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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1406	Press.
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated 31.8.1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

1406
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

31st August 1878, No. 1,406.

Read the following paper :—

No. 394. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th August 1878, No. 2,186.

Read the following letter from F. J. DAWES, Esq., Temporary Deputy Collector, to C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, dated Vaniar, 27th July 1878, No. 202 :—

I REGRET to report that a very large flight of locusts was seen by me this morning (27th) between the villages of Biarnatham and Venkatasamudram. They were coming in from the west driven before by a strong westerly wind, and swarms of them alighted on the fields and plains round Biarnatham, Devarajapoliem, and Venkatasamudram. They must have covered an area of about six miles, and looking towards Venkatasamudram from Biarnatham, it just appeared as if the former village was enveloped in a dust storm. The villagers turned out with cloths, tom-toms, and brass-metal plates and soon raised a great noise. They shouted till they grew hoarse from it. I offered a reward of 2 Annas a basket for as much as they could destroy, but their great anxiety was to keep them off the fields recently sown with ragi than allow them to rest on them for the purpose of destruction. At [illegible] step you raised swarms of them, and though to encourage the ryots I struck [illegible]ickly as I could to what surrounded us and were in flights above us that it really discouraged one from attempting any thing like destruction. When they rested on the ground they paired quickly, and that seemed the most favorable opportunity for killing them. The bright yellow ones appeared to be the males and the darker colored the females, the latter being also larger than the former. The noise made by the ryots disturbed the general direction of the flight, and while many kept on an eastward course towards the Mungavadi valley, others flew about the place in all directions and were to be seen till late in the evening. I hardly think that any means can be devised for their effectual destruction, and what can be collected by beating them down with branches forms such a very very small proportion to what is seen that it is hardly worth the trouble. I have, however, issued orders that every endeavor should be made to kill as many as possible at every appearance, and should be glad to hear the reward you will sanction. I enclose for your perusal a letter that appeared in the correspondence columns of the *Standard* of the 24th containing a short account of how effectual the castor-oil leaves are in destroying grasshoppers, and it may perhaps be worth the while of ryots to grow the plant in question round and in their fields till the country is again free from these pests. It was just fortunate for the ryots that they had sown their ragi seed about three or four days only previous to this visit, or the damage is likely to have been very serious, though there were some sufferers, of whom the Tahsildar has taken a note. I forward no specimens as the locusts were exactly similar to what I have been previously sending.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

To the Editor of the "Madras Standard."

SIR,—I casually came across the following particulars with reference to the manner in which grasshoppers were poisoned in California by the use of the leaves of the castor-oil tree. The information may be of use to those who are engaged in destroying the young locusts which are causing so much anxiety in the districts.

G. E. B.

PERINDURAY, 20th July.

406
2

"*Castor-oil Leaves and Grasshoppers.*"

"A FARMER in California has been experimenting with the leaves of the castor bean and reports them as being deadly poisonous to grasshoppers. He had some trees which the hoppers were destroying and scattered leaves of the castor bean under them. He says—"So remarkable was the result that an actual count of the number killed under one tree showed 498 dead ones and about twenty in a dying condition. Only a very small portion of the leaves were eaten; and judging from the effects of the small portion consumed, I believe there was sufficient material left to have killed ten times as many." He suggests that hedges of the plant be grown around farms, an occasional row in fields and vegetable gardens."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. T. RAJAGOPALA CHARI,
Spl. Dy. Collector *for* Collector.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for information of Government.

SALEM,
2nd August 1878.

(Signed) P. T. RAJAGOPALA CHARI,
Spl. Dy. Collector *for* Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board have not sanctioned rewards for destruction of mature locusts.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 395. ORDER THEREON, 31st August 1878, No. 1,406.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated August 31st.

Printed September 6th.

Read

Encl.

G.O., 31st August 1878, No. 1406.

AUGUST.

Nos. 394-395.

Flight of Locusts observed at certain Villages in the Salem District.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reporting on the —.

1406/3

No. 2,186.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th August 1878.

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G. E. B.

PERINDURAY, 20th July.

"Castor-oil Leaves and Grasshoppers."

"A FARMER in California has been experimenting with the leaves of the castor bean and reports them as being deadly poisonous to grasshoppers. He had some trees which the hoppers were destroying and scattered leaves of the castor bean under them. He says—"So remarkable was the result that an actual count of the number killed under one tree showed 498 dead ones and about twenty in a dying condition. Only a very small portion of the leaves were eaten; and judging from the effects of the small portion consumed, I believe there was sufficient material left to have killed ten times as many." He suggests that hedges of the plant be grown around farms, an occasional row in fields and vegetable gardens."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. T. RAJAGOPALA CHARI,
Spl. Dy. Collector *for* Collector.

Revenue Department

№3683

1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 8th.

Printed 12th.

Recd. 23rd

PROCEEDINGS, 8TH AUGUST 1878, No. 2,186.

Dasp. 20/8/78.

AUGUST.

No. 2,186.

Flight of Locusts — observed at certain villages in Salem District.—Submitting to Government report from Temporary Deputy Collector, Uttongarai, on the —, and informing Collector that Board have not sanctioned rewards for destruction of mature locusts. R. 1906

Recorded

With Order. 21st Aug 1878

2

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for information of Government.

SALEM,
2nd August 1878. (Signed) P. T. RAJAGOPALA CHARI,
Spl. Dy. Collector *for* Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board have not sanctioned rewards for destruction of mature locusts.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Salem.
Copy to all other Collectors.
" to the Superintendent, Government Farms.
" to the Superintendent, Government Museum.
" to J. Short, Esq., M.D.

Extd. W. J. Lewis.

C 23-8-78.
W 30-8-78