

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2783

DATED 24th June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm. to the Bd. of Rev. Res.
lution of the Govt. of India, Revenue
& Agricultural Dept. reviewing the
Report of the Civil Veterinary Dept. in
India for 1896-97.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Revenue 1898 Department

1898.

File No. 124 of 1897.

Serial No. 4.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

CIVIL VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION.

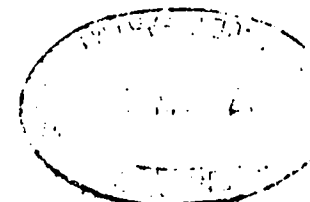
24/6/98

RESOLUTION.

To

ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

No. 10-124-4.



Dated Simla, the 7th June 1898.

Read 17
Recd 17

G.O. No. 2683 d/24th June 98.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

24/6/98

To the B. of Rev. (R. & A. D. & A. D. - Depo. 17/6/98)

SUBJECT. 13.6.98

Reviews the Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in India for 1896-97.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 155 R. & A. D.—9 6-98.—900.

READ—

The Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in India for the official year 1896-97.

RESOLUTION.

The operations of the Department were necessarily hampered by the unfavourable character of the year which resulted in high prices and great scarcity of fodder, but it is satisfactory to find that in most directions the progress which was so marked last year has been maintained. The number of Government Stallions actually employed at the Studs was a little under that of the preceding year, but the number of mares covered shows an increase from 14,920 to 15,152. The average number of mares covered per Government stallion employed has risen from 46.9 to 48.17, the North-Western Provinces, the North Punjab and Baluchistan contributing principally to this result. The increase may be generally regarded as satisfactory, considering the adverse nature of the season and the very general sale of brood mares by breeders owing to the difficulty experienced by them in procuring fodder for their animals.

The cost of feed and keep of Government stallions was much higher than in the preceding year, a result due to conditions over which the Department necessarily had no control, but every effort was made by the Inspector-General and his officers to keep down expenditure under this head to the lowest possible point.

2. The decrease in the number of branded mares has occurred mainly in the Punjab, Baluchistan and Bombay. In the last named province the falling off has been greatest, and is due to the owners refusing to bring their mares long distances to be branded in consequence of the great difficulty experienced in procuring fodder. The Government of India notice, in connection with this question, that the Inspector-General expresses his conviction that the system of branding as carried out by his Department is most popular, as the brand enhances the value of the mare, and dealers look upon it as a guarantee of soundness and quality. With regard to the question of the sale of branded mares, Superintendents of the Civil Veterinary Department have been allowed to grant certificates to owners desirous of selling mares that have been covered twice without holding. Certificates are also now granted at once to the owner of any mare who shows that owing to pecuniary difficulties or to scarcity of fodder he is unable to keep his mare and that he can find a purchaser in a Remount Officer. As regards the grant by District Officers of covering certificates for unbranded mares, the reports of officers of the Department are not favourable to the continuance of the system, which appears in some instances at least to have been worked with undesirable laxity. It tends however to enlist the sympathy of District Officers in the work, and the Government of India consider that it should be given a further trial.

3. Considering the circumstances of the year, the progress in mule-breeding may be considered satisfactory. The large increase in the number of donkey mares covered during the year is specially noticeable, and it is hoped that the improvement which has been apparent in this direction during the past two years will be maintained. In connection with the question of improving the class of stallions for mule-breeding, it may be noted that the Government of India have recently sanctioned the deputation of Veterinary-Colonel Queripel to Cyprus to ascertain the extent to which the supply of donkeys for this industry can be increased, and to point out to the authorities who purchase in that Island the faults which should be avoided.

4. The prevailing scarcity was not without its effect on horse fairs and shows, a number of which had to be abandoned, while the total number of

animals present was 12,000 less than in the preceding year. There is however in this section of the Inspector-General's report much evidence of steady improvement in the quality of the stock. Purchases by the Remount Department, the Native Cavalry and by Government were fewer than in the preceding year, as the requirements were smaller; but it is important to notice that taking together all classes competing at the shows, there was a general advance in stamp and quality, that in the case of a large number of remounts bought at several fairs the quality was above the average, and that brood-mares are beginning to show a distinct improvement on the class shown in former years. The Government of India are glad to notice that the system of awarding silver medals to owners of the best collections of brood-mares and young-stock is so greatly appreciated. The Inspector-General has brought to notice in this section of his report the sale of a number of young mares which should have been branded, and he fears that this practice must tell against horse-breeding if persisted in. The scarcity which existed during the year no doubt partly accounts for the sale of these mares, but it is desirable that Native Cavalry and Remount Agents should not take advantage of an adverse season to purchase such animals for military purposes.

5 The Instruction Farm worked under difficulties during the year, but continues to fulfil a useful purpose. The Inspector-General's experiment in starting a run at the farm for young donkey-colts is interesting and action in this direction is probably capable of profitable extension.

6 The Bacteriological Laboratory at Muktesar and buildings connected with it have now reached a stage which will enable Dr. Lingard to pursue his investigations into rinderpest without hindrance. The application of the Gladders and Farcy Act to the whole of India has been an important and valuable measure, and with the agency at their disposal it will be possible now for all Local Governments to deal effectively and promptly with cases of this most fatal disease. In Bombay where the disease is always prevalent, an efficient staff has been collected. The Inspector-General suggests the advisability of segregating all horses that have been in contact with affected animals discovered in the Bombay Commission stables, and the thorough disinfection of the premises. The condition of these stables has improved in recent years, but much remains to be done, and the Inspector-General's suggestion is worthy of attention. The Government of India hope that Dr. Lingard will be able to undertake the duty of investigating the Loodhiana disease or Anthrax without interfering with the still more important investigations in connection with rinderpest on which he is engaged. It is important that it should be definitely determined whether true anthrax does exist in this country. Progress is being made in the collection of information regarding "Surra," and it is understood that the measures adopted at the Karnal Depot at the suggestion of Dr. Lingard afford good ground for hoping that under proper arrangements this fatal disease can be effectively combated.

7 The Inspector-General's endeavours to induce the Railway Companies to adopt a uniform system for the cleansing of horse boxes and railway trucks are gradually having effect, and the Government of India trust that the Companies will see their way to adopt Colonel Queripel's proposals.

8 The code which has been issued for the guidance of zilladars and salutris and the instructions to breeders which are now circulated by means of covering and produce certificates, are likely to be most useful. The Horse-Breeding Manuals issued by the Inspector-General cannot fail to be of great service to the industry and the same may be said of the Quarterly Veterinary Journal in Urdu now being published by the Principal of the Lahore Veterinary College, if brought, as intended, within the means of the members of the Subordinate Veterinary Establishment.

9 The Government of India notice with satisfaction the Inspector-General's remarks as to the sustained interest taken in horse-breeding in Native States, and the cordial manner in which his advice and suggestions have been received by their rulers. Their enlightened co-operation cannot but have a beneficial effect on the horse supply of the country in general.

10 Another satisfactory feature of the report is the substantial progress in the matter of horse-breeding on the part of District Boards. The demand for stallions

is increasing, the class of animals bought for the purpose are very suitable, the Arab sire being in great demand, and notwithstanding the unfavourable conditions of the year, there was no diminution in the number of coverings. The Government of India agree with the Inspector-General that efforts made in any part of India to encourage pony-breeding should be encouraged. Under the head of mule-breeding there is but little progress to report but until District pony-breeding is more fully developed, the Government of India are not prepared to press for the maintenance by District Boards of donkey stallions, the supply of which is so limited.

11. Good work was done during the year in connection with the investigation and prevention of cattle-disease. The ravages of rinderpest were happily less in the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces during the year under review than in the preceding year, but in Bombay it was widely spread, and in Burma the disease again caused heavy losses. Madras suffered from severe outbreaks, the most serious taking place in the Bellary District. It is hoped that steps will be taken in future to prevent cattle fairs being held in districts where the disease is known to be present. The possibility of the Tick plague or Texas fever being introduced into India through the Australian horse-trade has led the Government of India to adopt precautionary measures, and legislation with a view to strengthening the hands of Local Governments is under consideration.

12 The veterinary dispensaries are doing excellent work and are increasing in popularity. Peripatetic Veterinary Assistants are also doing good work and the number of cases treated by them shows a steady increase during the last three years. The system of veterinary inspection of animals at cattle-fairs seems to be making satisfactory progress. The scheme for a Subordinate Civil Veterinary Service is now before the Government of India, with the recommendations of Local Governments, and it is hoped that it will be possible to issue orders without delay.

13 The results at the final examinations at Veterinary Schools are more satisfactory than last year, but there is still great room for improvement.

14 The Government of India are glad again to acknowledge the energetic and efficient administration of the Department by the Inspector-General, and the endeavours of officers of the Department, in the face of many difficulties, to carry out the wishes of Government in the various branches of the work.

To the Government of Madras.
 " " " Bombay.
 " " " Bengal.
 " " " the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.
 " " " the Punjab.
 " " " Burma.
 " " Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.
 " " Chief Commissioner, Ajmere-Merwara.
 " " Resident at Hyderabad.
 " " Agents to the Governor General in Rajputana and Baluchistan.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin.

Ordered also, that a copy be forwarded to the Military Department for information and favour of communication to the Director, Army Remount Department, the Commissary-General-in-Chief, and the Adjutant General in India, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and of Officers Commanding Regiments of Native Cavalry.

Ordered also, that a copy be forwarded to the Inspector General, Civil Veterinary Department, for information.

Ordered also that a copy be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

True Extract,

W. J. H. H. H.

Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189 .
When examined _____
Then signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____ DATED _____
189 ,

CURRENT No.)

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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