

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	720	Press Mis
202-03. Dated	16-8-1870	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th May 1870.*

No. 202. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st April 1870, No. 2,603:—

Read letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, dated 21st March 1870, No. 45, forwarding a further report from Mr. Groves on the subject of Silk-cultivation.

Read the following letter from the Assistant Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 21st March 1870, No. 45.

ADVERTING to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,151, of the 19th February 1870, on Silk-cultivation, I have the honour to forward a further letter from Mr. F. Groves, with some useful suggestions.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. GROVES, Esq., to the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, dated Pykarra, 11th March 1870.

IN returning the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue I regret that my absence at Madras prevented me doing so at an earlier date, and also making a few remarks on a subject in which I feel the greatest interest.

1st.—In reference to the very liberal offer of the sum of Rupees 10,000 to Messrs. DeVeechj and Pater for the introduction of the Japan and Italian varieties of Silk-worm, I have nothing to say; if successfully introduced and acclimatised the result will be undoubtedly well worth the expenditure. My remarks will consist only of suggestions for the possible attainment of the main and ultimate objects which I consider to be the following:—Not the introduction alone of finer varieties of the Silk-worm, but the acclimatisation of the same *undegenerated*. These latter objects, if attained, will be of permanent advantage to the country. The mere introduction of an improved variety is easily effected, and alone of little value, the real difficulty being that of maintaining an improved variety with its original qualities and characteristics. Long ago the Italian varieties were introduced, became acclimatised in a *degenerate* form, and proved inferior to those which they partially displaced.

2nd.—The eight crops of Silk-worms obtainable in India, against the one crop in their original natiat, is to my mind the cause of the difficulty apparent in India, i.e., the rapid degeneracy of any species of worm introduced.

3rd.—The above operates in a twofold way: the excessive prolific breeding, tending without any other cause to produce a gradually degenerative progeny; besides this, irrespective of the season being favourable or otherwise, or the leaves of the tree being in a favourable condition, the breeding and rearing has still to be carried on. Now there would appear to be two seasons generally over India, adapted for the successful culture of the Silk-worm. With some modifications for variable climate and temperature, say, the months of March, April, and May, and again September, October, and November, that is, two crops, may with advantage be reared in India, avoiding in particular the rainy periods of the year. Now the mulberry tree, during the months above-mentioned, produces leaf on which the worm will more probably thrive best and form the finest cocoons. But in the ordinary method of culture, the crop immediately preceding that reared during the favourable season has to contend with the least favourable time of the year, if not as to weather, as to the condition of the leaf; the consequence is that the worms are unhealthy and weak, and the weak and unhealthy worms are looked to to supply moths and eggs for the next crop. The result might be only too surely anticipated—a poor and unsatisfactory outturn.

4th.—Comes the query, can nothing be done to avoid the necessity to thus rearing worms during unfavourable seasons, either as to the state of the leaf or the weather? To avoid this

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th May 1870.*

difficulty, I believe two methods might be pursued; the first and best being that of artificially maintaining the dormancy of the eggs by depositing them in an Ice House until required for hatching and renewing of the worm. In this manner it is, I think, probable, we might obtain a supply whenever wanted, both *acclimatised and undegenerated*, as the worms necessary for breeding might be reared with special care and at the *most favourable* seasons of the year, from eggs of ascertained superior quality. The second plan would be to obtain overland supplies of eggs from Italy during the cold season, as Messrs. DeVeechj & Co. propose doing. These would be *undegenerated*, but not *acclimatised*, and consequently a result equal to No. 1 Plan could not be anticipated. Lastly, I would suggest that in order to obtain a permanent advantage to the country, the ryots be *discouraged* from attempting the production of eggs they cannot command the necessary care, even were they sufficiently alive to its importance; they should obtain their eggs from places where they can be obtained of ascertained first-rate quality, and sell their cocoons, contenting themselves with merely rearing the worms.

2. I would be glad to have a few eggs of the Japan worms for experimenting upon, as it has occurred to me that possibly the mulberry may be grown with advantage amongst Coffee trees, answering the double purpose of shading the Coffee and producing a valuable commodity. I should be glad if a few cuttings of the best species of mulberry for this purpose, if they could be obtained, as perhaps when the crop of Coffee is off in January, we may find it profitable to have a crop of cocoons in April and May.

ORDERED that the above letter, with its enclosure, be submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 19th February 1870, No. 1,151.

2. With reference to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Groves's letter, Mr Breeks will inform that gentleman that he should communicate with Messrs. Dymea & Co.'s Agents at Oosoor, through the Sub-Collector of the Salem District.

No. 203.

ORDER THEREON, 16th May 1870, No. 720.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

31

208/10/10/345-11

Rev. 1870. *W/11*
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS. *41303.*

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST APRIL 1870, No. 2,603.

sup 29 April 1870.
Received *22 May.* Encl.

APRIL.
No. 2,603.

Silk cultivation—in Madras Presidency.—
Letter from Assistant Commissioner of Neil-
gherries forwarding a further letter from Mr.
F. Groves on subject of, submitted to Govern-
ment.—Latter gentleman, to address Messrs
Dymes and Co's. Agents at Ossaor, through
Sub-Collector of Salem District, with a view to
obtaining eggs of Japan silk-worm and cuttings
of Mulberry tree, required by him.

720
RECORDED.

21st May 1870

144/10/10/345-11

Exd. G. A. Turton.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills.

Acting Secretary.

*Reported to England
21/12/1869-24/30 of 1870
C. H. H.*

Gobt. of 1870 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May, 16th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 16th May 1870, No. 720.

MAY.
Nos. 202-203.

Silk-cultivation in Madras Presidency.—
Board's Proceedings on Mr. Groves's application
for eggs of Japan Silk-worm and cuttings of Mul-
berry tree, recorded.