No. 192. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd April 1872, No. 518:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 5th March 1872, No. 275.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 30th September 1869, No. 7,280, I have the honour to state that, with the exception of one or two isolated instances, no silk-cultivation is carried on in this district. This fact was communicated to the Board by Mr. Thomas in his letter No. 121 of the 5th February 1870.

2. Mr. G. Pfleiderer of the Basel Evangelical Mission Society at this place, copy of whose letter is enclosed, gives a very interesting account of the experiment in silk-culture which he carried on for some years, from which it appears that his various trials with different breeds of worms, both indigenous and foreign, eventually failed to produce satisfactory results. He is disposed to ascribe this failure to the proximity of the sea and peculiar climate of this coast and other influences.

3. With reference to the capabilities of the district in regard to the introduction, extension, or improvement of this branch of industry, I have the honour to state that the climate of Canara, its proximity to the sea, excessive rainfall, and long continued hot season, coupled with the varying temperature, would operate against the satisfactory rearing of silk-worms, and would diminish the chances of an adequate return for the labour and attention bestowed upon them.

4. The correspondence which had previously taken place in the matter is noted in the margin. As far as I can ascertain from the records of my Office the State does not appear to have at any time taken active measures to induce the people to enter upon the cultivation of silk, although the Tahsildar of Udipi reports that about sixty years ago seeds of the Mulberry were distributed and grants of Taccavi made to the ryots of that taluq, but is unable to verify this statement from the public records.

Board's Proceedings,	dated	17th Nov.	1842.
To Board,	,,	7th Feb.	1843.
Board's Circular,	,,	12th Oct.	1857.
To Board,	,,	3rd May	1858.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of letter from Mr. Pfleiderer.

Mr. PFLEIDERER's interesting letter will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. It does not appear at all impossible that silk might be produced successfully in South Canara; but it is evident that the experiment of introducing its manufacture would be attended with peculiar difficulties, and it is no doubt advisable to confine such experiments to districts more favourably situated.

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

No. 193. ORDER THEREON, 18th March 1873, No. 336.

Miscellaneous.

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

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secreta

To the Board of Revenue.

Mangalore 19th February 1870.

To

W. L. Thomas Esqre
Ag Collector of South Canara

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 9th inst. enclosing copy of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue regarding Sericulture, which I hereby beg to return, and requesting me to give such information thereon as I may be in possession of Concerning Canara.

When coming out to India 16 years ago, I was much interested in this subject, having been for several years connected with the Silk trade at home. So I began to look about at once, and found silkworms being reared in five places in Canara viz: in the village of Bālēpūni, about 12 miles from Mangalore, and at another place, close to Vittla, both of which places I visited as soon as possible. I was at once struck with the great care where with the Mulberry Shrubs were planted and cultivated, as well as with the utmost carelessness that was shown in the rearing of the worms and in the winding of the Cocoons. I therefore commenced without delay to get mulberry plants for my own purpose, and when they were so far grown, as to provide the necessary amount of leaves, I got some eggs and made a trial myself. The mulberry I planted

partly on the hill at Belmatthe, which I allowed to grow into small trees, and partly on nice fields where I had water on hand for irrigation, and these I kept in low shrubs. they did therive most luxuriantly. I took better care, and had better arrangements than these villagers, and the Cocoons produced were better than theirs, but with the reeling of the silk, which I had never done, nor seen before in Europe, I did not succeed well. Having some time afterwards seen the cultivation of worms at Anjarkandy, Malabar, on Mr. Brown's estate, and also at Dharwar, where it was carried on in the Jail, and by private Mussulmans in the town, I made new efforts, and requested my assistant Mr. Richon, then being about to join me from Germany, to acquire the manipulation of the winding. This he did, and on his arrival we made a fresh start, and had several successful breeds; also the silk produced looked very nice, it was however soon found out that the worms did degenerate. We got the eggs from Dharwar, where the breed was far better than here in Canara. We did not know what was the reason of this degeneration, whether it was owing to the proximity of the sea, or to the nature of the climate, or to unfortunate circumstances or to the continual going on of the production of eggs, worms, Cocoons, chrysalis, moth, eggs again, and so on without any stop. I suppose this to be a serious drawback in this hot temperature. I had no means to preserve the eggs from germinating spontaneously, and I had therefore no control over it, and could not direct the forthcoming of the young worms so that it would best have suited the state of the mulberry plantation, and I had nobody to consult about this very important point.

We made trials by importing eggs from France and Italy as well as from China - the latter ones succeeded first rate and produced splendid Cocoons at first - but these also became inferior after several generations. When we crossed the European and Chinese moths with country ones - the worms and Cocoons then produced were good but these half-breeds had no power of self-propagation. The eggs seem to have been empty. By and by however, and more important duties prevented us pursuing further attention to this

subject - he could not spare time to devote it thereto, and therefore gave it up, though we did not despair of yet coming to satisfactory results. This is a short account of my personal experience with Sericulture at Ingalore, and my opinion is that the Low Country and the Sea Coast is less favorable to the culture of silk, than the inland districts, would be, chiefly on the slope of the ghauts, also in Italy and France close proximity to high mountains is considered to be especially favorable to this produce, in the Tropics perhaps the land on the mountains itself might be best adapted for it. The worms are very sensitive to excessive dryness and moisture - in the height of the monsoon, when the leaves were too watery, I had them dying by hundreds, chiefly in their last stage, when close upon forming the Cocoon. Yet I am convinced that with proper attention and good supervision experience may be gained which would lead to favorable results also in this District of South Canara

I have the honor &c

(Signed) G. Pfleiderer

(True copy)

Rec. 11/9/72 read Feb

Enclosure One

In a letter from the Collector of South Canara to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 5th March 1872, No 270.

Judl Letter 1138/72

Copy of letter from the Rev G Pfleiderer of the Basel Evangelical Mission Society Mangalore giving an account of the experiment in Silk culture -

Rev. 1872. Dept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

B. 1179

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD APRIL 1872, No. 518.

Dept. 5 April 72

R. 336. Encl. Recorded with reference to G.O. 14 March 1873 No. 317

Received 6th April 18 March 73.

APRIL.

No. 518.

Sericulture.—Letter from Mr. Pfleiderer of the Basel Evangelical Mission Society at Mangalore in South Canara District, containing an account of his experiments in—, submitted to Government.

Ex. 192-193

14 Sth Oct. 69 — 19 Oct. Rec. 19 Nov.

Rec. 26 Nov. 69 Rec. 26 Nov. 69 R6, March 1873

R. 45 Oct. R. Rec. 26th Nov.

C. 21st Dec. 69 — 2nd R2 Dec.