5 1834

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Revenue Department, 17th September 1872.

No. 115. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, (Fibres and Silk,) dated Simla, 13th August 1872, No. 1-164:—

READ again the following papers regarding Silk-cultivation in India:—

Despatch from Secretary of State No. 27, dated the 31st March 1869, with enclosures.
Reply to ditto, No. 31, dated 12th May 1869.
Circular Nos. 273-80, ,, 20th ,, ,,
Resolution Nos. 61-79 A—80, dated 31st August 1871.

Read an Account of Silk in India by Mr. J. Geoghegan, Under-Secretary to the Government of India in this department.

RESOLUTION.—The high price of Silk, arising from the ravages of disease in the silk-worm in the countries formerly contributing the greater portion of raw Silk for European consumption, naturally roused attention to the possibility of rearing healthy broods in regions hitherto untried, or of extending the productive powers of silk-producing countries still unaffected by the taint. In furtherance of these objects a Silk Supply Association was formed in England on a basis analogous to that of the Cotton Supply Association, and India was the quarter to which the new Association turned its attention.

2. The Association accordingly applied to the Secretary of State for assistance in its efforts to stimulate and increase the production of Silk in India similar to that afforded to the Cotton Supply Association.

3. The Secretary of State with his (Revenue) despatch No. 27, dated the 31st March 1869, forwarded, for the information of the Government of India and for such consideration as might be deemed requisite, copy of the papers relating to the formation of the Association.

4. The Government of India wrote to the Secretary of State in reply, assuring His Grace of its appreciation of the importance of the objects for which the Silk Supply Association had been established, and offering to render all the aid in its power to promote and extend the cultivation of Silk in India, and to improve the quality of the article.

5. The correspondence with the Secretary of State was then circulated to the several local Governments and Administrations in the Bengal Presidency, with a request that they would give publicity to the proceedings of the Association, the papers being at the same time published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

6. But the first thing needful before taking action towards the further development of the Silk-industry in provinces where it already exists, or of its extension to other provinces where it is not yet established, was to collect such information as was attainable in regard to past attempts to foster sericulture in India, the degree of their success if successful, and the causes of their failure if the reverse,

together with materials for a general review of the present position of all industries connected with Silk in India.

7. Accordingly all available records were got together, and a Circular was addressed to local Governments and Administrations, in which the following points were noted as those on which information was desired:—

"Places where Silk-culture has been pursued, with particulars of climate.
Extent of land under cultivation in mulberry or other food for silk-worms.
Quantity of Silk produced.
Quantity and price of Silk produced.
Kinds of silk-worms kept, with their scientific names.
Method of rearing the worms.
Method of reeling the Silk adopted.
Particulars as to extent of European enterprise.
Amount of Silk woven on the spot and nature of fabrics.
Quantity and value of Silk exported (1) by sea, (2) by land.
Full particulars of any attempts or experiments made during past thirty years, whether by Government or by private persons, with a view to improve or extend the culture.
Opinions of qualified persons, official and non-official (whether in regard to stock of worms, their food, mode of rearing, manipulation of Silk, or on any other point), and improvements recommended."

8. The replies received to this call and such other records as could be obtained from any quarter were entrusted to Mr. J. Geoghegan, Under-Secretary to the Government of India in this department, for the purpose of compiling a careful account of Silk in India, especially of the various attempts that had been made to encourage and extend sericulture, so as to assist the Government in coming to a decision as to the action (if any) which it might be expedient to take in the matter of promoting sericulture.

9. Mr. Geoghegan has accomplished this laborious task in a very creditable manner. The work produced by him is interesting and valuable, and it will materially help the Government of India in coming to a decision as to the steps to be taken in this important matter. The Governor-General in Council accordingly desires that the thanks of this Government be conveyed to Mr. Geoghegan, and that the compilation be circulated to all local Governments and Administrations, the Chambers of Commerce, and the several Scientific and Agricultural Institutions noted in the accompanying distribution list, with a request for further information or for any additions or corrections that may suggest themselves.

10. His Excellency in Council also requests that Mr. Geoghegan will be good enough to continue to devote his attention to the subject with the special view of producing hereafter a more perfect second edition of his work.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution and of the compilation be sent to the several local Governments and Administrations, the Chambers of Commerce, and the Scientific and Agricultural Institutions named in the distribution list, for the purpose indicated in paragraph 9.

Ordered also that a copy be forwarded to Mr. Geoghegan.

3 L.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th September 1872.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th September 1872.

No. 116. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1872, No. 1,334.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that 30 copies of the compilation be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for distribution among the Revenue-officers for the purpose indicated in paragraph 9 of the Resolution of the Government of India above recorded.

2. The remaining copies will be distributed from the Government Office in the usual course.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Revenue Department

No. 1334. 5 b

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 17th Sept. 1872

Read the following

Proceedings of the Govt. of

India Dept. of Agriculture

Revenue and Commerce.

Regarding Silk cultivations in India. } R. & C. 13th Augt. 1872 No. 164.

Ordered that 30 copies of the compilation be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for distribution among the Revenue-Officers for the purpose indicated in para 9 of the Resolution of the Govt. of India above recorded.

No 113-114

No 113-114

Account of the Cultivation in Malabar

1d

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND,
18*th September* 1872.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 17th.

Recd. Inst.

G. O., 17th September 1872, No. 1,334.

V Bd's Pro 25 Sept 1872 2762

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 115-116.

Compilation on Silk Culture in India.—Thirty copies of it ordered to be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for distribution among the Revenue-officers for the purpose indicated in paragraph 9 of the Resolution of the Government of India