

(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair -7-87

(3) Initials of the Referencer lms

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

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Dated

17-2-1879

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

1st February 1879, No. 143.

Report on Tasar Silk.

Read the following paper:—

No. 1. From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bombay Castle, 23rd January 1879, No. 162.

In continuation of my letter, No. 985, dated the 28th March 1877, I am directed to forward herewith ten copies of Major Coussmaker's account of his experiments in Tasar Sericulture during the past year.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major G. COUSSMAKER, Assistant Superintendent, Revenue Survey, to the Secretary to Government, General Department, dated Jangaon, Ahmednagar, 10th January 1879, No. 1.

Tasar Sericulture.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the following account of my experiments in Tasar Sericulture during the past year:—

1. As mentioned in my last report, dated 1st May 1877, when I left Poona on famine relief duty, I gave over every thing connected with the subject to Mr. Woodrow, the Superintendent of the Government Botanical Gardens, Rupees 874-7-6. In December 1877 I was transferred to the station of Poona Revenue Survey, and on my return to the station of Poona I was in charge of the experiments. The cash balance of the experiments was Rupees 421-5-3.

2. My former experiments, as well as those of the present year, have proved that it was a mistake to attempt to rear these worms from those which had received some care and attention in a garden; and that the plan most likely to succeed was to feed them on shrubs in localities where they could be protected from their enemies, and, if need be, from unfavorable weather. With this view I began to collect young

3. I had noticed in 1876 that the tasar worm thrived well on *Lagerstræmia Indica*, an ornamental shrub, fairly abundant in the cantonment of Poona; this is a plant which throws up a good many suckers during the monsoon, and soon got a few plants together. I took a house which was well supplied with shade and was and my gardener managed to collect 172 plants between December and July, many of them only a few inches high, but some were large enough to be of use. There were also in the garden six bushes, and my first care, when I came in from the districts, was to cut them all back to hard wood, and apply to their roots a fair amount of manure. The consequence was that in as the rain commenced the plants shot

4. Mr. Woodrow had not been able to save cocoons in the districts, and the Marathi woman after these worms before, had collected twelve. I found, as I had noticed before, that there was no difficulty in getting an abundant supply of fertile eggs. Hardly any females were wasted; it was necessary to put them out over night on any bush, and it was almost a certainty to find the necessary to tether them; they rarely moved from the twig on which I placed them. As fast as the young worms hatched out, I put the trays on and in a few hours they commenced feeding. The caterpillars were every thing I could desire, showery with a few breaks of fine weather; the bushes were full of young shoots, and the worms thrived as I have never seen them thrive before. I tied the cocoons together and covered over the plants as they stood in the open. The worms reared their cocoons in 28—35 days, instead of 40—50, as had been the case when I reared these cocoons in 27—30 days, and their eggs produced fertile caterpillars which grew as fast and as large as the first. The only difference at I observed was that the "cement" of the cocoons of the later crops was less uniformly

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in the weather or the quality of the leaf, some this monsoon.

5. The *Lagerstroemia* bush proved at first high, after being fed off quite bare, fortnight, and the same batch of worms at examining the cages, a few accidents occur.

6. I enclosed an old *Carissa carandas* bamboo screens and liberated 50 worms there a little larger than those of the *Lagerstroemia* seemed to thrive a little better on this bush quickly, and did not yield another supply.

7. I put six worms on to a young *Zizyphus*, it, pruned it, nor manured it. It had a both. They grew very large and healthy of some of the same batch feeding on *Lagerstroemia* any that I had gathered from off the other.

8. I let the majority of the moths fly is quite ready to go and look for suitable for more than 100 worms at a time in made at bringing them up elsewhere, and other enemies carried them off, and I have continued to rear a few at a time, changing. The result of the experiments which I tried, or without screens over them, gave the young shoots were eaten down by the caterpillars ever sprouted again, and it was prevented me rearing many more worms.

9. From the single experiment I have *Zizyphus* seems to grow very fast, principally as I only had one tree in my compound.

10. I baked some of the cocoons given to Mr. Wardle, asking him to give me all the burst and injured cocoons cleaned had on hand, to the Alliance Mills in Bombay seed cocoons for next year's experiments.

11. I have got together a good number of *Lagerstroemia indica*, 10 *Lagerstroemia parviflora* rooted and in leaf; also 136 *Carissa carandas* seedlings; there are besides 3 *Zizyphus* take care of these during my eight months under better auspices.

12. The past season has been cultivating them to a small extent at De under him then, came to him lately and had seen several. He happened to be collect within 3 hours. He came back had been taking them into Poona for sale already found many more casually this year.

13. During the four months of plantations I have enumerated in paragraph have still 284-12-6 left out of the money of this expenditure has been submitted.

shrubs having been eaten off three and four times

cellent food; it flushed so quickly that a plant, 2 back and repotted, was again in thick leaf in a it again. In changing the plants and in daily but 100 worms yielded 71 cocoons.

which had neither been pruned nor manured, with In the course of a month, I gathered 31 cocoons, put much harder and yellower. The caterpillars completely stripped it, but the tree did not recover the whole monsoon.

jejuha tree in my garden, but neither enclosed it of leaf and flower on it, and the worms ate in every stage of their existence a little ahead of it. Five cocoons were spun here, larger than

for as soon as the male has left her, the female to deposit her eggs on. I had not enough food compound, and almost every attempt which I made by the screens, failed. Crows, squirrels, and a single cocoon; but in my own compound, I from one tree to another as I found it expedient. It told me plainly that plants in the ground with suitable food; that it mattered not whether the or cut off by the pruning shears. The *Lagerstroemia* very limited supply of food which I had that

tioned, *Carissa* does not seem to recover quickly. the extremities of its long straggling branches, did not be sure about its usual habit of growth. In each of these three trees, and sent them home on the qualities of the respective fibres. I had them, together with those which Mr. Woodrow be converted into yarn. I have kept some fifty

nts for next season's experiments—353 *Lagerstroemia indica*, 10 *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, 136 *Carissa carandas* seedlings, 105 *Pentaptera tomentosa* in the compound; and if my gardener will but once from Poona, I hope to resume my experi-

orable for tasar worms. Mr. Lyle, who was 1876, tells me that some of the men who were in whether he wanted any more cocoons as they got and sent a man to see how many he could, and said that he had heard that some people nably to the native physicians. I myself have in districts than I usually do.

When I spent Rupees 136-8-9 in forming the and in protecting the worms while feeding. I at my disposal in 1875, and a detailed account of the Accountant-General.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 1

Communicated to the Revenue Department, 12th April 1877, No. 489.

To the Revenue Department, with a copy of the Report.
Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

uary 1879, No. 143.

Department in continuation of G.O., dated (abstract.)

G. Munotes
Acting Chief Secretary.

Report.

