

(1) Number of pages 4 sheets
(2) Date of repair 24-7-82
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>L</i>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<i>L. 1. 1878.</i>	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

No. 5,036.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st November 1877.

Read the following letter from Colonel J. G. TOUCH, Officiating Controller of Military Accounts, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, c.s.i., Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 15th October 1877, No. A:—

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter from the Commissary-General, No. 5,339, dated 4th October 1877, submitting, with reference to paragraph 2 of Order of Government, dated 26th May 1876, No. 2,644, a report on the experiment of breeding goats at Rangoon during 1876-77.

2. Of the statements accompanying the report, the first showing the actual cost incurred has been verified with the monthly accounts rendered to this department and

* Printed in red ink. the necessary alterations made therein in pencil.* The figures in the other statement have also been checked and found correct.

3. The financial result of the experiment as will be seen from these statements is very unfavorable, entailing a loss to the State of Rupees 541-14-0; the anticipated increase in the number of kids has not been realized, and there has been a greater percentage of deaths than was estimated (*vide* paragraphs 4 and 5 of Colonel Heysham's report, one of the enclosures).

4. The climate and pasturage of Burmah are stated to be totally unsuited to goats, and the Commissary-General therefore proposes that the experiment be abandoned, the animals fit for slaughter being killed and issued to troops, and the remainder sold by auction to the best advantage.

5. It appears that two goats were slaughtered and the meat issued for trial to Batteries and Regiments. The opinion of the majority seems to be that it was a desirable change of diet. Unless, however, there is some species of sheep or goat more likely to thrive in Burmah, on which point Government might see fit to communicate with the Superintendent of Government Farms, it does not appear advisable to continue the experiment.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Colonel J. LOUDON, Commissary-General, to Colonel J. MICHAEL, c.s.i., Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort St. George, (through the Controller of Military Accounts), dated Madras, 4th October 1877, No. 5,339.

No. 5,791, of 11th August 1877.

As promised in my letter, I have now the honor to submit for the information of Government the report* of the Executive Commissariat Officer, Rangoon, on the experiment of breeding goats for ration meat, sanctioned in the Order of Government, No. 2,644, dated 26th May 1876.

2. The numbers of goats purchased were 91 ewes and 9 rams; these produced during the year 112 kids, of which 82 have died. The total number of deaths during the year has been 106, so that the annual increase in the flock has been only 6 head.

3. The total outlay has been Rupees 1,678-8-0, and the estimated value of the flock is Rupees 1,054-6-0, leaving a balance against Government of Rupees 624-2-0.

4. Two goats were killed and issued for trial. There is a difference of opinion about the meat, but on the whole it appears that a ration of goat mutton would be an acceptable change to the soldier.

5. The experiment, as far as it has gone, holds out no prospect of eventually providing meat rations for the troops at a moderate cost. I regret therefore to have to support Colonel Heysham's recommendation that the flock should be disposed of; and I beg, therefore, respectfully to propose for the sanction of Government, that those animals fit for slaughter should be killed and issued as rations to the European troops, and that the rest be sold off by auction to the best advantage at an early date. Should Government be pleased to authorize this arrangement, Colonel Heysham will be requested to forward for the information of Government an account showing the actual financial result of the transaction when finally closed.

6. Sheep do not thrive in the moist climate of the western coast of India, and as there is no breed peculiar to that part of the country, Colonel Heysham's proposal for a further experiment cannot be met.

7. The failure of any measure likely to provide the European soldier in Burmah with a variety in diet is greatly to be regretted; but the present experiment offers no such promise as to warrant further outlay, especially as past experience gives no reason to expect that sheep or goats will thrive in those parts of Burmah where the climate is damp and the vegetation is rank.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. HEYSHAM, Assistant Commissary-General, to Colonel J. LOUDON, Commissary-General, Madras, dated Rangoon, 21st September 1877, No. 178.

In continuation of my letter No. 136, dated 27th July 1877, I now have the honor to forward a report showing the results of the experiment to breed goats with a view to issuing goat meat as rations embracing the period of one year for which the trial was sanctioned.

2. I also enclose two statements, the first showing the actual cost for the year, and the numbers purchased, as well as the births and deaths.

3. The other is a statement of estimated and actual cost of 1,050 goats for one year, based on the cost of the past year. I have taken 1,050 goats for this purpose as that is the number estimated for in this office letter No. 7, dated 5th April 1876.

4. You will observe that the anticipation of an increase of three kids per ewe per annum has not been fulfilled, as 91 ewes only yielded 112 kids in that time, being an average of 1.23 kids per year, and of this number 82 have died.

5. The total number of deaths during the year amounted to 106 so that the births only exceeded the deaths by six which is the actual increase to credit.

6. As regards the palatableness of the flesh, I enclose copies of reports received from the Major-General Commanding British Burmah Division, Officer Commanding Royal Artillery, and Officer Commanding 1-21st Royal Scots Fusiliers on the meat of two wethers, I had slaughtered on the 17th August as an experiment.

7. The Major-General's opinion is "that it was fair meat, not at all tough, but wanting in flavor and not equal to mutton."

8. The meat was approved of by the officers, and one Battery Royal Artillery, but not by the other; it was approved of by both officers and men of the 1-21st Royal Scots Fusiliers. I also had a joint cooked and cannot say that my opinion is favorable, I found the meat exceedingly tough and although the animals were yelt when quite young there was a most decided goat taint.

9. The weight of the carcasses amounted to 66 lbs., which, at the present contract rate for ration mutton, i.e., Annas 7-6 per lb. represents a money value of Rupees 30-15-0 the heads and offal fetched 1 rupee each, making a total of Rupees 32-15-0, the cost of the goats up to date being at Rupees 16-12-7 each, Rupees 33-9-2 thus showing a loss of Annas 10-2.

10. I do not see how he can expect the experiment to succeed either from a financial or breeding point of view. The goat naturally loves high, dry, rocky and even mountainous countries and short sweet herbage, and will thrive on a dry arid soil where other animals would perish; but a damp swampy soil and wet climate, with rank pasturage such as that of Burmah, is totally unsuited to goats.

11. In my opinion if we want to establish a breeding farm with a view to providing the British Soldier with mutton more frequently than at present, which is no doubt most desirable, we must draw our breeding stock from a climate somewhat similar to this. Now the western coast of India assimilates very closely as to climate, rainfall and pasture with Burmah, and although I have no personal knowledge of the breed of sheep in that part of the country, it appears to me that we should have a much better chance of success if we obtained our breeding stock from there; and I should much like to have a few say two, rams and twenty ewes, sent over here to try. I should like the ewes to be all in lamb when sent, so that they might drop their lambs about two months after arrival; and I would recommend that they be sent in the months of November and December. Advantage might be taken of the Government transport to send the sheep over free of cost for freight; for Thayetmyo and Tonghoo, where the rainfall is not so heavy, probably the black-faced white sheep of the Coimbatore District would also suit very well. They are hardy and fatten kindly.

12. As I do not think more favorable results are likely to be obtained by keeping up the present establishment of goats, I would beg to recommend that they may be immediately disposed of before still further casualties take place and more expense is incurred. Should you agree with me, please favor me with instructions as to whether they shall be sold by auction, or killed and issued as rations.

13. In conclusion, I would suggest that until such time as a breeding establishment has proved a success and equal to meeting the wants of the troops they could probably be fed more economically from India, if terms could be made with the British India Steam Navigation

Company to bring sheep at a reduced rate from Binlipatam. Sheep are cheap in the Northern Division, and the Executive Commissariat Officer at Waltair might purchase and feed them for a short time before shipping, and ship a certain number by each steamer. The voyage is short from Binlipatam to Rangoon, and if the sheep were fed for a short time after arrival, say from a fortnight to a month, on gram, I think a weekly issue of mutton might be arranged for on more advantageous terms than the present bi-monthly issue.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Major or Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel A. TEMPLEMAN, Commanding 1st Battalion 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, to Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. HEYSHAM, Assistant Commissary-General, British Burmah Division, dated Rangoon, 21st August 1877, No. 306.

Has the honor to inform that portions of the wether goat alluded to in his letter, No. 843, of 14th August, were served out to the Officers' Mess, Serjeants' Mess, Letters E and H Companies, and to the Band and Drums; it appears from the reports received that the meat was generally approved of as an article of ration.

MY DEAR HEYSHAM,—I quite forgot to give you my opinion of the goat meat you sent me on Friday week last. I tried it on Saturday morning and again in the evening, and found it very fair meat not at all tough, but wanting in flavor. It is not equal to mutton; and, considering that the animal had been fed on gram for a year, I do not think the importing and feeding of goats for the troops would be a financial success, though, no doubt, otherwise it would be an acceptable change of diet to the men.

2. I should think that sheep brought over from Calcutta and fed on gram even for a few months would give better meat, and probably at about the same cost.

Yours Sincerely,

A. KNOX-GORE.

27th August 1877.

From Colonel C. M. J. THORNTON, Commanding Royal Artillery, British Burmah Division, to Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. HEYSHAM, Assistant Commissary-General, Rangoon, dated Rangoon, 29th August 1877, No. 748.

In reply to your letter No. 904, dated 23rd August 1877, I have the honor of informing you that one-quarter of the wether goat was given to the married people of each of the batteries stationed here, and that those of 12/8, late 5/3, considered it nearly as good as the usual mutton, and would prefer it instead of beef for a change occasionally; while those of 10/8, late 3/5, say that they did not like it.

2. The officers considered that the flesh of the wether goat, a quarter of which was sent to the Mess, was quite equal to, if not better, than the meat ordinarily sold in the Rangoon bazaar as mutton.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) B. F. HEYSHAM, Lieut.-Col.,

Asst. Commissary-General.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

STATEMENT showing the actual cost of Goats and Feed, &c., incurred on account of Breeding Establishment at Rangoon from September 1876 to August 1877.

	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Cost of 50 Ewes at 10 each	500	0	0			
Do. 17 Do. at 9 do.	153	0	0			
Do. 5 Rams	27	0	0			
Do. 3 Ewes at 9 do.	27	0	0			
Do. 1 Ram	11	0	0			
Do. 21 Ewes at 10 each	210	0	0			
Do. 3 Rams				976	0	0
Pay of one Shepherd from 1st November 1876 to 31st August 1877 at 10 per mensem				100	0	0
Feed from September 1876 to August 1877				502	0	0
Repairs to goat shed				100	0	0
Total	1,390	0	0			

Return of Breeding Goats.

	Ewes.	Rams.	Kids.	Remarks.
Received by purchase	91	9	...	
Do. by births	...	...	112	
Do. by transfer from kids	11	5	...	
	102	14	112	
Deduct casualties and transfer as shown in the	20	...	...	
	25	*6	198	* Two slaughtered for trial.
Number on hand on 31st August 1877	82	8	14	+ Deaths ... 82
				Transfer to ewes and rams ... 16
As per entry No. 14 for September 1877	51 remaining on the 31st August 1877.			98

90 goats weighing 22 lbs. each ... 1,980
14 kids weighing 4 " " ... 56

2,036 at 0 7 6

As per contract rate for troop mutton ... 954 6 0
For skins, heads, and offals ... 100 0 0

1,054 6 0

Balance against goat breeding establishment for the past twelve months ... 624 2 0
541 14 0

RANGOON,
September 1877.

(Signed) B. F. HEYSHAM, Lieut.-Col.,
Assistant Commissary General.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

STATEMENT showing Financial Results of Breeding Goats in Burmah with a view to Goats meat being issued to Troops—*Vide* this office letter, No. 7, dated 5th April 1876.

Particulars.	Amount.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Sheds	4,000 0 0	
Cost of 1,000 she-goats at Rs. 10 each	10,000 0 0	
Cost of 50 he-goats at Rs. 10 each	500 0 0	
Total ... 14,500 0 0		
Interest at 6 per cent	870 0 0	
20 men at 10 Rupees each per month	2,400 0 0	
Feeding 1,500 he-kids at Annas 12 per month	15,500 0 0	
Contingencies, such as repairs of sheds, &c.	1,000 0 0	
Total ... 17,770 0 0		
By sale of 1,500 skins, heads, and offal	1,500 0 0	
Balance		16,270 0 0
750 lbs. of meat per week, or 39,000 lbs. for the year, at Annas 8-3 per lb. as per contract		20,199 6 0
Balance in favor of Government		3,839 6 0

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

STATEMENT showing the actual cost of Goats, Feed, &c., based upon the actual charges incurred on account of maintaining Goats from September 1876 to August 1877.

Particulars.	Amount.	Total.	Remarks.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Sheds	4,000 0 0		a Sheds have not been built.
Interest at 6 per cent. on Rupees 4,000	240 0 0		
Cost of 1,000 she-goats at Rupees 9-12-2	10,248 7 0		
Cost of 50 he-goats each	10,488 7 0		
20 Men at Rs. 10 each per month	2,400 0 0		b As per estimate Rupee 10 are the actual rate of pay per man per month.
Feeding 1,500 he-kids at Annas 9-3, 32 ⁺ each per month	10,492 8 0		c As per estimate.
Contingencies, such as repairs of sheds, &c.	1,000 0 0		
Total ... 24,380 15 0			
By sale of 1,500 skins, heads, and offals	1,500 0 0	22,880 15 0	d As per estimate proved by the realization of skins, heads, and offals of two goats killed for trial.
19,250 lbs. of meat for 1 ¹ / ₂ ths of the year 1876-77, commencing from September 1876 at contract rate of Annas 8, 3 per lb. 13,750 lbs. of meat for 1 ¹ / ₂ ths of the year 1877-78 ending August 1877, at contract rate of Annas 7-0 per lb.	9,925 12 6		
33,000 lbs. yield of 1,500 goats at +22 lbs. each		16,371 1 6	
Balance against the Government breeding establishment		6,509 13 6	

*The capital expended is here charged instead of only interest thereon as it was not, as anticipated, covered by the increase of breeding stock.
† This was the actual cost per head of feeding the kids during past year.
‡ This weight has been arrived at by weighing the whole of the stock now left and striking the average which is 42 7/8 lbs., 28 lbs. therefore is a liberal estimate of outturn, as it takes a very good sheep to yield half its live weight of meat.

RANGOON,
22nd September 1877.

(Signed) B. F. HEYSHAM, Lieut.-Col.,
Assistant Commissary General.

L Nos. 6,109 and 6,110 of 1877.

No. 6,135.

REFERRED to the Revenue Department with the request that the Superintendent of Government Farms may be called upon to suggest any species of goat or sheep which, in his opinion, would be likely to thrive in Burmah.

(By Order.)

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government, M.D.

PORT ST. GEORGE,
5th November 1877.

REFERRED to the Board of Revenue for report by the Superintendent, Government Farms, on the point indicated in the Military Department endorsement of 5th instant, No. 6,135.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th November 1877.

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

COMMUNICATED to the Superintendent of Government Farms, who will furnish the report called for.

(True Copies and Extract.)

C. G. Master
Sub-Secretary.

To the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. W. H. French and J. Tullock.

Recd. L. N. 1068/78

BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

1877.

165300

Revenue Dept

PROCEEDINGS, 21st NOVEMBER 1877, No. 2,036.

Recd.

Recd.

Recd. 20 Dec 77

NOVEMBER.

No. 2,036.

Costs.—Communicating to Superintendent of Government Farms report on the experiment of breeding — at Bangalore during 1876-77, and requesting that officer to suggest any species of goat or sheep which would be likely to thrive in Burma.

Lodged

4/11/77

J. G. 26 May 1876 # 522-525
Mil. Dep.

Rev: 1871: D. N.

No. 4668.

From

Sec. to Gov.

Mil. Dep.

All the enclosures were
returned to Mil. Dep. m. t.
Dated 5-24 April 78.

Rec'd 6 } doo

3

No. 6135

Received 8 November 77
Countersigned }
Returned } 13

C. C. L. L. L.
Sub Secretary

13/11

J. B. 4 Jan 78 # 4-111
Under C. N. 136878

C. O. 4-111 Jan 78
Re: Request for
from Controller of Mil.
Acct. with the request that
the Supt. Gov. Farms may
be called upon to suggest
any species of goat or
sheep which would be
likely to thrive in
Borinquen

Referred