

On the 15th April.—The country-bred mare, *Queen Mary*, a chest colt to ditto.

On the 15th April.—The country-bred mare, *Princess Royal*, a chest filly to ditto.

On the 21st April.—The country-bred mare, *Madel*, a bay colt to ditto

On the 18th May.—The country-bred mare, *Helen*, a chest colt to ditto.

Five colts and one filly—all strong and healthy.

I am, Dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. VINCENT.

CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIRS,—My initials are H. C. C. and not H. A. C., *vide* your No. 20, "Notice to Correspondents."

Yours faithfully,

H. C. CUPPAGE.

STRICTURES ON THE (REVISED) SCALE OF GOVERNMENT REWARDS FOR KILLING DANGEROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE GAME.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIRS,—That august and apparently irresponsible official body, the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, in the plenitude of their wisdom, have recently thought proper to issue a Circular Order on all Commissioners and Collectors, (*vide* "The Bengal Law Reports, Volume III., Part XII), warning them to exercise every care and precaution against certain, rather curious frauds for obtaining rewards for the destruction of noxious wild animals, therein specified at length, and alleged to be systematically practised in "some districts." The Table of rewards, contained in the Circular in question, is here re-produced for general information, and as the subject is one that might be legitimately discussed in the pages of this Magazine, I shall venture to pass my remarks as freely as I deem myself warranted in doing. But before

proceeding to do so, surprise might well be expressed, that Mr. A. Money, a sportsman, should have allowed himself to perpetrate such a series of egregious blunders in this matter.

The rates, given in the afore-said scale, do not appear at all calculated to meet the exigencies of the various districts to which they apply, for, the object the Government have in view being—I would presume—to exterminate all dangerous and destructive animals in inhabited parts, particularly where they are most numerous and troublesome; consequently the amount of the rewards should be regulated proportionately, in conformity to this rule. With these few prefatory remarks, I shall go on offering my observations *seriatim*.

Heading the list we find tigers, and in the districts under column 2nd, the rewards offered for killing these formidable animals and Leopards are equal! Can brother sportsmen, who are located in the districts of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, Bhagulpore and Monghyr, testify to the fact that both these beasts of the *feline genus* are strangely *only* in those parts on a par, as regards their savage and destructive propensities. *It may possibly be so*; but, the reward of Rs. 5 awarded for killing Tigers in the districts, under columns 1, 7, and 8, can hardly be considered tempting to those to whom they solely apply, the professional native *Shikarees*, when the skulls and skins are to be included in the bargain! Then, the rewards under columns 9 and 10, comprising what may be called the favored districts, are exactly quadruple of those alluded to in the preceding sentence, and double that of any of the remaining ones, though the latter include the Soonderbuns. Good, indeed! The next in precedence are leopards, and the paltry reward of Rs. 2½ generally awarded, is by no means an adequate inducement for their destruction, especially as their valuable and resplendent coats are to be forfeited by the doughty slayers of these mischievous animals, and the proceeds thereof are to replenish the exhausted exchequer of the East, *vide* para. 6th of the Circular, given below. It is to be hoped by all the overtaxed subjects that this item will swell the Indian Budget immensely, and produce that equipoise in the income and disbursements so much to be desired. Heigh ho! But badinage apart. We find that the reward under columns, 2, 9, and 13 is just four times as much as that last mentioned. We may, in sober earnest, pertinently demand to know if the leopards of these districts are four-fold as destructive as those of any of the other?

Third in succession are Bears, and the reward for killing Bruin varies from Rs. 2 in one case to Rs. 2½ in the others, excepting Chota Nagpore, where it is enhanced *per saltum* to Rs. 10, it may be for good and sufficient reasons; however, in the name of goodness, why is there a reward for destroying this animal in the Backergunge District? Have the sage members made a discovery, and found that the Bear has his *habital* in the swamps of Backergunge too? If so, let them publish the fact in the annals of the Asiatic Society's Natural History Depart-

ment, the Editor of which would, no doubt, be glad to receive the contribution.

Hyænas come next in order, and the reward of Rs. 2 generally, and Rs. 5 in a single case, barely calls for comment, so none need be offered.

Following Hyænas we have elephants, and the reward for destroying these latter, under columns 8, 9, and 10, is entered at the munificent sum of Rs. 10! The inducement is great indeed, and *if* the *shikarees* are to present to Government the substantial trophies of Tuskers, the temptation held out to kill and destroy them must be irresistible. Only in one solitary instance, in the lucky district of Cuttack, the reward is fixed at Rs. 30 to 50. *Here* is no mirage in the desert, but substantial water! As such, it is brought prominently forward.

In rank sixth, is the bulky Rhinoceros, which animal enjoys the singular honor of being written in the singular number—no attempt at a vile pun is intended—whilst all the rest are pluralized. A strange anomaly difficult for one less than a “heaven born” to explain, though “envious mortals” *might* be induced to suggest that it arose from grave doubts as to whether it should be indited as Rhinoceri or Rhinoceroses, and to avoid a determination of the intricate question, it was conveniently and safely entered as Rhinoceros. This supposition can not, of course, be endorsed, so it is given for what it is worth. The reward for the extermination of these animals is only offered under three columns, 8, 9, and 10, and the price is set down at Rs. 5! Verily, a magnificent state reward for the destruction of such an animal! We wish the fortunate *shikarees* of those districts will duly appreciate the immense boon, and will show themselves deserving of it. *O tempora! O mores!* Look at yon cynical one-eyed *shikaree*, with a leer in his well-worn phiz, as he turns and says to fellowmen, “Brothers, the *sarkar bahadoor* is truly generous,” at the conclusion of his tale describing vividly the many “hair-breadth escapes” he had undergone to bag the huge *janwar*, the dread of the villagers and the destroyer of their fields, and the paltry reward doled out by Government. Is this liberal treatment such as is likely to cause men to travel scores of miles to obtain? The members of the Board evidently think so. And further, these sapient members appear to consider that the Rhinoceros inhabiting the districts, in which the Soonderbunds are situate, are mild and perfectly harmless creatures. In their infallible opinion the Rhinoceros of the Soonderbunds (similar to *R. Sondaicus*), are timid and innoxious animals, quaking in the presence of man, and eschewing rice-fields.

We have Buffaloes next, and the reward for their destruction is Rs. 5 only in Cuttack, Balasore, and Pooree, whilst it dwindles down to a moiety thereof under columns 8, 9, 10 and 12, why or wherefore, reader, your deponent hath not the transcendent wisdom to discern. The districts, in which the Soonderbunds are comprised, are again silently ignored, which is all that may be added on this head.

Second last are Wolves, and the reward of Rs. 6 in columns 2 and 7, and Rs. 8 in column 11, appears for once unexceptionable. In Chota

Nagpore, the reward is double that there allowed for killing leopards, to wit Rs. 20. *Query.* Are the Wolves of that part twice as noxious as leopards? The absolutely liberal allowance for destroying these animals, when compared with what is offered for others, gives them the enjoyment of an invidious eminence.

Lastly, we have the saurian, "monsters of the (muddy) deep," *teleped* Alligators, and these are in the opinion of the Board only destructive to man and beast in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore, and Pooree, where the reward is given at Rs. 5 per head. Of course rewards cannot be actually needed in any other of the numerous districts of the Bengal Province, for we have the combined wisdom of the learned members of the Board of Revenue for that, which ought surely to be enough!

Having concluded the self-imposed task of showing up the multifarious errors so conspicuous throughout, perhaps the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, may now see the urgent necessity of revising their (revised) scale, unless the existing members are ambitious of perpetuating their blunders in this matter, and doing permanent injury to the public. We would fain acquit them of all such folly and ill-will, and I shall, therefore, jot down a few random suggestions as to the manner in which the Table ought to be compiled. Let the different Commissioners circulate a few blank forms among the official and non-official residents of their respective districts, to be filled up and returned to them, when they can very easily, from the authentic information acquired from such reliable sources, draw up an accurate Table for submission to the Board. Besides, the columns, within which are the names of the districts might be advantageously arranged with more regard to their geographical position, *e. g.*, Cachar need not follow Balasore and Pooree, and precede Gyah. And lastly, some slight ridicule might easily be averted from peoples even not fastidiously disposed, if the animals were placed one after another without such an utter contempt of their genus, &c., as here evinced, *i. e.*, the carnivorous (wolf) following the herbivorous (buffalo), when others of the former class remain before that of the latter.

"The following rules are substituted for Section XII. at page 187 of the Board's Rules:—

SECTION 12.—*Wild Animals.*

Reward for full-grown
beasts.

1. The following is the scale of rewards sanctioned for the destruction of noxious wild animals:—

TABLE.

ANIMALS.	Generally.		Bhaugulpore, Monghyr and Sonthal Fergunnas.		Bhanooorah, Midnapore Hills between Thannahs Reoijan and Rangoonia in Chittagong, 24-Pers: and Maunbhoom.		Cuttack.		Balasore and Pooree.		Cachar.		Gya, Patna, Barum, Shhabad and Tirhoot.		Assam (generally.)		Cossyah and Jynthead Hills, and the districts of the Cooch-Behar Division.		North Cachar Sub-Division.		Hazareebaugh.		Buckergunge.		Chota Nagpore (generally.)		Pubna.			
	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.	Rs. Per Hd.	Per Hd.		
Tigers,	...	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	7	7	5	5	5	5	20	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Leopards,	10	10	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	10	10	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	
Bears,	...	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hyænas,	...	2	2½	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Elephants,	30to50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Rhinoceros,	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Buffaloes,	5	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Wolves,	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alligators,	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

2. The ordinary rates are applicable to Rajshaye and Rungpore, but in special cases, when it is desired to get rid of an unusually dangerous animal, the reward for killing a Tiger in these districts, as well in the districts of the Orissa Division, may be increased up to Rs. 25.
- Rajshaye,
Rungpore and
Orissa.
3. For all young of noxious wild animals, one-half the rate sanctioned for full-grown animals should be paid.
- Cubs.
4. Great caution is to be exercised against frauds. The reward is to be paid only on the production of a complete skin and skull. The skull and the skin over it must both invariably be destroyed *in the actual presence* of the District Officer, or his Deputy, or Assistant, so that the reward on them may not be claimed a second time. For the destruction of skulls, every Collector should supply his office with a heavy mallet of solid iron.
- Precaution.
5. District Officers should personally ascertain, before allowing an Assistant or Deputy Collector to pass rewards, that he is fully qualified to detect false heads. The duty of examining heads should, on no account, be entrusted to Ministerial Officers.
- Ministerial
Officers not to
be allowed to
examine heads.
- 6.—The skins of animals on which rewards have been paid may be sold by Auction, by the District Officer, the proceeds being credited to Government.”
- Sale of Skins.

YOUNG NIMROD.

AGEING HORSES.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,—In the March number, 1869, you published a letter of mine on “Weights and Ageing,” to which Lord Ulick Browne (Pegasus) replied in the April number. In May, “a Poser or Ageing Bad” appeared on the same subject, which Pegasus answered in July. A letter from C. Hartley also appeared, in July, on the same subject, with a new rule, which he intended to bring before the Calcutta Turf Club.

With reference to this question of ageing, a case has occurred which renders the necessity of definite rules, absolute, in order to prevent Stewards of Races deciding each case on what they happen to think its merits, and refusing to allow any appeal.

On May 5th, 1868, two thorough-bred two-year olds Zouave and Paragon were purchased in Sydney for the Templars, and shipped to Bombay on May 20th, as there was no probability of sending them direct to Madras. The purchaser was a gentleman, who had owned race-horses in India, and he was instructed by the Templars to procure, from the best R. C. Veterinary Surgeon in Sydney, certificates of the horses' ages after the first of May, in order that there might be no doubt as to their age, also to send foaling certificates,—he sent both, which will be referred to hereafter. The horses were