MR. G. 1—30,000—16-10-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1358 Press Mis.

484-55 Dated 30-8-1870 R

30

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th August 1870.

No. 454. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st July 1870, No. 4,631:—

Read again Proceedings of the Board, dated 8th January 1870, No. 139.

Read also the following letters:—

From the Superintendent, Government Museum, dated 21st February 1870, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 29th March 1870, No. 2,074.

From the Acting Collector of Ganjam, dated 31st January 1870, No. 67.
Do. Offig. Collector of Vizagapatam ,, 29th ,, ,, ,, 87.
Do. Collector of the Godavery Dist., ,, 25th ,, ,, ,, 18.
Do. Offig. Col. of the Kistna ,, ,, 25th ,, ,, ,, 367.
Do. Acting Collector of Bellary, ,, 28th ,, ,, ,, 19.
Do. Collector of Cuddapah, ,, 7th Feb. ,, ,, 23.
Do. ,, Kurnool, ,, 27th Jan. ,, ,, 32.
Do. ,, Salem, ,, 1st Feb. ,, ,, 22.
Do. ,, North Arcot, ,, 27th Jan. ,, ,, 26.
Do. ,, South Arcot, ,, 2nd Feb. ,, ,, 30.
Do, ,, Tanjore, ,, 25th January ,, ,, 28.
Do. ,, Trichinopoly ,, 21st ,, ,, ,, 12.
Do. Officiating Collector of Madura, dated 26th Jan. ,, ,, 27.
Do. Commissioner of the Neilgherries, ,, 26th ,, ,, ,, 15.
Do. Acting Collector of South Canara, ,, 5th Feb. ,, ,, 121.
Do. do. do. Malabar, ,, 31st Jan. ,, ,, 45.
Do. do. do. Madras, ,, 10th June ,, ,, 216.

From G. BIDIE, Esq., M.B., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1870.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th March, giving cover to the Proceedings of Government marginally noted, and to apologise for the delay that has occurred in answering it, owing to my desire to furnish the Board with specimens of the cocoons of indigenous silk-worms.

Proceedings of Government and Order thereon, Revenue Department, No. 3,749, of 10th December 1869.

2. Two or more wild silk-worms exist in the neighbourhood of Madras, but I have failed to procure more than a few cocoons, and these chiefly empty, the moths having escaped. I believe, however, that attempts to gather them would prove more successful at a later period of the year, and it will afford the Society great pleasure to aid the Board, as far as possible, in making the collection when the proper season arrives.

3. The wild worm of which a cocoon is enclosed belongs to the old genus *Saturnia*, and seems nearly allied to *Attacus Ricini*, the Castor-oil worm. It feeds here on *Zizyplus jujuba* (Bhere-tree), *Terminalia cattapa* (Country Almond tree,) and sometimes on *Nauclea parvifolia*. No difficulty, therefore, would be experienced in procuring food for it, should the experiment of domesticating it be tried.

4. So far as I am aware the Castor-oil worm (an indigenous species) is not cultivated in this Presidency. It is, however, reared in several parts of the Hyderabad country, and I would take the liberty to suggest that an application for newly spun cocoons and recent ova should be made to the Resident at the Court of the Nizam. These should be packed in the manner directed by Dr. Bennett in his Memorandum, and forwarded to their destination with as little delay as possible.

5. The only other indigenous worm yielding good silk with which I am acquainted is the *Attacus Cynthia*, discovered some years ago on the Himalaya. It is now said to be cultivated in Bengal, and has also been introduced into Europe from China. In the last-named country it feeds on an *Ailanthus*, and hence the European name of Ailanthus Silk-worm. The silk it yields is of superior quality, but for a long time great difficulty was experienced in winding it, as the worm in spinning the cocoon leaves an opening for the escape of the moth. To meet this obstacle, several patents for reeling have been devised in France. The Ailanthus worm would doubtless thrive admirably in Australia.

6. The only domesticated worm known in the Madras Presidency, as remarked in paragraph 2 of the Board's letter, is a variety of the China insect, *Bombyxmori*. Cocoons and eggs of it might be procured from Coimbatore, and forwarded as directed in Dr. Bennet's instructions.

7. In Mysore, other cultivated kinds have been introduced from various parts of the world. I do not think, however, that it would be safe to get any for Australia from that quarter at present, as I have heard that the disease which has been so disastrous to sericulture in France and Italy is prevailing there, and it is readily communicated either by egg or chrysalis from infected stock.

8. With regard to the tree-seeds, it will afford the Society much pleasure to send supplies of such of these as are on hand at their Gardens; at the same time, I would take the liberty of suggesting that a copy of the seed list be sent to the Conservator of Forests, who would be able to supply several kinds not procurable here.

9. I am also to observe that the Society will be glad at all times to forward seeds of indigenous or naturalized plants to the Acclimatization Society of New South Wales.

Enclosure No. 1.—Specimen Cocoon.

In Proceedings of Government, dated 10th December 1869, No. 3,149, the Board were directed to ascertain if silk-worms and tree-seeds could be procured for acclimatization in New South Wales.

2. From the inquiries they have made, as described in the letters above recorded, and especially from Dr. Bidie's communication, (to which they would invite the particular attention of Government), the Board have no doubt that cocoons and eggs could be sent from many parts of this Presidency without any difficulty.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th August 1870.

3. But from what Dr. Bidie says in paragraph 7 of his letter, viz., that the "disease" (now so prevalent) is readily communicated "*either by egg or chrysalis* from infected stock," it is evident that the greatest care is necessary in selecting worms for exportation; and, so far as the Board are aware, the only worms in the Presidency which have been entirely free from epidemic disease are those cultivated to a very limited extent in the Tinnevelly District. It is not known with certainty of what species they are.

4. Dr. Bidie mentions three kinds of worm as indigenous, and encloses a specimen of the genus *Saturnia*, which he says is allied to the *Attacus Ricini* or Castor-oil worm, and can be procured in the neighbourhood. For the Castor-oil worm he suggests that application be made to Hyderabad, and for the *Attacus Cynthia* to Bengal.

5. The Board recommend that he should be requested to forward such specimens of the wild worm as he can collect, specimens of the domesticated worm being procured from the Collector of Tinnevelly. They are not, however, of opinion that the worm of this Presidency is of any great value, and as to this, would suggest the advisability of consulting Messrs. DeVecchj and Pater before sending eggs or cocoons to New South Wales.

6. The Conservator of Forests might be requested to assist Dr. Bidie in making a collection of the seeds required.

No. 455. Order thereon, 30th August 1870, No. 1,358.

Miscellaneous.

The Government will be obliged by Messrs. DeVecchj and Pater giving their opinion as to the utility of sending silk-worms either of the wild or domesticated species to New South Wales.

2. Major Beddome is also requested to report on the proposal to transmit tree-seeds.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, A. P. DeVecchj, Esq.
,, A. F. Pater, Esq.
,, the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

(3)

File 9 Collectors replies. 8th Nov.
regarding silk cultivation

Rebt. of 1870: Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Read August, 3rd.

Read.

R. O., 30th August 1870, No. 2,755.

ENTOMOLOGY.
Nos. 453-455.

Silk-worms and their foods for New South Wales.—Messrs. Davidson and Fisher requested to give their opinion as to the utility of sending either the wild or domesticated species of the genus, and Major Beddome to report on the proposal to transmit tree-seeds.

Extract from the Con. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 31st Aug. 1870.

From G. ELLIS, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Russelcondah, 31st January 1870, No. 67.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 139, dated the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Officiating Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th January 1870, No. 87.

Referring to Board's Proceedings, dated 8th January 1870, No. 139, I have the honour to refer the Board to Mr. Minchin's letter, No. 665, of the 4th November last, from which it will be seen that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kottapetta, 25th January 1870, No. 18.

In reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 8th instant, No. 139, I have the honour to report that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From J. A. C. BOSWELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pramarru, 25th January 1870, No. 367.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 8th January 1870, No. 130, I have the honour to report that there is no silk cultivation carried on in this district.

2. The seeds desired from India by the Acclimatization Society of New South Wales would, I would suggest, be easily procured through the Madras Agri-Horticultural Society.

Exd J. Tulloch.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madaksera, 28th January 1870, No. 19.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 139, dated 8th instant, I have the honour to state that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th February 1870, No. 23.

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 8th January 1870, No. 139, and in continuation of my letter of the 21st December 1869, No. 206, in reply to the Board's Proceedings on the same subject, I have the honour to report that the Acting Sub-Collector informs me that he can procure eggs of the silk worms cultivated in the Sub-division, as well as specimens of the silk, etc.; but he is unable to state whether they belong to any of the kinds mentioned in the Memorandum of which specimens are required, nor has he any means, nor have I, of discovering their breed. He states, however, that they are the same as those cultivated in Mysore, so it would probably be of no use to send any from this district.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th January 1870, No. 32.

In reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 7,280, dated 30th September 1869, and No. 139 of the 8th January 1870, I have the honour to report that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district, nor have any efforts been hitherto made towards its culture in any part of the district, except in Nundial, where a Mussulman tried the experiment about ten years ago, but without success.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From C. N. POCHIN, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1870, No. 22.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Board's Proceedings, under date the 30th September last, No. 7,280, calling for a report on certain points connected with the production of silk

2. The culture of silk is carried on to some extent in this district. The Talook of Oossoor is the only one where the manufacture is carried out. It is not on any improved method. The present system has been carried on for several years.

3. As regards the introduction of any measures for the improvement of the culture, efforts appear to have been made in 1843 by the then Officiating Collector Mr. Lockhart, but they were not carried out, as the Board were unwilling to recommend to Government the expenditure attending the proposed measure. The correspondence which took place on this subject is given in the margin.

1. Board's Proceedings, 17th November 1842.
2. To Board, 11th January 1843, No. 8.
3. To Board, 18th July 1843, No. 62.
4. From Board, 27th July 1843.

4. From the foregoing correspondence it will be seen that 400 cuttings of Phillipine mulberry were supplied to this district for cultivation, and that Mr. Lockhart reported that the plant thrived very "luxuriantly" in Denkenicottah, where, he stated, that silk was produced extensively. In order to improve the manufacture of silk, Mr. Lockhart sought to obtain the services of one Mr. Mortelli, of Bellicul, on the Neilgherries, and also a model machine which Mr. Mortelli possessed. Mr. Mortelli agreed to proceed to Denkenicottah and teach the natives in the improved culture of silk, and agreed to part with the model machine, should he be sufficiently remunerated for the purpose. Mr. Lockhart laid the matter before the Board, but, as I have already said, the Board declined to recommend the proposal to Government. Here the matter was dropped, and no further attempts appear to have ever been made subsequently towards the improvement of silk manufacture.

5. In 1858, a Statement of the cultivation of cotton, tea, indigo, jute, and mulberry was called for by the Board, and the same was submitted by Mr. Brett, with his letter to the Board, dated the 8th March 1858, No. 19. In this statement, the land under Mulberry cultivation is entered as Acres 202, assessed at Rupees 962-8-4. The whole of this cultivation is in the Oossoor Talook.

6. As regards the capabilities of this district for the culture of silk, I may state that the soil and climate of the sub-division, especially Oossoor and Denkenicottah, appear to me well suited for the purpose. If it were not so, I do not think that the natives would have continued their endeavours as long as they have.

7. With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 8th instant, calling for information as to what can be done to meet the wishes of those anxious to obtain Indian varieties of silk-worms and eggs for New South Wales, I have no doubt I might be able to procure a few cocoons and forward them, should the Board wish.

Extd. T. Cartledge.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chendragherry, 27th January 1870, No. 26.

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 8th instant, No. 139, to state that Silk-worms are reared in the Goodiathem Talook, and in the neighbourhood of Vellore; but that of late years, the drought has so seriously effected the Mulberry gardens, that this branch of industry is for the moment almost extinct.

2. Under these circumstances, it would not be desirable to send any silk-worms from this district, even if they could be got (which I doubt) as they must be of a degenerate and unproductive species.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 939.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th February 1870.

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 2nd February 1870, No. 30:—

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 8th ultimo, No. 139, I have the honour to refer them to my letter, No. 286, dated 15th November last, from which they will see that no silk cultivation has ever been carried on in this district. I also mentioned that the experiment had failed in the neighbouring French Settlement of Pondicherry, but I called on His Excellency the Governor for information, and to ascertain if eggs were procurable, thinking it possible, and the enclosed is a translation of the Governor's reply.

2. I do not suppose that it is necessary for the India Government or its officers to write to Japan, either direct or through others, since the Acclimatization Society of New South Wales will, no doubt, have placed itself in communication with all parts of the world in the pursuit of its object, and, therefore, to write from India, would simply be superfluous.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From His Excellency M. BONTEMPS, Governor of the French Settlements in India, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Pondicherry, 29th January 1870.

IN reference to your letter of the 27th instant, I have the honour to state that since several years ago, the cultivation of silk-worms has been abandoned because its produce does not cover one-fourth of the expenses.

2. Mr. Auber, the French Consul of Pointe de Galle, to whom I have communicated your letter, has promised to aid you in procuring the seeds from Japan. Should you place yourself in communication with him, who is a very obliging gentleman, he will, I am sure, do the needful; he is to leave Pondicherry by the *Meinam*, which is expected here by to-morrow or the day after.

(True translation.)

(Signed) C. W. READE,
Collector.

THE Board agree with the Collector that it is not necessary to take advantage of the offer of the French Consul at Pointe de Galle. In declining, the Collector will, of course, acknowledge with thanks the courteous offer.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From G. LEE-MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Poodoocottah, 25th January 1870, No. 28.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 8th January 1870, No. 139, I have the honour to report that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Rxd. G. A. Turton.

1870.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH FEBRUARY 1870, No. 939.

Encl.

Received

FEBRUARY.

No. 939.

Mulberry seeds,—Concurrence with Collector of South Arcot in considering that it is not necessary to take advantage of offer of French Consul at Pointe de Galle to procure a supply of, from Japan, for Acclimatization Society of New South Wales.

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st January 1870, No. 12.

THE Collector of Trichinopoly has the honour to state, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 139, dated 8th instant, that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From J. R. ARBUTHNOTT, Esq., Officiating Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th January 1870, No. 27.

In reply to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of the Board, dated 8th instant, No. 139, I have the honour to report that silk cultivation is not carried on in this district.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 26th January 1870, No. 15.

PROCEEDINGS of the Board, 8th January 1870, No. 139, paragraph 2, requesting Collectors of districts wherein no silk cultivation is carried on, to report the fact.

2. No silk cultivation is now carried on in this district.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kassergode, 5th February 1870, No. 121.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated the 8th January 1870, No. 139, I have the honour to report that with one or two single exceptions on a very small scale no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Taliperamba, 31st January 1870, No. 45.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 8th January 1870, No. 139, I have the honour to report that no silk cultivation is carried on in this district.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 4,562.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th June 1870.

Read the following letter from W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 10th June 1870, No. 216:—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 30th September last, No. 7,280, and 8th January 1870, No. 130, I have the honour to report that there is no cultivation of Silk at present in this district.

2. From the inquiries made, it appears that about eighty years ago one Mr. Anderson reared Silk-worms at Kotambakum in the Poonamallee Division, and realized a good profit; and that ten years ago one Mahomed Hamed Sahib in Trivellore cultivated Silk for two years, but afterwards gave up the enterprize, as the worms died owing to the extreme heat of the weather consequent on the absence of rain.

3. Both the Sydapet and Trivellore Tahsildars state that Mulberry trees may be cultivated and Silk-worms reared with advantage in some parts of the talooks where the soil is good and water is hardly ever known to fail. The Trivellore Tahsildar adds that there are a few persons in Trivellore and Tiruvur who are skilled in this branch of industry.

4. This is all the information that I can gather, and there appears to be no past correspondence on the subject. Neither has the Deputy-Collector of Madras been able to find any papers containing traces of efforts, believed to have been made for the production of Silk at Vepery and Saint Thomé in Madras.

5. I enclose a copy of the Sub-Collector's report on the subject.

Enclosure No. 1.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of the Madras District, dated Chingleput, 4th March 1870, No. 80.

With reference to your docket on Board's Proceedings as per margin, I have the honour to report that there is no cultivation of Silk at present in the Sub-Division.

No. 7,280, dated 13th Sept. 1869.

2. The oldest inhabitants of Conjeveram, Sevilimedu, and Sivaram (Wallajabad) have never heard of any attempt being made in these places, although the Mulberry tree seems to exist in Conjeveram at all events. The Tahsildar says it grows spontaneously.

3. In the Chingleput Fort, Town or Talook, the Tahsildar reports that he cannot trace any attempt at the cultivation of either the worm or the tree, and four trees in my garden at Chingleput seem to be the only representatives of the tree in these parts.

4. In the year 1867, about half an acre was planted out with Mulberry trees in Mamundur, Madurantakum Talook, and a stock of worms laid in, but the projectors, when the proper time came, not finding it in their hearts to injure and kill the worms by robbing them of the Silk, abandoned the enterprize.

5. The other day I found a hedge of Mulbery in Agraharam, a hamlet belonging to the village of Caranguli in the Madurantakum Talook, and ascertained from the Moonsiff that a man from Pondicherry had been lately in treaty with the villagers for the cultivation of two acres with the tree.

6. This is all that I can discover relating to the subject.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. T. BLAIR,
Acting Collector.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Madras.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

1870.

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH JUNE 1870, No. 4,562.

Encl.

Received

JUNE.
No. 4,562.

Silk,—Letter from Collector of Madras reporting that cultivation of, is not at present carried on in District, recorded.

1 Rev
2289/70
Rec. 31 Aug. 1870 L. 4454.

One in Beds Rev & Govt Rec
of 1 July 1870 No 4631.

22

Revenue Department.

No. 1358

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 30th August 1870.

Read the following. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submy. replies of Collectors to Board's Rors. requiring whether a supply of Silk-worms can be obtained from any of the Districts, for Acclimatization Society of New South Wales, together with report of Submy. Secy. Madras Agri. Hort. Society on subject recommending that the Officer be requested to forward such specimens of wild Silk-Worms as he can collect, & that Messrs. Bellecby & Slater be consulted before sending Silk-worms eggs or Cocoons to N. S. Wales.

H.E. 1st July 1870. No. 4631

I D.S. A/V.
I should like to be
Called on when work
v. G.O. 10 Dec 69. I D.S.

The Govt will be obliged by Messrs. Bellecby and Slater giving their opinion as to the utility of sending silk-worms rather of the wild

or

or domesticated species to
New South Wales, and also
of transmitting tree-seeds.
Major Beddome is also
requested to report on the
latter question.

14 Folio Vols Revd. Desp.s Recd.
1 — A.P. De Vesci Esqre
1 — A.F. Pasley Esqre
13 — Comr of Treasy