

No. 161. Read the following letter from Messrs. DYMES & Co., to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 27th January 1873:—

We have the honour once more to address Government on the subject of Sericulture in this Presidency. We venture to do so, as more than a year has elapsed without our receiving any definite answer to our proposal to distribute the seed of the silk-worm on the terms mentioned in our letter of the 5th February 1870.

2. Our position is at present as follows:—

We were induced some years ago to invest capital in the business of improving the breed of the silk-worms in this Presidency, as the trade was and is gradually dying out, hoping that Government would assist us in our object which is one of vast importance to the commercial prosperity of this branch of the trade of this Presidency. Whether we were justified or not in expecting this assistance can be best ascertained by a reference to letters, etc., which have at intervals appeared in the Proceedings of Government.

3. We now, with regret, have to state that it is our intention to close our Factory at Oosoor, and to cease our importations of exotic seed. We take this course for three reasons, (1) because, without Government assistance, it does not pay us to distribute seed gratis; (2), because our Cotton and Indigo Factories (four in number) in other parts of the country monopolize our chief time and attention; (3), because we are now deprived of the valuable assistance of Dr. F. G. Shaw, the Veterinary Surgeon in charge of the Remount Depot, who has kindly, ably, and gratuitously, supervised the management of our establishment, and to whose personal care we owe the success we have had in acclimatizing our imported worms.

4. The loss of Mr. Shaw's services will compel us to reduce our establishment to an almost unremunerative state of profit, and the Factory being so far away from our centre of business, we cannot give it the skilled attention it would require in breeding and the manipulation of reeling, sorting, etc., etc.; but as Government would only require it as a *Breeding Establishment* for distributing seed, this difficulty would not be felt, and the expenses of up-keep for this purpose would not, according to our estimate, exceed Rs. 50 a month.

5. Before, however, finally closing our establishment we venture to ask the Government if they are disposed to re-consider the question and take it off our hands at a valuation. The estate consists of a substantial brick and tile Factory, containing breeding-rooms standing on its own land in the centre of the Government Remount Depot; also two mulberry gardens fully planted, together with tools, etc.; several wells and in one garden a perennial spring which irrigates the entire garden. Also spinning wheels with appurtenances and a large supply of seed on hand which is immediately available for distribution.

6. We venture to bring this proposition to the notice of Government, as Sericulture is likely at no distant date to become a large and profitable branch of industry in Southern India, especially so since the newly formed Silk Supply Association has given it attention; it might be advisable for Government, in connection with the Agricultural Department, to have a depot of its own for distribution

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th March 1873.

of good healthy seed, without which no progress can be made owing to the inability of the small, but numerous, producers to procure it for themselves. The country breed is completely exhausted, or so much so that it is considered a fair return now to save one crop out of six, and even at this low rate the occupation is tenaciously adhered to by the Mahomedan producers whose sedentary habits it suits.

7. So alive are the Natives to the superiority of our acclimatized breeds that almost daily applications are made to our Factory for cartoons of seed, but as we cannot afford to take upon ourselves the expensive duty of gratuitous distribution (which, we think, should be borne by Government), we had to refuse all comers, many of whom travel great distances on the chance of procuring seeds as a gift which they were too poor to pay for.

No. 162.

ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1873, No. 320.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government having determined to incur no outlay in Sericulture, the present offer of Messrs. Dymes & Co. will be declined.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To Messrs. Dymes & Co.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 283.

From Messrs. Dymes & Co. - Madras.

Dated 27. January 1873.

FOR ORDERS.

As the propriety of the
present has been decided on
concerning Sericulture alone,
this offer must of course
be declined. Otherwise
it might be thought
afforded a good opportunity
for procuring fresh stock. But

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1. To the Hon. Dames Ho. Des 17. 1733
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C. for. 1st h². Ellis 17. 1. 73. R 6: 1/3
C. 1st Feb/73 R 16:

FOR ORDERS.

15th March 1773.

I would decline the
offer. M.H.

Gobt. of 1873 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

MESSRS. DYMES & CO.,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 15th.

Recd.

End.

G. O., 15th March 1873, No. 320.

MARCH.

Nos. 161-162.

Silk Factory at Oosoor.—Messrs. Dymes and Co.'s offer to part with it at a valuation declined for the reason stated.

