th.

Printed September 9th.

Read.

G.O. 3001 August 1878, No. 1.8

JUDGMENT.

Nos. 350-351.

Locusts.—Directing the Board of Re
communicate to all Collectors for wide di
tion the Rev. Mr. Newport's letter re
the destruction of —, and for Inquiry
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trouble in the matter.

Vide C. No. 5042 of 78

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3522. 1383

From Addl Secy: to Govt. Rev: Famine Dept.

Dated 12th August 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

Govt Remarks Nil
Pr. Can order
Nil Nil

Submitted for Sanction.
N. he kindly direct issuing the
Rs 90/- as taken
highlighted
Disbursed to the
Rs. the Expenditure.

Funds from Inspectt
funds, in Rev. D. /P

Recommend

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Vice C. hr.

Rodney

A 0128

FOR ORDERS.

Vide C. h.

C 13-8-78.
R
RC 24-8-78.
R 25-8-78

No. 1983

R2

Proceedings of the Madras Government

1383

Do. Endorsement from the additional Secretary to Govt., Revenue (Salt) Department, forwarding letter from the Honorary Secy. to the Genl. Famine Committee, Madras, forwarding two letters from the Revd. G.O. Newport of Salem respecting the destruction of locusts.

Read the following letter from the Revd. G.O. Newport of Salem, stating that locusts are unable to fly in the early

Recommend

GMR 27/8

1. This paper relates to an experiment made by the Revd. G.O. Newport of Salem for the destruction of locusts.

2. The fact alleged in Mr Newport's letter of the 5th instant, viz., that locusts are unable to fly in the early

morning is very valuable, and the Govt. desire that the Board of Rev. will cause it to be communicated to all Collectors & subs. dis= =pensing with [illegible] enquiry in either of =partments whether any [illegible] has been made to Mr Newport. If the Coonsts are at times in this helpless con= =dition, they are then at the mercy of the Collectors, and the people ought to deal them wholesale or their warrants will should not expect any

any reward for so doing. 1383/6

3. Mr Newport asks for a grant of Rs 500 in connection with his experiment, but the Govt do not think that they can rightly engage in this opera= =tion. They however, will [illegible] authorize the Collector of Salem to reimburse Mr Newport the expenditure he has incurred from his private funds. The Collector will also convey to that Gentleman the thanks of Govt for the trouble he has taken in the matter

To the Rev. Finance Dept. 11 Sept
The Collector of Salem
The Board of Rev
The Accountant General

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Regarding destruction of locusts by the Rev. G. O. Newport of Salem.