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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

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DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	138	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29-1-1976	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

138

Elephants.

No. 80. Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Coimbatore, 21st December 1875, No. 95:—

Military and Financial.

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, the satisfactory intelligence of another capture of elephants in Keddah No. 2, thus making the fourth capture since the completion of the first Keddah in May 1874, giving a total number of forty-six captured.

2. It seems that the number last driven in was seventeen, of which a large female and a calf have died. The sizes of the elephants are given in a statement annexed to Mr. Mackenzie's report.

3. I beg sanction to dispose of the elephant "Victor" to the Raja of Purla Kinedy, as proposed by Mr. Mackenzie.

4. The elephants will be put into training, Mr. Mackenzie being very successful in this branch of the work. From what I lately learned personally from the Commissary-General, three of the six selected by his department in September 1874 have died, and it does not answer to transfer newly-captured animals to departments before they have become used to confinement and change of their natural habits.

5. It will be noted that Nos. 1 and 2 are first-class animals of a very large size, nearly nine-and-a-half feet in height, and if we succeed in training them they will be invaluable to the Forest Department.

6. It has been usual, and has received the sanction of Government, to distribute rewards on the occasion of each successful capture, at the rate of Rupees 50 for each elephant tied, and to grant a month's pay and allowance to Mr. Mackenzie and his Assistant.

Thus the distribution will be

	Rs.
50 x 15 =	750
Mr. Mackenzie =	315
Mr. Lord =	50
Total	1,115

for which sanction is requested.

7. Government will, I hope, notice with approval the very arduous exertions of Mr. Mackenzie in effecting this capture, enhanced by some of the wild elephants being of a very large size and strength, one having broken twenty-five of the strongest ropes before being secured. He had only eleven tame elephants to work with.

MISS.

B.P. No.
P.O. No.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th January 1876.*

From Mr. C. A. MACKENZIE, Inspector of Police, on Special Duty, in charge Keddah Operations, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Allambaddy, 15th December 1875, No. 174.

In compliance with my No. 171 of yesterday's date I respectfully beg to submit this my report on the particulars of our recent capture of seventeen elephants.

2. On Monday, the 6th instant, at about 11 a.m., I received information from my men that a herd of elephants was brought down by them into the Keddah valley. By 12 noon I was at the Keddah with all my men, who were in camp, and, after giving them the necessary instructions both with regard to their duty towards securing a capture and the precautions to be taken in case of danger, I went up to the mouth of the valley. At about 3½ p.m. the elephants were sighted, and by the time they entered within the stockade it was getting dusk. They pressed on their course as fast as possible till they came to the gate of the Keddah, where they stood for a while and turned back towards the entrance of the stockade with great force, but were driven back by me: seeing that they could not get back and that they were closely watched by men, they became desperate and began running and rushing any side and every side, breaking large trees on the way both up and down. As night advanced they too advanced in excitement and rage and became very furious and restive, and, having for their leader a monstrous Mukna, the whole can be better imagined than expressed. During the whole night I kept up a vigilant watch with my party, and was positively owing to the precision in which it was kept up that the Mukna in question with his rest was successfully repulsed every time he made a charge. At about 9 a.m. on Tuesday the elephants lessened their fury to some extent, making occasional rush, and in this sort of semi-state of quietness they remained till about 4 p.m., when they again began to attack on all sides, this time in twos and threes. I then entertained sad hopes, but with a mind full of anxiety I called out to my men incessantly to be courageous and to redouble their vigilance. Though the elephants went up to the threshold of the gate of the Keddah repeatedly they would not cross, for so well did they know that there was danger awaiting.

3. On the whole of the following day, Wednesday, the elephants were completely out of their element, and the wonderful force and strength with which they would charge us are quite beyond my power to describe. Now and then they would go in a body rushing headlong towards the nullah, and, when they were thwarted there, away they went towards the Keddah, but only to stop and return from the gate.

4. A little before 9 p.m. a part of them entered the Keddah, and a short time afterwards the rest. As they were being tied and brought they were helped to reasonable quantities of water from time to time, as large quantities, to my experience, would have proved dangerous, more particularly to elephants after a lengthened starvation. The Mukna "Warrior" gave us considerable trouble and broke twenty-five of the thickest and strongest ropes I had ere he allowed himself to be tied. The two Muknas though not quite so high as the Commissariat elephant "Sham Lal" are nevertheless much bigger and stronger than he, and could not be more than thirty or thirty-five years of age. The whole number was brought into camp and secured on the afternoon of the 11th instant. On the whole, this has been a successful capture and the best I have made.

5. I submit enclosed statement showing the height of the fifteen elephants now captured, and would value the whole between 25,000 and 30,000 Rupees.

6. I beg to report also that, in consequence of forage being scanty here, I have made arrangements to procure forty bullock-loads daily, at a cost of 8 Annas per bullock (the owners agreeing to cut the grass), from Pennagram. Our eleven tame elephants are engaged all day in changing and shifting ropes of the new captured ones as well as escorting the former captured ones to water and exercise.

7. The young elephant "Sultan," which was ailing for some time, died a few days ago, and of the new batch I have no hopes of "Butcha" living long as her trunk seems to be nearly severed. This was done by the tucker while in the Keddah.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th January 1876.*

8. Some time back the Raja of Parla Kimedly wrote and asked for a tusk elephant. I have no doubt that if "Victor" be offered to the Raja he will fetch Rupees 2,500 as he is a strong and fine-looking animal, and having a fine pair of tusks will suit a Native Chief very well.

No.	Names of Elephants.	Sex.	Height.	Remarks.
			FT. IN.	
1	Champion	Mukna	9 5	} Splendid animals; will answer for work in the Forest Department.
2	Warrior	Do.	9 4	
3	Vixen	Female	8 3	} Well developed and of a strong build.
4	Choe	Do.	8 1	
5	Phillis	Do.	7 10	Do. do.
6	Venus	Do.	7 8	Do. do.
7	Mary	Do.	7 7	} A fine animal; promises to be powerful.
8	Dido	Do.	7 6	
9	Jinny	Do.	7 3	} A strong and well-formed beast.
10	Laura	Do.	7 1½	
11	Victor	Tusker	6 8	} Fine, but rather sickly.
12	Junio	Female	6 8	
13	Tomboy	Do.	5 4	} A very handsome animal and strong.
14	Dick	Do.	5 2	
15	Butcha	Tusker	4 1	} Handsome and promising.
		Female		
				Will turn out an excellent animal.
				Died.

C. A. M.

ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1876, No. 20.

Communicated to the Revenue and Military Departments for the information of the Commissariat and Forest Departments and the Government Agents in Ganjam and Vizagapatam.

2. The rewards are sanctioned, and the Collector will convey to Mr. Mackenzie and his men the approbation of Government for their exertions.

3. The Collector will communicate with the Board of Revenue as to the sale of one elephant to the Parla Kimedly Zemindar, he being a ward of the Court.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
 .. Revenue Department. ✓
 .. Military do.
 .. Inspector-General of Police.
 .. Agent to the Governor of Port St. George in Ganjam.
 .. do. do. in Vizagapatam.
 .. Collector of Coimbatore.
 .. Accountant-General.

Erd. A. S. Rodgers.

6 To the Conservator of Forests, Darjeeling

24/12/15
Conservator of Forests
Darjeeling
19/12/16

— 15
— 18

24/12/15