Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 303. 303A

Dated 23rd May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Wild Animals

Reviewing the report submitted by the Bd. of Revenue on the measures adopted for the destruction of —, &c, during the Calendar year 1897

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cus	2270 98						
Cus	8106/96						
	1676/98						

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2585

From Board of Fisheries, Launceston

Order

No. 84

Dated 25. 3. 98.

Received 31 Mar.

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Enclosures 34.

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SUBJECT.

Subm. to Govt. report on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals during the calendar year 1897.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1031	Rev	9.12.97
	437	Rev	22.1.92
	1540	Jud C	2.11.97
	217	Rev	28.5.96
	195	Rev	13.5.96
	306	Rev	7.5.97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed March th.

Proceedings, No. 84, 25th March 1898.

MARCH.

Submitting to Government report on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals, &c., during the calendar year 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

READ—Collectors' reports on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals and snakes and for the removal of prickly-pear from village-sites during the year 1897.

RESOLUTION—No. 84, dated 25th March 1898.

With reference to Government Order, No. 726, Revenue, dated 13th May 1875, the Board submits to Government statements showing the results of the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during the calendar year 1897. The statement called for in Government Order, No. 7766, Revenue, dated 2nd December 1889, showing monthly particulars of human deaths caused by wild animals and snakes has been omitted with reference to Mr. Meyer's suggestion in paragraph 7 of his letter No. 23, dated 27th September 1897, approved in Government Order, No. 1051, Revenue, dated 9th December 1897.

2. The subjoined abstract shows the figures for the year 1897 as compared with those of the previous year :—

—	1896.	1897.	Difference.
1. Number of persons killed—			
(*a*) By wild animals	295	234	— 61
(*b*) By snakes	1,869	1,872	+ 3
Total ..	2,164	2,106	— 58
2. Number of cattle killed by wild animals and snakes	11,255	11,856	+ 601
3. Number of wild animals destroyed	1,078	1,042	— 36
4. Amount of rewards paid	22,440	22,044	— 396

3. The following statement furnishes particulars of the animals by which human deaths were caused during the past two years :—

	1896.	1897.
By Elephants	1	2
„ Tigers	186	110
„ Leopards	73	63
„ Bears	6	21
„ Wolves	...	3
„ Hyenas	3	...
„ Other animals	26	35
Total ...	295	234

Elephants.—The two deaths caused by elephants in the year under review occurred in the Nilgiris. It appears that one of these was caused by a rogue elephant near the borders of the Sigur forests in the Ootacamund taluk and although permission to shoot him has been granted he has not yet been killed.

Tigers.—The two northernmost districts contributed, as usual, the largest number of deaths caused by tigers, Ganjám returning 32 and Vizagapatam 53 against 71 and 75 deaths, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease in Ganjám is attributed to greater vigilance on the part of shikaris during the year. The number of tigers destroyed in Ganjám in the year under report was, however, only five against eleven in the previous year. The mortality in this district is said to have been caused by the two tigers known as the Daringabadi man-eater and the Belghar man-eater, for whose destruction rewards of Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 were sanctioned in

Government Order, No. 437, Revenue, dated 22nd January 1892, and Government Order, No. 1510, Judicial, dated 3rd November 1897. The Collector of Vizagapatam states that the decrease in the number of persons killed by tigers in his district is probably due to the fact that a man-eater who had been at work for some years in the Pottinghi and Padwa taluks above the ghâts has disappeared. The reward of Rs. 200, sanctioned in 1894 for the destruction of this animal, has not yet been earned although 44 tigers were destroyed in Vizagapatam in 1897 against 37 in 1896. In Gódávari, the number of deaths by tigers rose from four in the previous year to ten in 1897. The Collector has not offered any explanation of the increase.

Leopards—Nearly 80 per cent. of the deaths caused by leopards occurred in Ganjám, Salem, Gódávari, Vizagapatam and Coimbatore.

Bears.—Deaths by bears rose from 6 in 1896 to 21 in 1897, but no special explanation is offered by the Collectors of Ganjám and Vizagapatam in which districts the mortality occurred.

4. *Deaths from snake-bite.*—The heaviest loss of life under this head occurred in Tanjore (212), South Arcot (206), Salem (185), Trichinopoly (160), North Arcot (129), Madura (128), Chingleput (109), Gódávari (106) and Coimbatore (101), which together contributed 1,336 deaths or a little over 70 per cent. of the total mortality from snake-bite in the Presidency.

5. Statement B appended to this resolution exhibits in tabular form, the number of villages in which rank undergrowth was removed, the expenditure incurred, and the number of human deaths from snake bite in these villages as distinguished from those that occurred elsewhere. The attention of land-holders was also frequently called by Collectors to the necessity of removing undergrowth from lands in the vicinity of human habitations, and in several cases where public pathways had been encroached upon, the ryots concerned were prosecuted. It will be noticed, however, that in spite of the measures adopted, human mortality from snake-bite continued to increase. The figures of mortality for the last five years are given below :—

	Number of human deaths.	Number of cattle killed.
1893	1,498	2,019
1894	1,612	2,071
1895	1,646	2,311
1896	1,869	1707
1897	1,872	1,965

The Collector of Tanjore observes that during the year under report enquiries were made as to where snake-bites generally occurred—whether in places overgrown with vegetation or in other localities—with the result that they were found to have occurred in open fields, backyards, pathways and the like and not in the vicinity of thick vegetation. The Collector of Ganjám is of opinion that unless the agricultural population keep their premises free from rubbish and give up sleeping on the bare floor, deaths from snake-bite cannot be reduced in a country abounding in snakes.

6. *Mortality among cattle.*—The following statement furnishes particulars of cattle mortality, caused by the different species of wild animals and by snake-bite, in the years 1896 and 1897 :—

—	1896.	1897.	Difference.
1. Elephants	3	..	— 3
2. Tigers	2,603	2,627	+ 24
3. Leopards	6,200	6,452	+ 252
4. Bears	39	20	— 19
5. Wolves	341	364	+ 23
6. Hyenas	254	323	+ 69
7. Other animals	108	105	— 3
Total ..	9,548	9,891	+ 343
8. Snakes	1,707	1,965	+ 258
Grand Total ..	11,255	11,856	+ 601

The heaviest mortality caused by tigers and leopards was as usual in the two West Coast districts which returned 4,795 deaths or about 53 per cent. of the total number for the whole Presidency. The deaths in North Arcot and Coimbatore were also numerous, being 631 and 594, respectively. The destruction of cattle by wolves and hyenas shows a slight increase as compared with the previous year, the largest number of deaths in 1897 being reported from Cuddapah, Anantapur and Malabar.

7. The following statement compares the number of wild animals destroyed and the amount of rewards paid for their destruction during the past two years:—

—	1896.		1897.		Increase or decrease.	
	Number.	Rewards.	Number.	Rewards.	Number.	Rewards.
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Elephants	..	..	..	..	+ 5	+ 668
2. Tigers	105	5,569	110	6,237		
3. Panthers and leopards	894	16,493	854	15,446	— 40	— 1,047
4. Bears	78	363	78	361	..	— 2
5. Wolves	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Hyenas	1	15	..	..	— 1	— 15
7. Other animals	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1,078	22,440	1,042	22,044	— 36	— 396

The largest number were destroyed in Ganjám and Vizagapatam, the figures being 247 and 258 against 267 and 301, respectively, in 1896. The Collector of Vizagapatam considers that the decrease in his district was probably due to the destruction of a large number of wild animals in previous years. No rewards are sanctioned in this Presidency for the destruction of wolves or hyenas. The destruction of a hyena reported from South Canara and of three wolves and four hyenas reported from Madura will therefore be omitted from the Board's return—*vide* Government of India letter communicated in Government Order, No. 217, Revenue, dated 28th May 1896.

8. *Disposal of the skins of wild animals.*—The statement given below shows the expenditure incurred in the payment of rewards, the amount realized by the sale of their skins and the net cost to the State of the operations for the extermination of wild animals:—

Districts.	Amount paid as rewards in the year 1897.	Amount realized by sale of skins in the same year.	Net cost to Government.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ganjám	4,105	319	3,786
Vizagapatam	7,056	678	6,378
Gódávari	1,884	366	1,518
Kistna	415	65	350
Nellore	222	16	206
Cuddapah	387	149	238
Anantapur	103	9	94
Bellary	220	28	192
Kurnool	709	364	345
Madras	..	..	..
Chingleput	80	11	69
North Arcot	688	108	580
South Arcot	729	90	639
Tanjore	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	120	8	112
Madura	20	..	20
Tinnevelly	107	8	99
Coimbatore	774	155	619
Nilgiris	881	144	737
Salem	1,446	394	1,052
South Canara	1,141	132	1,009
Malabar	957	360	597
Total	22,044	3,404	18,640
Calendar year 1896	22,440	3,003	19,437

9. The total number of licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, in Form XI, free of cost, for the purposes of destruction of wild animals or for the protection of crops amounted to 7,251 against 9,197 in 1896. The bulk of the decrease occurs in South Canara and is stated to be due to stricter enforcement of the rules regarding the issue of such licenses. In the statement received from Anantapur for 1896, one license was shown as issued in that year, but in the return for 1897, this has been left out. The omission should have been explained. The Collector of Cuddapah has not furnished the promised information regarding the number of licenses issued during the year. With reference to paragraph 6 of Government Order, No. 195, Revenue, dated 13th May 1896, the Board hopes that Collectors have satisfied themselves that the figures shown in their present returns correspond with those furnished in the returns forwarded to Government with the reports on the working of the Arms Act.

10. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report received from South Canara, the Collector points out that the information furnished by village officers in the case of returns of this nature is unreliable. It appears that a man-eating panther in Coondapoor, for whose destruction a special reward of Rs. 50 had been sanctioned, was reported by the Police to have killed ten persons during the year, but that the return received from Coondapoor taluk showed only six deaths of human beings by wild animals. Mr. Pinhey proposes to make special enquiries on the subject; the results of this investigation should be reported. The special attention of all officers will again be called to paragraph 9 of Government Order, No. 306, Revenue, dated 7th May 1897; the Board hopes that the local officers will evince an active interest in carrying out the measures prescribed for the destruction of wild beasts and snakes.

11. The delay in submitting this report was due to the late receipt of all the Collectors' reports except those from the eight districts noted on the margin, which were submitted on or before the due date, *i.e.*, 31st January. The report from Nellore was received only on the 18th instant.

Madras.	Kurnool.
South Arcot.	Madura.
Vizagapatam.	Bellary.
Chingleput.	Coimbatore.

(True Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Collectors' reports in original, to be returned.
" all Collectors.
" the Director-General of Statistics, Appendices A and B.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

APPENDIX A.

Districts.	Number of persons killed.										Number of cattle killed.									
	By wild animals.										By wild animals.									
	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.	Total.	By snakes.	Grand Total.	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.	Total.	By snakes.	Grand Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1. Ganjám	..	32	12	9	..	..	(a) 2	55	47	102	..	12	71	1	..	34	..	118	136	254
2. Vizagapatam	..	53	8	12	..	..	(b) 7	80	57	137	..	165	68	..	..	..	..	173	12	185
3. Gódávari	..	10	11	..	..	..	..	21	106	127	..	296	36	..	..	..	..	332	240	572
4. Kistna	..	..	..	..	..	..	(c) 22	22	99	121	..	72	67	..	..	..	..	139	191	330
5. Nellore	..	..	..	..	..	..	(m) 1	1	16	17	..	2	71	..	..	..	1	74	55	129
6. Cuddapah	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	24	26	..	96	399	..	179	48	(d) 35	757	14	771
7. Anantapur	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	32	33	..	2	225	..	79	..	1	307	15	322
8. Bellary	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	27	29	..	..	155	..	..	..	..	155	21	176
9. Kurnool	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	34	36	..	67	236	..	37	..	..	340	76	416
10. Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Chingleput	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	109	..	..	22	..	..	1	(e) 1	24	404	428
12. North Arcot	..	1	..	..	..	..	(f) 1	2	129	131	..	..	631	..	..	..	..	631	294	925
13. South Arcot	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	206	207	..	..	100	..	..	1	..	101	68	169
14. Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212	212	..	..	..	..	..	..	(g) 4	4	78	82
15. Trichinopoly	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	4	160	164	..	..	28	..	..	2	(h) 36	66	40	106
16. Madura	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	128	132	..	192	65	..	17	..	..	274	78	352
17. Tinnevelly	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	64	67	..	..	11	..	8	..	(i) 11	30	66	96
18. Coimbatore	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	7	101	108	..	284	310	..	3	..	..	597	54	651
19. Nilgiris	2	..	..	..	..	..	(j) 1	3	2	5	..	271	114	..	1	..	..	386	2	388
20. Salem	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	12	185	197	..	..	276	..	11	12	..	299	47	346
21. South Canara	..	3	5	..	..	..	..	8	63	71	..	489	2,658	16	1	7	(k) 4	3,175	10	3,185
22. Malabar	..	3	..	..	..	..	(l) 1	4	68	72	..	739	909	3	28	217	(m) 13	1,909	64	1,973
Total ..	2	110	63	21	3	..	35	234	1,872	2,106	..	2,627	6,452	20	364	323	105	9,891	1,965	11,856

(a) One by a bison and another by a wild boar.
(b) By wild boars.
(c) By a mad jackal.
(d) Particulars not furnished.
(e) By a mad dog.
(f) By a porcupine.
(g) By crocodiles.
(h) By jackals.
(i) Do. do.
(j) By a wild boar.
(k) One by a crocodile and particulars not known for the remainder.
(l) By a crocodile.
(m) Do. do.

APPENDIX A—*cont.*

Districts.	Number of animals destroyed and the amount of reward paid for their destruction.																Licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, in Form XI, free of cost, for the purpose of destruction of wild animals or protection of crops.		
	Wild animals.																		
	Elephants.	Amount of reward.	Tigers.	Amount of reward.	Leopards.	Amount of reward.	Bears.	Amount of reward.	Wolves.	Amount of reward.	Hyenas.	Amount of reward.	Other animals.	Amount of reward.	Total.	Amount of reward.	Number of licenses granted during the year.	Number of licenses granted in previous years and still in force.	Total.
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.								Rs.			
1. Ganjám	..	..	5	175	207	3,760	35	170	..	..	..	..	..	..	247	4,105	1	105	106
2. Vizagapatam	..	..	44	3,750	184	3,176	30	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	258	7,056	3	5	8
3. Gódávari	..	..	7	425	73	1,415	9	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	1,884	..	..	..
4. Kistna	..	..	6	130	16	285	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	415	..	..	..
5. Nellore	..	..	..	..	13	222	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	222	..	..	..
6. Cuddapah	..	..	1	45	21	342	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	387	..	..	..
7. Anantapur	..	..	..	..	8	103	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	103	1	..	1
8. Bellary	..	..	..	..	11	220	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	220	2	8	10
9. Kurnool	..	..	5	130	36	579	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	709	..	..	..
10. Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Chingleput	..	..	..	..	3	75	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	80	..	..	..
12. North Arcot	..	..	1	35	36	648	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	688	..	..	..
13. South Arcot	..	..	..	..	36	724	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	729	..	..	..
14. Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15. Trichinopoly	..	..	..	..	5	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	120	..	..	..
16. Madura	..	..	..	..	3	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	20	..	1	1
17. Tinnevelly	..	..	1	35	4	70	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	107	1	1	2
18. Coimbatore	..	..	4	135	37	639	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	774	4	403	407
19. Nilgiris	..	..	15	466	23	415	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	881	156	581	737
20. Salem	..	..	..	..	73	1,446	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	1,446	396	1,055	1,451
21. South Canara	..	..	10	396	37	745	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	1,141	71	4,143	4,214
22. Malabar	..	..	11	515	28	442	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	957	92	222	314
Total ..	..	..	110	6,237	854	15,446	78	361	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,042	22,044	727	6,524	7,251

APPENDIX B.

Districts.	Total number of villages.	Number of villages in which rank undergrowth was removed.	Amount spent in removing undergrowth.		Number of human deaths from snake-bite.	
			In the year of report.	In previous years.	In villages referred to in column 3.	In other villages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs.	Rs.		
1. Ganjám	• 3,421	63	247	2,446	..	47
2. Vizagapatam	2,668	31	1,728	2,232	Details not furnished.	
3. Gódávari	2,603	9	122	823	6	100
4. Kistna	1,862	32	982	2,536	1	98
5. Nellore	1,426	66	1,572	4,257	‡ 3	‡ 68
6. Cuddapah	1,295	23	292	1,830	Details not furnished.	
7. Anantapur	• 965	23	38	• 649	..	32
8. Bellary	962	..	..	25	..	27
9. Kurnool	799	..	..	320	..	34
10. Madras	17	3	773	1,374	..	3
11. Chingleput	2,072	230	5,128	11,559	20	89
12. North Arcot	3,554	126	150	3,673	6	123
13. South Arcot	2,685	753	1,134	3,101	56	150
14. Tanjore	1,443	75	137	1,053	14	198
15. Trichinopoly	1,682	211	8,262	15,451	39	121
16. Madura	4,103	45	2	1,528	..	128
17. Tinnevelly	1,623	111	794	1,857	Details not furnished.	
18. Coimbatore	1,521	77	1,392	1,777	..	101
19. Nilgiris	48	7	51	† 19	..	2
20. Salem	3,492	51	2,505	5,588	..	185
21. South Canara	1,284	841	..	..	..	63
22. Malabar	437	67	14	133	2	66
Total ..	39,962	2,844	25,329	62,231	147	1,635

• Difference between the figures furnished in the Collector's statement for 1896 and those now reported has not been explained.

† This is the correct figure now furnished by the President, District Board.

‡ Deaths of cattle are also included.

A

No. 3038 of 23rd May 1898.

[illegible] Mrs Brewer

[illegible] of cattle dealers

[illegible] is believed to be far from accurate. Steps should be taken to ensure correct returns.

[illegible] 1,042 rank [illegible] but this may be attributed to the fact that the former class of villages was more frequented by drakes.

[illegible] But presumably villages where cows removed would be especially frequented by drakes

[illegible] Columns B

[illegible] Mrs Brewer

[illegible] formerly Mrs Brewer

[illegible] Columns B & C

[illegible] as against

* This is the revised figure adopted with reference to the

[illegible] while

[illegible] may be in a measure attributable

Government {1898} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	1898.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., Nos. 303, 303A, 23rd May 1898.

MAY.

Wild Animals.

Reviewing the report submitted by the Board of Revenue on the measures adopted for the destruction of —, &c., during the calendar year 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 84, dated 25th March 1898 :—

Read—Collectors' reports on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals and snakes and for the removal of prickly-pear from village-sites during the year 1897.

Resolution—No. 84, dated 25th March 1898.

With reference to Government Order, No. 726, Revenue, dated 13th May 1875, the Board submits to Government statements showing the results of the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during the calendar year 1897. The statement called for in Government Order, No. 7766, Revenue, dated 2nd December 1889, showing monthly particulars of human deaths caused by wild animals and snakes has been omitted with reference to Mr. Meyer's suggestion in paragraph 7 of his letter No. 23, dated 27th September 1897, approved in Government Order, No. 1031, Revenue, dated 9th December 1897.

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„ Bears	6	21
„ Wolves	...	3
„ Hyenas	3	...
„ Other animals	26	35
Total ...	295	234

Elephants.—The two deaths caused by elephants in the year under review occurred in the Nilgiris. It appears that one of these was caused by a rogue elephant near the borders of the Sigur forests in the Ootacamund taluk and although permission to shoot him has been granted he has not yet been killed.

Tigers.—The two northernmost districts contributed, as usual, the largest number of deaths caused by tigers, Ganjám returning 32 and Vizagapatam 53 against 71 and 75 deaths, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease in Ganjám is attributed to greater vigilance on the part of shikaris during the year. The number of tigers destroyed in Ganjám in the year under report was, however, only five against eleven in the previous year. The mortality in this district is said to have been caused by the two tigers known as the Daringabadi man-eater and the Belghar man-eater, for whose destruction rewards of Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 were sanctioned in

Government Order, No. 437, Revenue, dated 22nd January 1892, and Government Order, No. 1540, Judicial, dated 3rd November 1897. The Collector of Vizagapatam states that the decrease in the number of persons killed by tigers in his district is probably due to the fact that a man-eater who had been at work for some years in the Pottinghi and Padwa taluks above the ghâts has disappeared. The reward of Rs. 200, sanctioned in 1894 for the destruction of this animal, has not yet been earned although 44 tigers were destroyed in Vizagapatam in 1897 against 37 in 1896. In Gódávari, the number of deaths by tigers rose from four in the previous year to ten in 1897. The Collector has not offered any explanation of the increase.

Leopards.—Nearly 80 per cent. of the deaths caused by leopards occurred in Ganjám, Salem, Gódávari, Vizagapatam and Coimbatore.

Bears.—Deaths by bears rose from 6 in 1896 to 21 in 1897, but no special explanation is offered by the Collectors of Ganjám and Vizagapatam in which districts the mortality occurred.

4. *Deaths from snake-bite.*—The heaviest loss of life under this head occurred in Tanjore (212), South Arcot (206), Salem (185), Trichinopoly (160), North Arcot (129), Madura (128), Chingleput (109), Gódávari (106) and Coimbatore (101), which together contributed 1,336 deaths or a little over 70 per cent. of the total mortality from snake-bite in the Presidency.

5. Statement B appended to this resolution exhibits in tabular form, the number of villages in which rank undergrowth was removed, the expenditure incurred, and the number of human deaths from snake-bite in these villages as distinguished from those that occurred elsewhere. The attention of land-holders was also frequently called by Collectors to the necessity of removing undergrowth from lands in the vicinity of human habitations, and in several cases where public pathways had been encroached upon, the ryots concerned were prosecuted. It will be noticed, however, that in spite of the measures adopted, human mortality from snake-bite continued to increase. The figures of mortality for the last five years are given below :—

	Number of human deaths.	Number of cattle killed.
1893	1,498	2,019
1894	1,612	2,071
1895	1,646	2,311
1896	1,869	1,707
1897	1,872	1,965

The Collector of Tanjore observes that during the year under report enquiries were made as to where snake-bites generally occurred—whether in places overgrown with vegetation or in other localities—with the result that they were found to have occurred in open fields, backyards, pathways and the like and not in the vicinity of thick vegetation. The Collector of Ganjám is of opinion that unless the agricultural population keep their premises free from rubbish and give up sleeping on the bare floor, deaths from snake-bite cannot be reduced in a country abounding in snakes.

6. *'Mortality among cattle.*—The following statement furnishes particulars of cattle mortality, caused by the different species of wild animals and by snake-bite, in the years 1896 and 1897 :—

—	1896.	1897.	Difference.
1. Elephants	3	...	— 3
2. Tigers	2,603	2,627	+ 24
3. Leopards	6,200	6,452	+ 252
4. Bears	39	20	— 19
5. Wolves	341	364	+ 23
6. Hyenas	254	355	+ 101
7. Other animals	108	73	— 35
Total ..	9,548	9,891	+ 343
8. Snakes	1,707	1,965	+ 258
Grand Total ..	11,255	11,856	+ 601

The heaviest mortality caused by tigers and leopards was as usual in the two West Coast districts which returned 4,795 deaths or about 53 per cent. of the total number for the whole Presidency. The deaths in North Arcot and Coimbatore were also numerous, being 631 and 594, respectively. The destruction of cattle by wolves and hyenas shows a slight increase as compared with the previous year, the largest number of deaths in 1897 being reported from Cuddapah, Anantapur and Malabar.

7. The following statement compares the number of wild animals destroyed and the amount of rewards paid for their destruction during the past two years:—

—	1896.		1897.		Increase or decrease.	
	Number.	Rewards.	Number.	Rewards.	Number.	Rewards.
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Elephants	..	..	..	..	.. 5	+ 668
2. Tigers	105	5,569	110	6,237	+ 5	+ 668
3. Panthers and leopards	894	16,493	854	15,446	— 40	— 1,047
4. Bears	78	363	78	361	..	— 2
5. Wolves	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Hyenas	1	15	..	..	— 1	— 15
7. Other animals	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1,078	22,440	1,042	22,044	— 36	— 396

The largest number were destroyed in Ganjám and Vizagapatam, the figures being 247 and 258 against 267 and 301, respectively, in 1896. The Collector of Vizagapatam considers that the decrease in his district was probably due to the destruction of a large number of wild animals in previous years. No rewards are sanctioned in this Presidency for the destruction of wolves or hyenas. The destruction of a hyena reported from South Canara and of three wolves and four hyenas reported from Madura will therefore be omitted from the Board's return—*vide* Government of India letter communicated in Government Order, No. 217, Revenue, dated 28th May 1896.

8. *Disposal of the skins of wild animals.*—The statement given below shows the expenditure incurred in the payment of rewards, the amount realized by the sale of their skins and the net cost to the State of the operations for the extermination of wild animals:—

Districts.	Amount paid as rewards in the year 1897.	Amount realized by sale of skins in the same year.	Net cost to Government.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ganjám	4,105	319	3,786
Vizagapatam	7,056	678	6,378
Gódávari	1,884	366	1,518
Kistna	415	65	350
Nellore	222	16	206
Cuddapah	387	149	238
Anantapur	103	9	94
Bellary	220	28	192
Kurnool	709	364	345
Madras	..	..	..
Chingleput	80	11	69
North Arcot	688	108	580
South Arcot	729	90	639
Tanjore	..	..	..
Trichinopoly	120	8	112
Madura	20	..	20
Tinnevelly	107	8	99
Coimbatore	774	155	619
Nilgiris	881	144	737
Salem	1,446	394	1,052
South Canara	1,141	132	1,009
Malabar	957	360	597
Total	22,044	3,404	18,640
Calendar year 1896	22,440	3,003	19,437

9. The total number of licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, in Form XI, free of cost, for the purposes of destruction of wild animals or for the protection of crops amounted to 7,436 against 9,197 in 1896. The bulk of the decrease occurs in South Canara and is stated to be due to stricter enforcement of the rules regarding the issue of such licenses. In the statement received from Anantapur for 1896, one license was shown as issued in that year, but in the return for 1897, this has been left out. The omission should have been explained. The Collector of Cuddapah has not furnished the promised information regarding the number of licenses issued during the year. With reference to paragraph 6 of Government Order, No. 195, Revenue, dated 13th May 1896, the Board hopes that Collectors have satisfied themselves that the figures shown in their present returns correspond with those furnished in the returns forwarded to Government with the reports on the working of the Arms Act.

10. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report received from South Canara, the Collector points out that the information furnished by village officers in the case of returns of this nature is unreliable. It appears that a man-eating panther in Coondapoor, for whose destruction a special reward of Rs. 50 had been sanctioned, was reported by the Police to have killed ten persons during the year, but that the return received from Coondapoor taluk showed only six deaths of human beings by wild animals. Mr. Pinhey proposes to make special enquiries on the subject; the results of this investigation should be reported. The special attention of all officers will again be called to paragraph 9 of Government Order, No. 306, Revenue, dated 7th May 1897; the Board hopes that the local officers will evince an active interest in carrying out the measures prescribed for the destruction of wild beasts and snakes.

11. The delay in submitting this report was due to the late receipt of all the Collectors' reports except those from the eight districts noted on the margin, which were submitted on or before the due date, *i.e.*, 31st January. The report from Nellore was received only on the 18th instant.

Madras.	Kurnool.
South Arcot.	Madura.
Vizagapatam.	Bellary.
Chingleput.	Coimbatore.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with Collector's reports, in original, to be returned.
" all Collectors.
" the Director-General of Statistics, Appendices A and B.

APPENDIX A.

Districts.	Number of persons killed.										Number of cattle killed.									
	By wild animals.										By wild animals.									
	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.	Total.	By snakes.	Grand Total.	Elephants.	Tigers.	Leopards.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyenas.	Other animals.	Total.	By snakes.	Grand Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1. Ganjám	..	32	12	9	..	..	(a) 2	55	47	102	..	12	71	1	..	34	..	118	136	254
2. Vizagapatam	..	53	8	12	..	..	(b) 7	80	57	137	..	105	68	..	..	..	..	173	12	185
3. Gódávari	..	10	11	..	..	..	..	21	106	127	..	296	36	..	..	..	..	332	240	572
4. Kistna	..	..	..	..	..	..	(c) 22	22	99	121	..	72	67	..	..	..	..	139	191	330
5. Nellore	..	..	..	..	..	..	(m) 1	1	16	17	..	2	71	..	..	1	..	74	55	129
6. Cuddapah	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	24	26	..	96	399	..	179	80	(d) 3	757	14	771
7. Anantapur	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	32	33	..	2	225	..	79	..	1	307	15	322
8. Bellary	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	27	29	..	..	155	..	..	..	..	155	21	176
9. Kurnool	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	34	36	..	67	236	..	37	..	..	340	76	416
10. Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Chingleput	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	109	..	..	22	..	..	1	(e) 1	24	404	428
12. North Arcot	..	1	..	..	..	..	(f) 1	2	129	131	..	..	631	..	..	..	..	631	294	925
13. South Arcot	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	206	207	..	..	100	..	..	1	..	101	68	169
14. Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212	212	..	..	..	..	..	..	(g) 4	4	78	82
15. Trichinopoly	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	4	160	164	..	..	28	..	..	2	(h) 36	66	40	106
16. Madura	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	128	132	..	192	65	..	17	..	..	274	78	352
17. Tinnevelly	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	64	67	..	..	11	..	8	..	(i) 11	30	66	96
18. Coimbatore	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	7	101	108	..	284	310	..	3	..	..	597	54	651
19. Nilgiris	2	..	..	..	..	..	(j) 1	3	2	5	..	271	114	..	1	..	..	386	2	388
20. Salem	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	12	185	197	..	..	276	..	11	12	..	299	47	346
21. South Canara	..	3	5	..	..	..	..	8	63	71	..	489	2,658	16	1	7	(k) 4	3,175	10	3,185
22. Malabar	..	3	..	..	..	..	(l) 1	4	68	72	..	739	909	3	28	217	(m) 18	1,909	64	1,973
Total ..	2	110	63	21	3	..	35	234	1,872	2,106	..	2,627	6,452	20	364	355	73	9,891	1,965	11,856

(a) One by a bison and another by a wild boar. (b) By wild boars. (c) By a mad jackal. (d) Particulars not furnished. (e) By a mad dog.
(f) By a porcupine. (g) By crocodiles. (h) By jackals. (i) Do. do. (j) By a wild boar.
(k) One by a crocodile and particulars not known for the remainder. (l) By a crocodile. (m) Do. do.

APPENDIX A—*cont.*

Districts.	Number of animals destroyed and the amount of reward paid for their destruction.																Licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, in Form XI, free of cost, for the purpose of destruction of wild animals or protection of crops.		
	Wild animals.																		
	Elephants.	Amount of reward.	Tigers.	Amount of reward.	Leopards.	Amount of reward.	Bears.	Amount of reward.	Wolves.	Amount of reward.	Hyenas.	Amount of reward.	Other animals.	Amount of reward.	Total.	Amount of reward.	Number of license granted during the year.	Number of licenses granted in previous years and still in force.	Total.
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
				Rs.		Rs.		Rs.								Rs.			
1. Ganjám	..	..	5	175	207	3,760	35	170	..	..	..	..	..	..	247	4,105	1	105	106
2. Vizagapatam	..	..	44	3,750	184	3,176	30	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	258	7,056	3	5	8
3. Gódávari	..	..	7	425	73	1,415	9	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	1,884	..	..	..
4. Kistna	..	..	6	130	16	285	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	415	..	..	..
5. Nellore	..	..	..	..	13	222	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	222	..	..	..
6. Cuddapah	..	..	1	45	21	342	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	387	157	28	185
7. Anantapur	..	..	..	..	8	103	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	103	..	1	1
8. Bellary	..	..	..	..	11	220	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	220	2	8	10
9. Kurnool	..	..	5	130	36	579	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	709	..	..	..
10. Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Chingleput	..	..	..	..	3	75	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	80	..	..	..
12. North Arcot	..	..	1	35	36	648	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	688	..	..	..
13. South Arcot	..	..	..	..	36	724	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	729	..	..	..
14. Tanjore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15. Trichinopoly	..	..	..	..	5	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	120	..	..	..
16. Madura	..	..	..	..	3	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	20	..	1	1
17. Tinnevelly	..	..	1	35	4	70	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	107	1	1	2
18. Coimbatore	..	..	4	135	37	639	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	774	4	403	407
19. Nilgiris	..	..	15	466	23	415	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	881	156	581	737
20. Salem	..	..	..	..	73	1,446	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	1,446	396	1,055	1,451
21. South Canara	..	..	10	396	37	745	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	1,141	71	4,143	4,214
22. Malabar	..	..	11	515	28	442	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	957	92	222	314
Total ..	..	..	110	6,237	854	15,446	78	361	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,042	22,044	883	6,553	7,436

APPENDIX B.

Districts.	Total number of villages.	Number of villages in which rank undergrowth was removed.	Amount spent in removing undergrowth.		Number of human deaths from snake-bite.	
			In the year of report.	In previous years.	In villages referred to in column 3.	In other villages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Rs.	Rs.	..	47
1. Ganjám	• 3,421	63	247	2,446	Details not furnished.	
2. Vizagapatam	2,668	31	1,728	2,232	6	100
3. Gódávari	2,603	9	122	823	1	98
4. Kistna	1,862	32	982	2,536	‡ 3	‡ 68
5. Nellore	1,426	66	1,572	4,257	Details not furnished.	
6. Cuddapah	1,295	23	292	1,830	..	32
7. Anantapur	• 965	23	38	• 649	..	27
8. Bellary	962	..	..	25	..	34
9. Kurnool	799	..	..	320	..	3
10. Madras	17	3	773	1,374	..	89
11. Chingleput	2,072	230	5,128	11,559	20	123
12. North Arcot	3,554	126	150	3,673	6	150
13. South Arcot	2,685	753	1,134	3,101	56	198
14. Tanjore	1,443	75	137	1,053	14	121
15. Trichinopoly	1,682	211	8,262	15,451	39	128
16. Madura	4,103	45	2	1,528	..	Details not furnished.
17. Tinnevelly	1,623	111	794	1,857	Details not furnished.	101
18. Coimbatore	1,521	77	1,392	1,777	..	2
19. Nilgiris	48	7	51	† 19	..	185
20. Salem	3,492	51	2,505	5,588	..	63
21. South Canara	1,284	841	..	..	..	66
22. Malabar	437	67	14	133	2	
Total ..	39,962	2,844	25,329	62,231	147	1,635

• Difference between the figures furnished in the Collector's statement for 1896 and those now reported has not been explained.
† This is the correct figure now furnished by the President, District Board.
‡ Deaths of cattle are also included.

Order—No. 303, Revenue, 23rd May 1898.

Miscellaneous.

In its Proceedings read above the Board of Revenue submits its report on the measures adopted for the destruction of wild animals and snakes during the calendar year 1897. For the fifth year in succession the Board's report has been delayed through the unpunctuality of most of the district returns. The Board is requested to investigate the causes of these chronic delays and to report whether they are unavoidable, in which case it may be necessary to fix a later date than the 15th March for the submission of the Board's report.

2. A total sum of Rs. 47,373 was spent on rewards for the destruction of wild beasts and on removing noxious undergrowth in villages during the year. The expenditure on both heads was somewhat less than in the previous year when a total sum of Rs. 49,071 was spent. The total number of human beings killed by snakes and wild animals was 2,106, or 58 less than in the previous year. The mortality amongst cattle, on the other hand, increased from 11,255 to 11,856. It is observed that the registration of cattle deaths in South Canara is believed to be far from accurate. Steps should be taken to ensure correct returns.

3. Human mortality from snake bite remained practically the same, there having occurred 1,872 deaths from this cause in the year under review as compared with 1,869 deaths in the previous year. The removal of noxious vegetation was apparently carried out in more concentrated areas than in the previous year; for such work was done in only 2,844 villages as against 4,179 villages in 1896, and Rs. 25,329 were spent on it as against Rs. 26,631 in 1896. It is again noticeable that the average death per village where preventive measures were taken (·05) was more than that per village where they were not taken (·04); but this may be attributed to the fact that

the former class of villages was more frequented by snakes. The removal of noxious growth and rank vegetation by Government or Local Fund agency usually takes place on vacant portions of village-site in the larger villages. The Government is inclined to agree with the Collectors of Tanjore and Ganjám that such removals can have but little effect, while the surroundings of each villager's house which are under his immediate control are left untended.

4. The number of human beings killed by wild animals fell from 295 to 234, the whole of the decrease occurring in the districts of Ganjám and Vizagapatam. The causes are reported to be increased vigilance of the shikaris in Ganjám and the disappearance of a noted man-eater in Vizagapatam. It is satisfactory that the large rewards offered for man-eaters in these districts have had some effect, though none of these rewards were actually earned during the year.

5. The mortality amongst cattle from snakes increased from 1,707 deaths in 1896 to 1,965 deaths in 1897, while that from wild animals increased also from 9,548 deaths in the former year to 9,891 in the latter. While noting that errors of registration in South Canara have possibly to be allowed for, the Government observes that the increases in other districts of the Presidency and particularly in the ceded districts may be in a measure attributable to the dryness of the first-half of the year which compelled villagers to take their cattle far afield in search of pasture.

6. The number of licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act in Form XI, free of cost, for the purpose of the destruction of wild animals or protection of crops was 883; adding to these 6,553, the number granted in the previous year and which remained in force during the year under review, the total number was 7,436 as against 9,183 in 1896. Almost the whole of the decrease (1,437) occurred in the South Canara district and is attributed to the stricter enforcement of the rules regarding the issue of such licenses. It is, however, observed from the Collector's report that the large falling off in the number of licenses in Form XI is more than counterbalanced by the increase in the number of licenses issued in Form VIII which rose in the district during the year under review from 2,735 to 4,261.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue),
with Collectors' reports.
„ the Judicial Department.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Endorsement No. 303A.

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(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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