M.R.O. 14-5,450--22-1-

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1549 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 23-6- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 525. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th June 1866, No. 3,991.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 28th May 1866, No. 134:—

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 11th instant, No. 1,126, I deem it right to keep the Board informed as to the steps being taken by Dr. Day to introduce low country fish into the waters on these Hills, and I, therefore, beg to transmit, for their information, a report, in original, received from him this day.

—

From Surgeon F. DAY, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ooty, May 26th, 1866.

1. I have the honor to report having proceeded to Metapolliem the day after the receipt of the Sub-Magistrate's reply* to my letters, and in accordance with our programme, have examined, as well as a few days would permit, into the fishes inhabiting the Bowany river. I will, at a future time, draw up a full report, including the matter of this and my future letters, reporting the progress of the experiment.

* Forwarded to you.

2. I have obtained specimens of the following fish (leaving their scientific description until hereafter):—

1. Poo meen candee.
2. Arranjah candee.*
3. Sawal candee.*
4. Coatee candee.
5. Ponaree candee.
6. Currumunnee candee.
7. Saal candee.
8. The so-called trout of this part of India, in reality a carp *Barlius*, as even observed by the natives.
9. A *chela*, wellachee candee.
10. A minnow, woollaree meen.
11. A *belone*, cow meen.
12. A *paradanio*, Poarah cunjoo.
13 & 14. Two sorts of *garra*, kahkun.
15. Kul culhuttee.
16. A *notopterous*, ombutan wahlee.
17. A white *bagrus*, vella kulletee.
18. A spotted *bagrus*, psetta kulletee.
19. A wahlee.
20. Chota wahlee.
21. An eel, vellangoo.
22. The *mastacemblus armatus*, a species resembling an eel, a good eating aree.
23, 24, & 25, without native names; we did not procure either species of murrul.

3. The fish which I propose to bring up are the *Murrul of both varieties*, which the fishermen assert in a short time after the rains have set in may be captured; but I have also requested the Sub-Magistrate to purchase some from a distance, and keep them for me. The *wahlee* of both varieties, the one grows to at least lbs. 15 in weight, the small one to about lbs. 3; they are both good eating, and salt well. I have also found the latter species exists in the Wynaad, and have asked Mr. Burnett to be so good as to send me some by cooly. The *kulletee* of both varieties, which are good eating and much esteemed by Europeans, they grow to about one and a half feet in length: also the *aree*. As to the carps *candee*) I also propose bringing up some, because they grow to as much as lbs. 25 weight at Metapolliem, and are excellent sport for fishing, but being bony are not esteemed by Europeans as good as many other fish for the table. I have also made arrangement for a cooly being despatched with eels, which, on receipt, I intend to turn into the lake, and subsequently I shall proceed to Metapolliem.

4. I have made the following arrangements; but in case of the Sub-Magistrate forgetting, I should be obliged by your directing him to collect the following fish:—*Wahlee, Chota Wahlee, Vella kulletee, psetta kulletee, Aree, Curroopoo veral, and poo veral*; as collected they should be placed in a bowrie, so that I can fish them out just when required. My reasons for this are, first, that the fish will be there ready to hand; secondly, that the water will be colder than that of the river, so they will be better prepared for the change of temperature, and lastly,

that in the event of its being a stormy evening when coolies will not travel, I can leave them until the next day.

5. On my leaving Metapolliem for Ooty, I started at 6-30 P. M., and brought some live fish in chatties to observe upon the best mode of travelling; but owing to the rains having filled the river, I could not obtain the species I required. I tried tin watering cans and chatties slung on bamboos, each having two; this plan will not succeed; they are too heavy to be properly carried, and the coolies on the sly empty out the water to lighten their load; so I intend to let each cooly have only one chatty, which will be carried on the top of the head in a basket. I placed some fine young carp in the lake of three varieties, also one of the Vella kulletees. It appeared to me that the fish which died became very cold, and I almost think that the long journey in one night is too much, and that I had better leave the foot of the ghaut about 1 A. M., and stay all day or even two days at Coonoor with the fish in a tank if I can find a suitable one, and leave there about 3 A. M. so as to be in Ooty about 7 A. M.

6. I have ascertained the following facts respecting the temperature of the Ooty lake in thirty-four observations made since May 30th:—

6. A. M.		S. A. M.		12 A. M.		2 P. M.		4 P. M.		6 P. M.		9 P. M.	
Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.
57·50	67·50	61	69	71	77	72	79	70	79	61	73	60	65

Proceeding down the ghaut I found that as I expected the water in the running streams was colder, but at the foot of the hills in the river exposed to the sun it was—

9 A. M.		4 P. M.		6 P. M.	
Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.
81	82	91	86	82	82

7. To ascertain the varieties of fish existing in the river, I deemed it advisable to personally superintend the fishing. We commenced early on the morning of May 24th, having five wicker baskets covered by hides similar to, but larger than, the coracles on the Severn, Dee, and elsewhere in Great Britain. At 9 A. M. the fishermen declined to go on, because of the heat 82, so we stopped until the afternoon, when I persuaded them to continue fishing in spite of a severe storm of wind. In the evening a violent thunderstorm arose, and the coolies would not proceed to Ooty. Although by this I lost my fish, I ascertained a most interesting fact respecting the fish in the river: perfectly new species appeared, which were absent the previous day; they were said by the fishermen to be brought down from the higher parts of the river; amongst them I found a notopterus, &c.

Submitted for the information of Government. The Board presume that the Collector has issued instructions to his subordinates to the effect requested by Dr. Day.

No. 526. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1866, No. 1,519.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,991.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th June 1866.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

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Air	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.	Air.	Water.
57·50	67·50	61	69	71	77	72	79	70	79	61	73	60	65

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(True Copies and Extract.)

J. B. Balsill

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Dated 11th June 1866.

No. 3,991.

Submitting for information letter from Collector of Coimbatore forwarding further report from Doctor Day on steps taken to introduce hill country fish into waters on Neilgherries.

RECEIVED

Rev. Dept. 1866.

Proceedings of Govt. from

No. 1714

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,