

(1) Number of pages 8
(2) Date of repair 18-12-1972
(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1408
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated 12-4-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 288. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th March 1877, No. 1,382:—

Read the following letter from MESSRS. HARVEY AND SABAPATHY of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bellary, 24th February 1877:—

We have the honor to call your attention to copy of the Collector of Kaladghi's letter herein enclosed.

2. As being largely interested in the cotton-producing districts of your Presidency, we beg leave to suggest that famine coolies in Government pay should be largely employed in the cutting and preparing prickly-pear to be distributed "gratuitously" to all owners of cattle, rich or poor.

3. This would save the small remaining stock of fodder in the country, and keep the bullocks and cows alive for the cultivation of the land when rain comes.

4. You will see by the Collector's letter that the only reason the prickly-pear fodder is not used to sustain the life of the cattle is that the ryot requires all his time and attention to support himself.

5. The pinch of the famine is now coming, and if the bullocks die *en masse* there will be none to plough in June, and consequently no revenue to Government nor cotton for our Presses in 1878.

6. That prickly-pear is healthy and nourishing—see copy of Veterinary Surgeon Cox's report herein enclosed.

7. We have, moreover, received assurances that cattle are successfully fed on it from most of the districts in Southern India; and about a fortnight ago a minute of the Mysore Government to the same effect.

8. If Government approve our suggestion their decision should be published in every village in the districts where the plant grows, and all owners of cattle will avail themselves of it.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. M. HOGG, Esq., Collector of Kaladghi, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 16th February 1877, No. 625.

ADVERTING to paragraph 2 of G.R., No. 70-E, 967, dated 7th December last, I have the honor to report as under.

2. From the reports I have received from my Assistants on the subject it would appear that the experiment of feeding cattle with prickly-pear leaves has been partially successful, although the use of these leaves as fodder has by no means become universal. At present the ryots of some fifty or sixty villages only have tried the experiment and are now feeding their cattle on prickly-pear leaves.

3. Experience has clearly proved that cattle *will* eat these leaves if only taught for a few days to do so; the Mamtuldars of the Bijapur and Bodami Taluk as both feed their buffaloes in this way and report favorably of the plan.

4. The great drawback, of course, is the immense labor necessary to prepare the leaves by removing the prickles and afterwards making the leaves; one man working all day can only

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th April 1877*

prepare leaves sufficient for one day's food for a pair of bullocks or ponies. If you advise the ryots to adopt the plan, they reply that it is as much as they can do to keep themselves alive, and how then can they waste their time preparing prickly-pear leaves for their cattle!! However, as above stated, the experiment is a partial success, and I have no doubt that this novel kind of fodder will come more and more into use as the season advances, and other ordinary fodder becomes altogether exhausted.

No. 684 of 1877.

FORWARDED to Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy, Bellary, with reference to their letter, dated 13th January last.

KALADGHI,
20th February 1877.

(Signed) C. M. HOGG,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Veterinary Surgeon J. H. COX, Doing Duty 4th (P. W. O.) Madras Light Cavalry, to A. HARVEY, Esq., Bellary, dated 7th February 1877.

In answer to your letter, I beg to state that I examined the cattle at your establishment fed on prickly-pear—they seemed to be in good health, although in poor condition. At my request prickly-pear was given them with a little meal scattered over it; they ate ravenously and seemed to enjoy it. From information received it appears that each animal gets a daily allowance of 40 lbs. with 1 lb. of rice straw.

2. So far I see no reason why cattle should not be able to subsist on prickly-pear, if it is properly prepared and administered whilst they are in a condition to stand the change. If they are allowed to become very much emaciated, an addition of a small quantity of grass or grain might be necessary. Their not liking it at first is due probably to its peculiar taste; this may be easily overcome by a little patience and judicious management.

3. As you have so kindly placed one or two animals at my disposal for experiment, I purpose visiting your establishment again for further inquiries.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From the same Officer, dated Bellary, 17th February 1877.

At your request the cow fed on "prickly-pear" was destroyed on the 13th (Tuesday).

2. *Post mortem* examination revealed the whole of the internal viscera healthy, the stomach and intestines contained large masses of prickly-pear in various stages of digestion and assimilation; the function of the different organs seemed to be properly performed, and reparation of tissues generally carried on in a satisfactory manner.

COMMUNICATED to all Collectors of distressed districts whose attention is again drawn to the advantages likely to accrue from an extensive use of prickly-pear as food for cattle.

2. The Board observe that by G. O., dated 20th January 1877, No. 399, each Collector was authorized to expend a sum of Rupees 500 from Famine Funds in conducting the experiment, and reports of the results at the end of a month were called for. Collectors are requested to furnish these reports as soon as possible.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th April 1877.*

3. The Board especially wish to be informed what was done as regards the depôts which Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy were authorized by Mr. Thornhill to form at Bellary, Tadpatri, and Adoni.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 289.

ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1877, No. 1,408.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The facility with which the prickles of the prickly-pear can be destroyed by roasting should be made known as widely as possible.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

1408
3

No. 288 in the following letter

No. 1,382.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th March 1877.

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2. As being largely interested in the cotton-producing districts of your Presidency, we beg leave to suggest that famine coolies in Government pay should be largely employed in the cutting and preparing prickly-pear to be distributed "gratuitously" to all owners of cattle, rich or poor.

3. This would save the small remaining stock of fodder in the country, and keep the bullocks and cows alive for the cultivation of the land when rain comes.

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14-8-5

Original

Cont. of (1877) Mysore

REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, Secy, Secy,

Dated April 12th.

Received

Recd.

G.O., 12th April 1877, No. 1,408.

APRIL

No. 288-289.

FAMINE RELIEF No. 949.

Employment of Famine Coolies in cutting and preparing Prickly-pear for the use of Cattle—Resolving, with remarks, Board's Proceedings regarding Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy's suggestion relative to the —

Recd 1977 24/1
File 2168

1877.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 28TH MARCH 1877, No. 1,382.

29/3/1877

Encl.

Recd 4-11-1877

MARCH.
No. 1,382.

Famine Codes.—Communicating to Collectors of distressed districts suggestion of Messrs. Harvey and Subbapathy that—should be largely employed in cutting and preparing prickly-peel to be distributed to all owners of cattle, and requesting Collectors to submit reports called for as to results of experiment sanctioned by Government.

With order

Recd 1408
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras
13th June 1877
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras
13th June 1877
The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras
13th June 1877