

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2066

Press

~~Misc.~~

323 324

Dated

14 - 8 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th August 1866.*

No. 323. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd July 1866, No. 5,063:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th June 1866, No. 169.

In continuation of my letter on the subject of the introduction of low country fish into the waters on the hills, I have the honor to forward a further report in original from Dr. Day. You will observe that Captain Fuller, at Coonoor, has obligingly placed his tank at Dr. Day's disposal, in view to his carrying out experiments in it in regard to the breeding of fish.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ooty, 23rd June 1866.

1. I have the honor to report the result of this week's operations in introducing fish on to Neilgherries.

2. To-day I removed (15) fifteen Curroopoo Veraris from Mr. Smith's tank at Coonoor into the Ooty lake, where all arrived alike; (12) twelve were small, of these all but one appeared very lively; (2) two were rather larger; and (1) one upwards of a foot long, this last looked sickly, but seemed to revive in the lake, but I hardly expect it will live.

3. During the past week I have been at Mettapolliem, where I found that, when the Veraris were taken out of the bowri to send to Ooty, most of the water was first removed to obtain them, and during the following night, the place having been left unwatched, all the Wuhahs and Kulluttees, except two of the latter, are reported to have been stolen; of this I was not informed until I was on my way to the bowri with my drag net.

4. Twenty-six (26) Veraris, of various sizes and both species, have been placed alive in Mr. Smith's tank at Coonoor, as proposed in my previous letter, and one Kulluttee; when I tried to use a drag net we found considerable difficulty, so cut the dam of the tank, by which we nearly drained it. The Kulluttee was absent, all but one of the larger breeding Curroopoo Veraris were dead: none of the two Veraris were to be seen, so they also had probably died; but all the small Curroopoo Veraris were alive and well. Although the muddy bottom of the pond was very foul, I cannot think such to have caused their deaths, because the smaller ones were so healthy. I am inclined to doubt the advisability of bringing up the larger fish which are in spawn, as a slight injury, such as knocking about in the chatties, may be fatal to them. I therefore shall only continue bringing up the younger fish. I should also remark here, that there may not have been a sufficiency of food in the tank for so many fish at once; likewise, that it was the Coimbatore fish which died that had travelled the longest distance, and the river Veraris.

5. The mode now adopted for conveying the Veraris, and which succeeds, is mixing about one-fourth mud with the water, so as to increase its density; this prevents, to a considerable extent, the fish knocking themselves about, and answers well.

6. I have continued my observations in the waters of Ooty, Wellington, and the low country, and give the average readings of the thermometer since the monsoon set in here, June 12th:—

	6 A. M.		12 A. M.		4 P. M.		6 P. M.	
	Air water.		Air water.		Air water.		Air water.	
Ooty lake	56	57	58	61.50	59	60	57	65
Wellington stream ...	60	61	68	70	61	68	61	65
Half way down ghaut...	...	...	...	...	65	70	...	...
Low country river ...	72	70	81	79	...	...	76	78

From which, and comparing these figures with those in my letter of June 4th, it will be perceived that the temperature has greatly decreased in the water of the Ooty lake, where I only

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noted it on rainy days, whereas at Mettapolliem no rain has fallen this month up to date;

* See letter of June 4th.

formerly* 15° was the greatest difference between the heat of the water of the Ooty lake and that of the Bowany river, and even now it

is only 14.50° in the middle of the day. From my comparatively few observations, I am led to the conclusion that the proportionate heat continues much the same. It is very remarkable how these cloudy days have diminished the heat of the low country rivers; for, whilst the thermometer in the Bowany a month since, at 12 A. M., stood at 92°, now only found it 79°: it is certainly true that it is receiving much rain water from the hills, but the Kullaar, as yet quite clear, shews exactly the same reduction of temperature.

7. My fishing operations in the Bowany were suddenly stopped, by its having become filled with rain water from the hill streams and the monsoon which has set in, in the Calicut District. This, the fishermen assert, causes all the carps to migrate to the Cauvery, where they remain until the river clears again; certainly, on using a drag net, we obtained nothing. The Verarls, the Kulluttees, and the Wallahs however remain, but these hide themselves underneath or behind stones, probably to prevent their being carried away by the rush of the water, and are only to be captured by a rod and line. On examining the Kullaar river, still clear, and having as yet received no rain water from the hills, I found the carps were still present. The muddy deposit from the rains is said to kill the carps, and that they may be found congregating in quantities where clear streams join those which are receiving muddy waters. Also, after heavy and sudden rains the river's banks contain many dead fish: the same fact obtains in Cochin, when the fishes come down and join the sea water, when numerous fish perish. The cause is still an open question.

8. To facilitate our operations, Mr. Smith has shown a deep channel to be cut in the head of his pond, and in it I propose placing a sluice gate with a padlock, at an expense of Rupees 10, so that we can by raising it drain the tank and obtain the fish: keeping them a week at Coonoor appears to answer; there the sickly ones die, which saves the expense of conveying them further. Mr. Smith will also clear out the mud from the bottom of his tank, as he requires it for manure; a purpose for which it seems well adapted.

9. I have examined a tank near Coonoor which looks as if it would be well adapted for breeding Verarls, its size is 50 x 100 feet, with grassy edges, and a stream running through it, it is situated on the estate of Captain Fuller, who is willing* to give Government the use of the same, and assist the experiment. To obtain the young Verarls a teak sluice gate with a bricked channel would be a desiderata; but as the expense would be about 30 Rupees, I do not think it could be afforded out of the 300 Rupees sanctioned, but still I propose placing some in these for breeding, from whence they could be obtained, if required at the end of the next year.

* Letter appended.

10. Next week I propose dragging the Billicul lake, and bringing in as many Rasboras as possible to Ooty. I have despatched a fisherman from Mettapolliem to a tank near Coimbatore for Verarls and Kulluttees. I have also sent another for some more eels, and I hope to have shortly sufficient eels, verarls, and carp in the Ooty lake. I am continuing my researches on the breeding of these Indian species of fish as directed, and as soon as the Bowany clears, the Sub-Magistrate says it will in ten days, I propose to go to Mettapolliem, and dissect as many sorts as I can obtain.

11. The expense up to date, including advances, has been about (80) eighty Rupees. The number of fish placed alive, and apparently quite well into the lake, is about fifty-three. I hope soon to place about a dozen more Verarls in the Ooty lake, and then to commence the Pykara river.

(Copy.)

From Dr. F. DAY, to Captain W. FULLER, dated Coonoor, 21st June 1866.

1. I have examined your tank, and think that it is in every respect adapted for the residence and breeding of Morru (Verarls).

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2. I should feel obliged if you could kindly inform me whether you have any objection to my using it for that purpose? and whether I may, when required, remove the fish so long as I have enough to continue the breed there?

3. Also, if we might put in a sluice gate sunk six feet below the present level? and if you have no objection to its being done, what would be the expense.

(Copy.)

From Captain W. FULLER, to Dr. F. DAY, dated Inkerman, Coonoor, 22nd June 1866.

1. With reference to your letter of yesterday's date, I write to tell you that I most willingly place my tank at the disposal of Government, and shall be happy to assist you in any way I can in furthering the project of Government in acclimatizing fish to these hills.

2. As regards the expense of a sluice gate, &c., I think it could not be much, and if it were made in Madras, it would be sure to be strong, and last much longer than anything of the kind made up by the carpenters here.

Submitted to Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 27th June 1866, and with reference to paragraph 2 of Government Order, dated 28th June 1866, No. 650.

No. 324.

ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1866, No. 2,066.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Rsd. S. T. Augustin.

W. 2065.

Recorded

I.D.S.

W.H. 114

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140 Aug. 1868.

This has not seem to me
require any order. As Dr
Doy will shortly return to
Mexico... it would be of
little use to him here
Capt Fuller's talk.

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