

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1025

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

20-8-1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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To P Grant Esq^r
Collector of Coimbatore

Sir

In continuation of my report No 2
to the Chief Secretary to Govt respecting
the steps I had taken for the purpose of
introducing fishes into the waters of the
dated Feb^y 11th 1864 Nilgherry Hills, I have the honor to forward
the present supplementary statement
of personal observations made on the result
of that undertaking.

Having obtained 60 days privilege
leave I have availed myself of the oppor-
tunity of proceeding to Co^y to enable me
personally to ascertain the result of my
piscicultural experiment.

I brought a drag net with me
from Madras and have thus been in
a position to examine the fishes placed
in the stock ponds of the Govt gardens
where they were ^{introduced} placed about a year
since from Billicut and the Pykara
and Seegoor rivers. This examination
affords a good criterion of the progress
of those in the lake although I must
at the same time observe that I do
not for one moment believe that the
ponds in the Govt gardens are as suit-
able for the residence and propagation
of fish as either the Co^y lake or the
Pykara river.

I have this day with the
assistance of Mr Balcock dragged
three of the stock ponds in the Govt
we are.

gardens with the following results. All the fish captured were (with the exception of four) returned to the various tanks.

The Paradanio aurolineatus, Rastora Neilgherriensis, and Paradanio Neilgherriensis were larger and more brilliantly coloured (demonstrating their excellent health) than any I have hitherto obtained either in the Edical Lake or in the ^{waters of the} ~~plains from~~ the rivers of which they were originally imported.

In the first haul of the net in the centre pond of the goat garden, we enclosed many paradanios, a few Rastoras and two of the Barilius rugosus or Indian trout. In another pond, into which about a dozen and a half of the Paradanio aurolineatus and Paradanio Neilgherriensis had been turned, we took out sixteen fish from the upper half, the lower being too deep to net.

As regards the Paradanio aurolineatus, the number of adult and half grown fish were certainly more than were originally placed there, whilst numerous young fry too small to be taken in the net, and about half an inch or upwards in length may be seen in droves, and the old specimens are even now full of roe. This is a conclusive proof that the opinion advanced has not been erroneous and that the waters of Ooty and the upper plateau of the Neilgherries are well suited for the fishes of the plains of India, if we

may judge from the excellent way in which three species of the carps are thriving. The Rastora Neilgherriensis have also increased, but not to so great an extent as the Paradanios, but the females were full of roe, and specimens of the Paradanio Neilgherriensis were in the same healthy and increasing condition.

It is very evident that the fish which were introduced last year, many of which I remarked at the time were full of roe, must have bred in the goat garden, for only on this supposition, can their increase in numbers be accounted for. I was afraid that the transference would have probably injured the roe and that consequently no young would have been produced until this year. Fortunately this has not been entirely the case, and a fair number of young were evidently reared last year, whilst this season the fry are very numerous and the increase may be expected to be large.

10. Owing to the above results, which I cannot but believe will be considered highly satisfactory, I beg to be allowed to modify my opinion respecting the steps which are still desirable to complete the experiment, in order as far as possible to avoid any subsequent failure.

11. The fishes I have mentioned, a belonging to the family of Cyprinidae which 38 Puntius Carnaticus were placed in the Ooty Lake which I proposed should be augmented by 24 more, but now

in case any wrong species should
by mistake be imported, I should
strongly urge that no more should
be introduced. ~~for~~ I feel certain that
very few if any of the carps (*P. Carnat-*
icus) which were brought to Ooty
died, so that if they breed I have
already placed a sufficient number
in the lake, and if they do not
it will scarcely be worth while to
bring up more from the plains.

12 As regards this species for
the Pykara river I will endeavour to
introduce them personally at my
own cost. I feel certain that they
will succeed there, and trust at a
future date they will afford much
sport to anglers, therefore I strongly
advise that only two dozen of each
of the following species be introduc-
ed ⁱⁿ to the Ooty Lake and Pykara
River, *Ophiocephalus marulius*, *O. striatus*, and *Labeobarbus* etc.

13 I have reserved a specimen
of a female full of roe of each of
the species previously mentioned
as captured in the goat gardens,
for the British Museum, that
I have not done so for that of
Madras, is because the collection
I made last year for Government
was returned by the Curator as in
his opinion not sufficiently interest-
ing to be accorded a place in that
Institution, which notwithstanding
appears to be deficient in all the
species transmitted.

14 I trust that I have now fully
established my view, that the waters
of these hills are adapted to low coun-
try fish and I most sincerely trust
that no mistake will be made in
completing the experiment, which
Government have directed shall be
carried out by the Special Assistant
to the Collector of Coimbatore. Whilst
I remain in Ooty I will most willingly
examine all species brought there
(provided I have due notice), and
shall be happy to give my opinion as
to whether they are the desirable sorts
or otherwise. This I trust may be of
service in preventing the introduction
of species which would in all proba-
bility destroy the whole experiment
which has hitherto proved so success-
ful.

15 Before leaving Madras I
applied to Col Verison for a few of the
Gourammies brought from the Mauritius
proposing to convey them to Ooty at
my own cost, feeling confident that
they ~~would~~ ^{would} thrive in the lake. Col
Verison at once acceded to my request,
provided we could find any alive
in the People's Park. But unfortunately
when we dragged the tank in which
46 had been placed, the water was
found so brackish, and the bottom
so foul, that all the fish were dead
apparently from the locality, as they
require fresh, clean water. We suggest

ed my applying to Quindy for some, but I could do no more, and was obliged to come away without them. As this paper I think fully proves that the Hill waters are adapted to low country fish, and as the Gouramy breeds in warm temperatures such as the Mauritius and Cayenne, although originally from China where the temperature is often lower than it is on the Neelgherries, it appears to adapt itself to various degrees of heat and would therefore certainly thrive in the Lake. I should therefore strongly urge some of them being obtained at Quindy and brought to Pooy. They are said to be exceedingly delicate eating and (according to Mr. Wheeler) at two years old attain from ten to fifteen pounds in weight. The voyage from the Mauritius occupied fifteen days and out of fifty fish kept in buckets of water, only changed once daily, I understand that only three or four died. Consequently they appear to be easily carried. They could be taken by rail to Coimbatore and from thence by coolies to the Hills, resting during the day and care being taken that they are not shaken in the transit more than is absolutely unavoidable. A responsible person should accompany them from Madras. Some *Vahneria* should be placed in the water, and some of

the weed they feed upon, be taken with them. Five or six brace of small ones ought to be sufficient to stock the Lake. There would be much greater risk of mortality in conveying large than small specimens, and more difficulty in their carriage. They would render the fishing in the Lake a valuable acquisition, and if my suggestion meets with approval, I beg to offer to meet them at Kullar, from whence I will personally take charge of them and convey them to Pooy that is provided they arrive of which I am on privilege leave, or prior to Sept 1st after which period I shall be preparing to leave for Madras.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yr. Most obedient servant

James Jay

Esq.

Madras Army,

21st Aug 1857

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Comptroler's office
Comptroler 8th August 1867

Yours

P. Grant Esq.
Collector of Pinbates



The Honorable R. J. Ellisesq.
acting Chief Secretary to Govern-
ment. Fort Saint George.

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As, I have the honor to forward
a report from Dr. Day on the Low
Country Fish introduced by him
last year into the Olacamma
Government Garden waters
The condition of the

The present condition of the
Fish is promising. They seem to
have increased in numbers, and
size, and there is every reason
to suppose, that the acclimatization
of Low Country fish on the Hill,
is now an established fact.

Mr Day is anxious to procure
some of the fouraines brought to
Guedras from the Mauritius, and
to give that Government a full

be able to meet his wishes, as their
introduction into the Bill Waters
would prove a boon to all claps
of the Community.

I have the honor to be

Sr

Your most obedient servant

Mont
Collecta

Public Dept.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Com-
-batore, dated 8th August 1867 No. 70.

Order thereon. 20 August 1867. No. 1025.

In his report of the 11th February 1867
Dr. Day gave an account of the
efforts made by him for introducing
and acclimating in the lakes
and streams of the Nilghevries,
fish transported from the low
country. At the date of the above
report Dr. Day had transported
to the hills 16 Eels, and a variety
of Ophiocephalides, and carp,
Paradisi and Rasboras, and
in accordance with his suggestion
the Government in May last arranged
for procuring several more
specimens.

In his letter to the Collector, above
referred, Dr. Day reports the result
of his experiment, showing that,
as anticipated by him, the
Ophiocephalides, Paradisi,
and Rasboras have thrived.

Recd 1st May/67 No. 70

Public Department
1867.

Dec. 20 Aug 7.

From the Collector of
Combatore.

Combatore 11th Feb.

10th Feb. 1867. To the Secretary
to Government.

504. 1025.

For 15th April 1867.

10th Feb. 1867.

10th Feb. 1867.

10th Feb. 1867.

10th Feb. 1867.

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10th Feb. 1867.

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10th Feb. 1867.

15th Aug
1867

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The Govt are glad to learn
 from this report that ^{the} seems
 no reason to doubt that 3.
 Dr. Day's very interesting
 experiment has proved
 successful.

An application will be made
 to H. E. the Governor
 for some specimens of
 the Gouramy fish from
 Guindy, and then will
 if possible be sent
 to Dr. Day before he leaves
 the 1st June. -

best, the specimens taken out of
 the stock ponds in the Government
 Gardens being larger and more
 healthy than any hitherto observed
 in the low country streams; there
 has been also a large increase in
 their number, and this season the
 fry are very numerous. ~~There~~
~~seems therefore little reason to doubt~~
~~the success of the experiment.~~

The Special Assistant Collector will
 attend to Dr. Day's recommendation
 with regard to not introducing
 any more specimens of the Punnis
 Carnaticus, and will fully avail
 himself of the assistance of Dr.
 Day in examining the various
 specimens still to be introduced.

The Government fear that it will
 be impossible to obtain the permission
 of the R. Hon. the Governor, and
 to arrange for the transmission
 of specimens of the Gouramy from
 the Guindy waters, before the
 expiration of Dr. Day's leave.

I have the pleasure to inform you
 that the specimens of the Gouramy
 which were all sent to you by the
 Collector of Guindy, are now in your
 possession.

To the Collector of Guindy }
 " Surgeon J. Day. }
 " Rev. Department }

a specimen of the
 Gouramy fish
 was sent to you
 by the Collector of Guindy.

Wm. 1887 Septant
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Proceeding of Land

Dated 20 August 1887

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