M.R.O. 14 - 5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1126 Press Mis.

Dated 22-3-1926

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th May 1866.

No. 209. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting letter from Collector of Coimbatore, and recommending that Dr. Day be authorized to carry out, in communication with Collector, experiment of introducing fish from low country into lake and rivers on Neilgherry Hills.

(Here enter 25th April 1866, No. 2,889.)

No. 210.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1866, No. 1,126.

The experimental introduction of the low country fish, referred to in Dr. Day's letter and approved by the Collector and the Board of Revenue, is sanctioned at a cost not exceeding Rupees 300. Precautions must, however, be taken to prevent the fish from being caught after introduction, and Dr. Day will study the habits of the fish to ascertain the spawning season of the several kinds proposed to be introduced, so that they may be protected at those seasons.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2,889.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 25th April 1866.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1866, No. 98 :—

I beg to transmit copy of a letter received from Dr. Day, containing a proposition to introduce fish from the low country into the lake and rivers on the hills. The plan he proposes to follow is simple, inexpensive, and likely to succeed. I strongly recommend it to the consideration of the Board, and hope they will obtain the sanction of Government to its adoption. A sum of about Rupees 100 will cover all necessary expenses.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Doctor F. DAY, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ooty, April 14th, 1866.

1. I regret to report that the mortality amongst the Trout Ova has continued, and, unless under the fine sand I have none remaining alive, on May 2nd I shall uncover the remainder; but I am afraid that the result will be unsatisfactory.

2. Fearing, as I do, that either the trout hatched out will be too few in number to stock the Neilgherry waters, or, as now appears probable, none will hatch, I beg to suggest a plan, which, if it meets with your approbation and support, I trust you will submit for sanction. I find that the European and Native inhabitants of the hills have a great desire for fish, that from (1) one to (2) two Rupees is constantly paid for a morrut (ophiocephalus striatus) from the plains, and equally large sums for carp (puntius), whilst, I believe, I can show that the same species might be provided at very slight cost from the plains so as soon to become naturalized on the hills.

3. I must, first, shortly draw attention to the indigenous fish of the hills; secondly, to those naturalized from the low country; and lastly, to the plan I propose for introducing carp (puntius) and morrut (ophiocephalus) from the plains.

4. The Ooty lake, a large artificial piece of water nearly one and a half miles long, and in some places upwards of thirty feet in depth, contains only a little minnow indigenous to the hills, and, out of hundreds examined, none have exceeded two inches in length. This piece of water is well adapted for carp, grey morrut and eels, not for trout or river fish.

5. The small Billicul lake, four miles above Seegoor, contains quantities of paradanios and loaches imported from the rivers in the plains below by Mr. Sullivan in 1844, as well as a fine rasbora (a large species of minnow), which would seem to have been introduced with the others, but which species, I cannot discover in the Seegoor river; also some carps, one of which nearly four lbs. weight, Mr. Dawson captured for me with a night line; it is similar to the species at Seegoor, from whence it was evidently brought. This species grows to thirty lbs. in weight, and is good eating; whilst its presence proves that the climate of Billicul, half way up the ghat, is suitable. Likewise its being full of spawn demonstrates that it will breed on the hills. Differing from the European carp it quickly dies out of water, and is consequently difficult to convey any distance alive, but, as I shall show, it can be done whilst the spawning season being about to commence, and this being the hot weather on the hills, the time of the year is admirably adapted for their introduction.

6. The Seegoor river contains carp in sufficient numbers for stocking the hill waters. That at Tippacadoo, I am informed (but do not know from personal experience), also has morrut and some very fine description of fish; but no one seems to know exactly what they are. I ought to go there to examine them if my plan is approved of.

7. I have not been able to extend my inquiries to the Pykara and Avalanche rivers, but hope to do so before leaving Ooty, and to include all in my report.

8. To try the question of importation from below the Ooty, I obtained the assistance of Mr. Babcock, of the Government Gardens, and we brought in one evening in watering pots about (100) one hundred small fish from Billicul, and placed them in the tanks in the Government Gardens at Ooty, only three having died by the way, and the rest being doing well to this time.

9. Extending the experiment to Seegoor we captured only a score of carp and many small fish; one of the carp is now alive and well in the Government gardens at Ooty, the first specimen, I believe, ever introduced alive to the summit of the hills; and when I say he was caught at Seegoor at 4 P. M. one evening, and not brought in till 10-30 A. M. the next day, it shows that safe conveyance of this species can be made. The fish captured during the heat of the day died before leaving the river at Seegoor. We cooked the largest, and found that he was excellent eating. Thus fine eatable low country fish can be introduced, and will thrive on the hills when placed in favorable situations.

10. My proposition is that I continue the fish experiment until the middle of June (for if the trout fail I could not commence this until after May 2nd,) and complete my investigations into the waters of the hills, their finny inhabitants and adaptability for different sorts of fish; secondly, that I introduce carp and morrut from the plains.

11. The introduction of carp must be accomplished from Seegoor, and should be carried out by moonlight, for the fish ought to be captured after 4 P. M., and at once brought up by coolies to Ooty or Pykarra or both. Each watering can, properly fitted up, should accommodate three or four carp, and eight or ten pairs ought to be sufficient for the lake. The whole cost would be one Rupee daily for the fisherman and the cooly hire from Seegoor to Ooty, as well eight Rupees for fitting up eight cans.

12. The morrut I could not discover as existing at Seegoor; but if, as I am informed, it is found at Tippacadoo, their introduction would be much facilitated; for as they have hollow heads for containing water they live for hours even in wet grass, and would be very easily brought to Seegoor and so on to Ooty. If they are not at Tippacadoo, they are found in the tanks around Metoopolliem, and in quantities at Coimbatore. They would probably be adapted to the hills, if the proper species are taken, and grow to lbs. twenty weight; their good quality for eating is too well known to need remarking upon. The orange variety is suitable for the rivers of the hills, the grey and striped one for the tanks. The cost would be the fisherman at one Rupee a day, and the carriage for very little cooly expense would be required in the low country. Of course I would superintend the catching myself.

13. The whole expense to Government would be merely the fisherman's pay, and the cooly or bandy hire, and for the introduction of *carp*, it would be ten Rupees a trip to Seegoor, and two or three journeys on the outside should be sufficient for the Ooty lake, the same for the Pykarra river. If morrut are present at Tippacadoo, they should be captured there, and brought up at the same time; the expense would not be great in their conveyance, as they come twice the distance it might be calculated at fifteen Rupees a trip, only three or four of which would be necessary, as the mortality would be slight in conveying them. Between the time when the moon would suit, I would thoroughly examine not only every piece of water on the hills, but also the Seegoor, Tippacadoo, and Metoopolliem rivers, preserving specimens of each species of fish which exists therein.

Memorandum.

Species of fish personally collected.

Place.	Minnow.	Parradanis.	Loach.	Rasbora.	Carp.	Gudgeon.	Barilins.	Remarks.
Ooty	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	The three species from Billicul and Seegoor, marked * are the same in each place.
Billicul	...	*1	*1	1	*1	...	...	
Seegoor	...	*1	*1	...	*1	1	1	

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing, I have seen His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, who has authorized me to say that he approves of my proposition of attempting to introduce the low country fish into the waters on the hills.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Collector.

April 14th, 1866.

Submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that Dr. Day be authorized to carry out the experiment in communication with the Collector, at an expenditure not to exceed Rupees 350, without further report.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Encl. J. Wright.

1866. Department.

No. 1226

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 25th April 1866.

No. 2,889.

Submitting letter from Collector of Coimbatore and recommending that Doctor Day be authorized to carry out in communication with Collector experiment of introducing fish from low country into lake and rivers on Neilgherry Hills.