Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th March 1873.

No. 188. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th January 1872, No. 106:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th December 1871, No. 3,962.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 11th May last, No. 1,965, I have the honour to state that Oossoor is the only taluq in this district suitable for silk-manufacture, and that no person is desirous of taking up land on the terms offered by Government for Mulberry cultivation.

2. The report of the Sub-Collector on the subject is enclosed. He proposes that a reduction of one-third of the wet rates may be allowed on land granted for the above cultivation. In my opinion the terms offered by Government are quite liberal enough, and if these terms will not induce the people to cultivate the Mulberry I doubt if any further reduction would induce them to do so. At all events I do not support the Sub-Collector's proposal.

Enclosure No. 1.

From the Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Salem, dated Oossoor, 23rd October 1871, No. 648.

Adverting to your letter No. 1,956, dated 15th July last, I have the honour to state that, although the advantages offered in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue No. 1,965, dated 11th May last, have been duly made known to the people, no one has as yet expressed a wish to take up, on Cowle, land for growing Mulberries.

2. The reasons of this are (1) that the rearing of silk-worms is a branch of industry which, owing to years of degeneration and sickness amongst the insects and to their consequent almost total destruction, has practically quite disappeared, and is, unless some liberal capitalist or Government come forward, not likely to be revived; (2nd) that Mulberries are nearly always grown in this division in wet ground, and that, whatever may be the case in the Coimbatore District, it is certainly not a safe speculation in this part of the country to raise them on dry land, for silk-worms must have a constant supply of fresh leaves which can be ensured only by keeping the trees regularly watered.

3. I believe that the only way to revive the cultivation of silk is to have every indigenous worm destroyed, to supply fresh seed gratis, and to make the Mulberry tree, for a certain period, say five years, a special crop on which a reduction of almost one-third of the wet rates should be granted.

Pending the orders of Government on the general subject of silk-cultivation throughout the Presidency, the Board do not consider it necessary to express any opinion on the Sub-Collector's proposals.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th March 1873.

No. 189. ORDER THEREON, 18th March 1873, No. 334.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED, with reference to G. O.,
14th March 1873, No. 317.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Rev= 1872. Dispat.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS. W. 299

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH JANUARY 1872, No. 106.

Disp 25 Jan 72

Encl.

Received. 26th

JANUARY.
No. 106.

Silk cultivation in Salem District,—Collector informed that Board do not consider it necessary to express any opinion on proposals of Acting Sub-Collector for reviving—pending orders of Government on the general question.

W. 334 Recorded in the reference to G.O. 14 March 1873 No 317