

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1915.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O. No. 85, 28th January 1915.

Dyeing Expert.

Recording the report of the — for the quarter ending the 31st December 1914.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from K. T. B. TRESSLER, Esq., Acting Director of Industries.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—Madras, the 16th January 1915.
No.—68.

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Tinctorial Expert for the quarter ending 31st December 1914.

ENCLOSURE.

Letter—from Dr. F. MARSDEN, Dyeing Expert to the Government of Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department (through the Director of Industries, Madras).
Dated—the 15th January 1915.

I have the honour to submit my report for the period September—December 1914.

During the period under review the dyeing industry has been seriously affected by the shortage of dyestuffs and the increased prices which ruled for the stocks which were available. It is impossible to decide what the stocks were as a whole throughout the Presidency, for although the main dealers in the larger towns could supply information with regard to their own businesses, there is no means of dealing with the petty traders in the bazars and villages who keep dyestuffs and retail them in small quantities to the weavers. It is almost hopeless to deal with this class of business but it is widespread and is one of the problems which we can only trust to time and the spread of education to solve; the petty dealer knows almost nothing of the nature of the wares he sells, except that they are "colours", and the weaver only knows that with a few tolas weight of the powder he can easily dye a hank or two of yarn and proceed with his weaving. From time to time I hear from better educated men (who are trying to assist the weavers) of what is going on and gather that, if there is any mistake which can possibly be made, the weaver-dyer makes it. He may be supplied with a printed slip giving details of the best method of applying the colour, but to him all dyes are alike and he dyes by the method which has been handed down to him and is content to get the shade he desires untroubled by any considerations of fastness or suitability. Recently I was asked for advice as to dyestuffs which might replace those which had been used by the weavers in a certain district and which could not now be obtained; for a wonder the names of three of these dyestuffs could be given to me and of the three the only one which was suitable to the dyeing process was the earliest and cheapest, and about the most unsatisfactory member of its class; it was displaced in Europe years ago by later discoveries which were free from all its objectionable features, and is only used there where cheapness alone is in question and fastness is of absolutely no moment.

Another of these dyes was a good one for its class and when dyed in a proper way, but this dyeing process is complicated and the necessary auxiliary materials are not stocked in the bazar, so the weaver "stains" his yarn by immersing it in a strong solution of the dye—and is content. The cost of dyeing must be some hundreds per cent. more to him than to a proper dyer doing it in bulk, but the unit the weaver dyes is so small that the difference is not brought home to him. This is an example of what is going on in almost all isolated weaving districts.

The third colour was one which never should have been sold at all for the purpose, as it has absolutely no affinity for cotton (upon which fibre it was employed) but is a dyestuff only for wool and silk, and although cotton immersed in a solution will be coloured by the liquid which is absorbed and dried in, contact with fresh water would remove every trace of colour and leave the cotton in its original condition.

This state of things will not alter until the weaver restricts himself to weaving and leaves the dyeing to the dyer who knows something of the materials he uses and the proper methods of applying them. It is here where the co-operative movement may be of enormous benefit to the weaver, for in general he is so poor that the difference in price between dyed and undyed yarn makes an impression upon him and he thinks he saves by dyeing a small quantity for himself. A co-operative society could hold stocks of dyed yarn, suitable to the trade of its members, upon which they could draw as required, and the society could probably supply the dyed yarn

(having bought or had it dyed in bulk) at a price but little higher than that which the individual weaver would have to pay for the undyed yarn which he usually purchases only in small quantities.

Turning to the dyers proper and their requirements, small lots of alizarine have arrived (1) from old orders placed with the British Alizarine Company and (2) from an enemy ship which was captured in the early days of the war and the cargo of which has been dealt with by the Prize Court. The position is serious however as, to keep the dyers going, steady shipments of alizarine were required, and it is now clear that it is not possible to obtain any supply of indigenous roots which might have supplied the deficiency.

It would have been possible to arrange for some supply from the British Alizarine Company, and the first shipment against the order placed after the commencement of the war, was ready for despatch when the Home Government placed an embargo upon the export of all coal tar products. After some delay it was made clear that this lot was in a form not suited to the English market and, its shipment being permitted, it is expected to arrive early in January. The British Alizarine Company were extending their works and should be in a position to manufacture more than is required for home consumption and Government have been addressed with the object of moving the Home Authorities to permit the export of the British Alizarine Company's product to India under licence.

The Board of Trade permits certain firms to export under licence the colours which they manufacture, subject to the demands of the home market for such colours being met but the names of the dye-stuffs given will convey no information to the dyer in India, as I do not know of any agency of these firms here or whether they have any representatives at all through whom the necessary adjuncts could be acquired or information obtained.

Not all the dyes mentioned in the list would be taken up here, but of those which, from their names, are manufactured by Messrs. Read Holliday & Sons, Huddersfield, the following might be useful :—

(1) Cross Dye Blacks; these are sulphide colours, fast to light and washing, and require to be dyed with sodium sulphide.

- (2) Methyl Violets
 Methyl Blue
 Magenta, Powder and Crystals
 Methylene Blue
 Auramine
 Green Crystals
 Soluble Blues.

These are all basic colours belonging to a class of dye-stuffs which dye cotton, wool and silk and are quite in place for certain purposes. They are however far too widely used in India owing to their brilliancy of shade, but are lacking in fastness, and their extended use is responsible for the bad reputation of the "Aniline" colours. They are here universally dyed upon cotton by an unsuitable method, being employed with alum alone, whereas to get the best results they should be dyed upon cotton which has been previously mordanted with tannic acid (Myrabolams) and Tartar Emetic.

- (3) Thionol Greens
 Thionol Brilliant Green
 Thionol Purple
 Thionol Blue and Blacks are all sulphide colours (Levinstein & Sons), and are dyed like (1).

- (4) Dianol Fast Yellow A.R.
 Dianol Brilliant Red X
 Dianol Oranges

are also made by Messrs. Levinstein and are direct cotton colours, dyeing cotton without a mordant, but will not be fast to washing.

- (5) Wool Scarlets
 Wool Black
 Fast Milling Black
 Era Chrome Black
 Chromotrope M.
 Archelline
 Ponceau R. and 2 R.
 Orange 4 G. B.

are colours only used in wool dyeing, and as regards the fastness properties of which information would have to be requested from the makers.

Messrs. Read Holliday & Sons must have had a representative touring in the Presidency some years ago, but no English firm has developed a channel of distribution such as has existed with the German firms, with their agents and contractors with representatives and dealers all over the country. The markets throughout the east have been almost entirely in the hands of

the German firms, through their numerous agents, but if the proposed British Dye-stuff Company develops it would probably find it remunerative to take account of the difference in the conditions of local trade, and bring into existence an organization here which would meet the local conditions. The information we as yet possess with regard to the proposed formation is however too meagre to permit of suggestions likely to prove of value being made, but when the formation is completed and the Board of Management appointed the matter might be placed before it.

With regard to indigenous materials which might be useful at present, Indigo is the only one which meets the general demand for fastness which holds throughout this Presidency. Turmeric and safflower have been recommended by me to certain enquirers to whom colour was the main object, but I had to point out that, though the shades would be bright, they could not be made fast; catechu can be used for dyeing fast brown shades upon cotton but there is only a small demand for this shade for mixing in in certain check patterns. With regard to indigo there has been a tremendous increase in prices in Europe and most probably the merchants will take advantage of this state to recoup themselves to some extent for past losses; I expect that there will be a large increase in the quantity exported and am afraid that the ruling prices will make it very difficult for the dyer in a small way to obtain his dyeware.

During the period under review I have been on special duty in Madras, and engaged upon the work of the committee appointed to deal with the question of industrial education.

Order—No. 85, Educational, dated 28th January 1915.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

R. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director Industries.
" Revenue Department.
Editors' Table.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 85, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 28TH JANUARY 1915.

[SUBJECT.—*Report of the Dyeing Expert for the quarter ending
31st December 1914.*]

From the Director of Industries, dated 16th January 1914, No. 68.

A draft order recording the report is submitted. Please see the last sentence of it. The report may be sent to the Revenue Department for perusal with special

Not necessary.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR.

reference to the portion, where Dr. Marsden suggests the formation of co-operative societies to hold stocks of dyed yarn and supply them to weavers.

S. KRISHNA AYYAR—26-1-15.

C. RAMANUJACHARI—26-1-15.

Issue.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—27-1-15.

[G.O. No. 85, Educational, dated 28th January 1915.]

7P

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191 .

" " " " 191 .

READ ALSO:-

C. No. 214, From the D.S., No. 68, dated 16. 1. 1915.

" " " " 191 .

" " " " 191 .

ORDER.

P.S.

No. 85, dated 20. 1. 1915

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Rev. Dept. — 14 March
E.T. —
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DEPARTMENT.

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Brief subject. See sheet attached

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[P.T.O.]

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