

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

**Government of Madras.**

*Public* - DEPARTMENT.

|          |              |                          |
|----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| G.O. No. | <i>1407</i>  | Press<br><del>Mis.</del> |
| Dated    | <i>8-11-</i> | <i>1867.</i>             |

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*AY*  
*21-10-86*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
8th November 1867.*

No. 69. Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 5th September 1867, No. 78.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, a letter, dated 2nd instant, from Dr. Day, reporting on the safe arrival and introduction into the lake at Ootacamund of six of the Gouramy fish sent from Madras by His Excellency the Governor.

2. A statement of expenses incurred by Dr. Day is appended to his letter, and I request the sanction of Government to disburse the amount to him, viz., Rupees 59-15-0.

3. I take this opportunity of also forwarding a Memorandum of charges incurred by my department in supplying coolies, &c., for the conveyance of the above fish from the Coimbatore Railway station to Metapolliem, and request sanction for the payment of the net amount therein shown, viz., Rupees 10-13-0.

MEMORANDUM of charges incurred for coolies, &c., supplied for the conveyance of the Gouramy Fish sent from Madras.

|                                                                                                       | RS. | A. | P. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Half hire for 24 bearers from Coimbatore to Pothanoor Railway station at 1 Anna each.                 | 1   | 8  | 0  |
| Full hire for do. from the Railway station to Goodaloor, being 15 miles, at 6 Pice each per mile..... | 11  | 4  | 0  |
| Full hire for 24 coolies from Goodaloor to Metapolliem, being 12 miles, at 5 Pice each per mile.....  | 7   | 8  | 0  |
| Value of chatties, &c., purchased—                                                                    |     |    |    |
| Do. of 12 pots at 2½ Annas each.....                                                                  | 1   | 14 | 0  |
| Do. of 4 bamboos at 2 Pice each.....                                                                  | 0   | 0  | 8  |
| Do. of 24 bags.....                                                                                   | 0   | 15 | 0  |
| Do. of twine.....                                                                                     | 0   | 1  | 0  |
| Hire of conveyance of the chatties from Coimbatore to Pothanoor.....                                  | 0   | 6  | 0  |
| For a cart supplied to Vencatasawmy, Peon, who came with the Fish from Madras.                        | 3   | 4  | 8  |
| Half hire from Coimbatore to Pothanoor Railway station.....                                           | 0   | 4  | 0  |
| Full hire from Pothanoor to Coimbatore.....                                                           | 0   | 8  | 0  |
| Do. from Coimbatore to Metapolliem.....                                                               | 2   | 2  | 6  |
| Toll paid at Sunganoor.....                                                                           | 0   | 4  | 0  |
| For a Mussaljee who took a Lantern with the Fish.                                                     | 3   | 2  | 6  |
| Half hire from Coimbatore to Pothanoor.....                                                           | 0   | 1  | 0  |
| Full hire from Pothanoor to Goodaloor.....                                                            | 0   | 7  | 6  |
| Value of a candle.....                                                                                | 0   | 2  | 0  |
|                                                                                                       | 27  | 5  | 8  |
| Deduct                                                                                                |     |    |    |
| Amount paid by Vencatasawmy, the Peon who came with the fish.....                                     | 15  | 0  | 0  |
| Sale proceeds of chatties, &c.....                                                                    | 1   | 8  | 8  |
|                                                                                                       | 16  | 8  | 8  |
| Net amount due...                                                                                     | 10  | 13 | 0  |

COIMBATORE,  
4th September 1867.

(Signed) P. GRANT,  
Collector.

From Surgeon F. DAY, Madras Army, to the Collector of Coimbatore; dated Ootacamund, 2nd September 1867.

With reference to G. O., No. 1025, of August 20th, 1867, and three telegrams subsequently received from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, I have the honor to report having proceeded to Metapolliem, received charge of ten Gouramy fish, and introduced six alive into the Ootacamund lake.

2. On Tuesday, August 27th, I left Ootacamund for Metapolliem, and the following morning at 8-30 A. M. three casks containing the fish arrived at the bungalow, where I was awaiting them. The water had been renewed in all the casks at 7 A. M., but it was still rather turbid, and owing to the weeds I could not minutely examine into the state of the fish on their arrival, but with the exception of two in the cask which contained four, they seemed pretty well—those two were rather exhausted.

3. Although a cloudy day, I deemed it most judicious to allow them to halt for a few hours, that by obtaining rest and food they might be in a better condition to renew their journey. Consequently, I did not leave Metapolliem until the afternoon.

4. En route to Kullaar, five miles distant, and at the foot of the ghauts, the fish again appeared rather exhausted, and I therefore stopped at the river for an hour and a half, during which period I kept the casks under shade in the stream, and constantly renewed the water in each. This process revived all the fish, which were visible. About dusk we continued the journey and arrived at Coonoor at 9-30 P. M. During the whole time I kept along-side the casks and endeavoured by every means in my power to prevent the fish from being shaken.

5. At Coonoor I had calculated upon a stream which ran through the compound of a house where I intended to rest the fish for the night. This stream I purposed passing through the various casks, but on my arrival I was disappointed on finding that a neighbour had diverted its course, and I was consequently kept until past mid-night searching for the obstruction, which I eventually discovered and removed. Much valuable time was thus wasted, and probably some of the losses which occurred may be attributed to this cause.

6. The 29th was rainy with strong winds, and the coolies objected to proceeding to Ooty, but I finally obtained them about mid-day. After the casks were lifted from beneath the stream, I examined (without removing) the fish in each before starting. In the two first casks all were alive and apparently pretty well, but in the third which contained four all were dead. This had not been observed previously. As this species when dead, instead of rising, sink to the bottom of the water. It is worthy of note that it was only in this one cask that any mortality occurred; this may have been due to its containing too many fish, or to an uncleanly state of the cask, either before it was employed for this purpose, or subsequently from the decomposition of the large amount of rice which had been thrown in for the fish to feed on before they reached Metapolliem. If time had permitted, and a good pond been available, I would have kept the remainder for a week at Coonoor, but I was compelled to proceed to Ooty where I arrived at 5-30 P. M. I took the greatest care during the journey to prevent shaking of the casks, but several of the coolies were attacked with fever, which caused delay.

7. During this last stage, the fish again appeared greatly exhausted from the unavoidable agitation of the water; for Gouramies being spiny fishes, when shaken about in the water may injure one another with their spines, whilst exhaustion is due to the constant exertions they make to support themselves by means of their fins, against the incessant agitation of the water in the casks, which otherwise dashes them against the sides or each other. This exhaustion no doubt causes nervous depression, and even for some time after the fish have arrived at their destination they will be naturally disinclined for food, and require a long rest to revive them. The more abrupt the ascents and descents on the journey the greater the amount of shaking which unavoidably occurs. At 5-30 P. M. I reached the Ooty lake, and on placing the fish in the water four of them swam away at once, although evidently much exhausted; the other two took longer to recover, but eventually revived sufficiently to swim away and I saw no more of them.

8. The fish received weighed one and a half pounds or upwards each, and appeared to be in excellent health, but their size was greater than that which is advisable for carrying long distances, especially if up ghauts, as the larger the size the greater is the risk of mortality. Fish of about a quarter of a pound in weight, if procurable, are most adapted for conveyance. Casks were the only vessels in which such large fish could be carried. As long as they travelled by rail but slight danger was incurred, but when carried by coolies the chances of mortality were augmented, and these were still further increased on ascending the ghauts.

9. Each cask, after having had a sufficiently large air-hole cut at one end, should be filled about one-sixth part full of pond weeds, and two-thirds full of clean fresh water. When the fish have been introduced, and the open hole netted over, the cask should be slung on end, and suspended by strong ropes to a bamboo. A little straw round the bottom of the cask will prevent its sharp edges cutting the suspending ropes. The casks are thus carried like palanquins, and when they reach the ghaut cross bamboos should be attached, to enable more persons to be employed in their conveyance.

10. The food required for the Gouramies during their transit claimed my special attention, and to ascertain this I dissected those which died, and found that they partially at least subsist on the small pond shells so common in the tanks at Madras. These fish were fed upon rice, but from experiments which I made in Madras, I do not hesitate to affirm that if too large a quantity of rice is given, so that some of it remains in the water to putrefy, which it does rapidly, it becomes most deleterious and often causes the death of fish. Too much chopped meat acts in much the same manner; in fact, no more food should be given than they can consume at a meal. But living pond shells attach themselves to the weeds and do no injury to the water.

11. The periods most appropriate for the conveyance of fish, with reference both to the time in the month and the hour of the day, should be most carefully selected. Avoidance of sun is most essential, whilst to enable the coolies to travel by night easily, the time of the full-moon should be chosen. The fish should leave Madras by the evening train, which would bring them to Coimbatore about noon the following day. The water in each cask should then be immediately renewed, and some pond shells and a very small quantity of rice thrown in. They must be placed under a verandah, in a cool spot but not inside a house, and should not leave Coimbatore until 6-30 P. M., which would afford ample time for their arrival at Kullaar before 6 A. M. on the following day, when fresh water should be at once put into the casks. This should be repeated at mid-day, and again in the evening before leaving. The fish should be fed once during the day, and about 6 P. M. leave for Coonoor, where they should be placed in a pond and kept for a week, after which they could be removed with safety to the Ooty lake.

12. The Gouramy is a perch-like fish, requiring fresh water to live in, and scarcely adapted to rivers. It is said to grow to 30lbs. weight and upwards, and is of a most delicate flavour, far superior to that of any Indian fresh-water fish. Originally a Native of China, it has been acclimatized in the Mauritius and elsewhere, principally by the energy, perseverance, and scientific knowledge of the French. It is peculiarly adapted to tropical climates, by possessing a large cavity for water in its head (like the Climbing Perch and several other tropical species); it may thus be kept alive for some time, even after its removal from its natural element. I have in a previous report shown that tropical fishes will thrive and breed on the Neilgherries, and there appears every reason to believe that fish, such as the Gouramies, must prove an eventual success at Ootacamund, as they have in so many other distant and varied localities, provided a sufficient number are brought up.

13. I would strongly urge that, if possible, some more be sent to Ootacamund, as I believe that success cannot be ensured with less than six brace in the lake, and I would certainly advocate twelve brace if such a number could be spared. Some of them after their arrival may succumb from exhaustion, owing to the shaking they have undergone, or to injuries sustained from knocking against the sides of the casks or against each other, or even from change of climate, and, besides, there are occasionally others in the lake.

14. As I conclude more of these excellent fishes may be expected from the Mauritius, I would beg to suggest whether they are very desirable acquisitions for the town of Madras, where there are so many varieties of marine species available, or whether they are not more adapted to inland stations, many of which have fine tanks of water, peopled only by fish which few Europeans consider fit for the table, and those only because they cannot procure better. For instance, at Bangalore there are tanks suitable for them, and they could be conveyed by rail without any mortality. Again, they might be introduced on the Shevaroy's, and as the lines of rail extend other stations might be similarly supplied. Fish of from a quarter to half a pound in weight

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8th November 1867.*

would be best adapted for conveyance to Ooty; those from half a pound to a pound for the Shevaroy; and from one pound upwards for Bangalore. But to whatever locality they may be introduced, four years' protection must at least be afforded them to ensure success, and during this period all fishing prohibited.

15. If my views regarding the easy extension of such fine fresh-water fish as the Gouramies are considered feasible, and the augmentation of animal food desirable, I would suggest that a most excellent opportunity now exists of practically carrying them out. His Excellency the Governor of the Mauritius appears interested in the subject, and these fish might be procured from him to almost an unlimited extent. The carriage by sea is easy, whilst from the town of Madras they might be extended to many inland stations at a small outlay. The most expensive journey would be that to Ooty, and if we estimate the cost of the six fish already safely introduced into the lake, and take that as a basis of calculation, and allow for two dozens, it may be completed at a total cost of less than four hundred Rupees from the period of their leaving Madras to that of their arrival at their final destination.

16. Appended is a list of the amounts I have personally expended in bringing up the Gouramies, which I shall be obliged by being refunded. Receipted bills have been taken for all excepting a few small items, amounting to Rupees 5-15-0, disbursed as rewards for proceeding quickly, for watching the fish at night time, &c., &c., as detailed, and Rupees 1-1-0 for turnpike gates, making a total of Rupees 59-15-0.

17. In conclusion, I must apologize for the length of this report, but I deemed that full information with regard to all my observations might be useful to the Special Assistant, to whom the completion of my Neilgherry fish experiments has been entrusted. I have little doubt that they must eventually succeed, and I finally trust that I have now fully proved to the satisfaction of Government, that the waters of these Hills are adapted both for the residence and propagation of tropical fish, as well as that it is possible to convey even large species, such as the Gouramies, in safety to the summit of this elevated plateau.

MEMORANDUM of expenses incurred in proceeding from Ooty to Metapolliem, and returning with the Gouramy Fish.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| August 27th and 28th. Bill from I. C. C. for tonjon from Coonoor to Metapolliem, &c., and a pony from Metapolliem to Coonoor, as well as seven coolies, &c...                                                                | RS. | A. | P. |
| August 28th. Bill from Moonsiff, Manager, Metapolliem for eighteen more coolies to Coonoor, ropes, bamboos, &c...                                                                                                            | 30  | 6  | 0  |
| August 29th. Bill from Revenue Inspector of Coonoor, for eighteen coolies to proceed to Ooty...                                                                                                                              | 9   | 12 | 0  |
| August 27th, 28th, and 29th. Bill for hire of carriage (without horse) in which to go to Coonoor and return from thence to Ooty.                                                                                             | 9   | 12 | 0  |
| Incidental expenses for which bills are not available—                                                                                                                                                                       | 3   | 0  | 0  |
| One peon from Metapolliem to foot of ghauts, a man to carry lantern up the ghaut at night time, watching fish throughout one night, extra remuneration for proceeding quickly, two balls of twine, and some extra coolies... | 6   | 0  | 0  |
| Toll gate going to Coonoor 4 Annas, horse coming up ghaut from Metapolliem 1 Anna, carriage returning to Ooty 12 Annas ...                                                                                                   | 1   | 1  | 0  |
| Total...                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 59  | 15 | 0  |

Ooty,

2nd September 1867.

I certify upon honor that the sums above-mentioned have been *bona fide* paid by me for the purposes set forth.

(Signed) F. DAY.

(Signed) F. DAY.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
8th November 1867.*

No. 70.

ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1867, No. 1407.

The Governor in Council sanctions the reimbursement to Dr. Day of the expenses incurred by him in the conveyance of the fish referred to, to Ootacamund, amounting to Rupees 59-15-0, also the charge, viz., Rupees 10-13-0, incurred by the Collector on the above account.

2. On the arrival of the Gouramy fish expected from the Mauritius, a further supply will be sent to Ootacamund.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

To Surgeon F. Day.

To the Accountant General.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

✓

No 13<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1867 No 135-136.  
20<sup>th</sup> Augt " " 156-157

Public 1867 Sept  
from The Collector of  
Covimbatore  
To The Chief Secretary  
to Government  
St. St. George  
Dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 1867  
Received 20

Enclosures II ✓

No 78. Co 1493

Forwards D. Day's letter  
reporting on the introduction  
of Gouramy fish into Coimbatore  
Lake & requests sanction  
for disbursement of expenses.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following  
letter from the Collector of  
Covimbatore.

(Here enter 5<sup>th</sup> September 1867)

Order thereon, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1867

The Governor in Council  
sanctions the reimburse-  
ment to D. Day of the  
expenses incurred by him  
in the conveyance of the  
Fish referred to, to Coimbatore  
Lake, amounting to Rupees  
59-15- also, the charge-  
Rupees 10-13, incurred by the  
Collector on the above account.

2 On the arrival of  
the Gouramy fish expect-  
ed from the Mauritius,

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a further supply will be  
sent to Cotacumand.

100

To the Col. Humboldt  
" <sup>Surgeon</sup> Dr. Day } despatch  
" Capt. General } 100

*P. M.*  
1867. Department.

No. 1407

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Feb 1870

Dated 8 *th* *of* *January* 1870