

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	810	Press Mis.
35-36.	Dated 3-6-1870	12

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ms

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd June 1870.*

No. 35. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1870, No. 2,407 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Matoopollicm, 1st March 1870, No. 45.

ADVERTING to the Board's Proceedings of the 19th ultimo, No. 1,151, on Messrs. DeVecchj and Pater's proposals regarding the extension and improvement of silk-culture in this district, I have the honour to request that if the Board see no objection, the permission of Government may be obtained for my visiting the factory established by those gentlemen at Oosoor. I propose to proceed to Collegal in June, and the practical information on the subject I should be able to acquire at the factory would, I think, enable me to carry out the objects in view in a more satisfactory manner than if I went amongst the silk-growing ryots of that talook, unacquainted with the details of their occupation. I do not anticipate being absent from my district more than a week or ten days, during which time I could make arrangements for the current work being carried on.

2. On a re-perusal of Messrs. DeVecchj and Pater's letter, dated 5th ultimo, paragraph 13, it occurs to me that if the Government give an early assent to their proposals, they will be in receipt of their consignment of Japanese seed just about the time I propose to visit the Collegal Talook, in which case it would perhaps be better for me to pick up the information I want at their Madoor factory. It is long since I travelled in that part of the country, but to the best of my recollection Madoor is only 40 miles from Collegal, and I might myself take charge of the new seed, and personally superintend its distribution.

3. It is, I think, most desirable that this experiment, which has in it apparently all the elements of success, should be fairly tested, but this I know from experience cannot be anticipated, unless it is conducted under European supervision backed by Government authority. To entrust it to the Native revenue-officials would simply be throwing money away, and if anything is to come of it, I am of opinion that an officer should be specially appointed for the purpose. The object in view, I apprehend, embraces a far larger field than the mere improvement of the breed of worms in the talooks of Collegal and Oosoor; its scope being, I imagine, to test the practicability of making this Presidency a main source of supply of the raw material to the European markets. We have the opinion of a gentleman practically acquainted with the subject, who, under a Special Commission from the Italian Government, has visited almost all the silk-producing districts of the world, that in this Presidency there are large tracts of country eminently suited to the rearing of the silk worm, and that for this purpose the highlands of Southern India up to an elevation of 3,500 feet are for equality of climate, suitability of soil, and cheapness of labour, unequalled. This opinion, coming as it does from a person in every way qualified to judge, and coupled with the action recently taken in the direction of India by the Silk Supply Association of England, would seem to indicate that if the Government are prepared to give the necessary impetus to the movement, a wide field of industry is about to be opened to the people of this

country, the profits of which, if those who speak from their own knowledge are entitled to credence, far exceed those of any other known product.

4. Now if the scope of this movement is as extensive as I apprehend it to be, it is clear that the object in view cannot be attained by the spasmodic efforts on one or two already over-worked Collectors. I am most anxious, on public grounds, that such an addition should be made to the wealth of the country, and indirectly I have a personal interest in the success of the experiment; but without neglecting my other duties, I cannot, even within the limited field of this district, give the subject the attention which it deserves, and without which all efforts to carry it to a successful issue must prove abortive. When the cry was raised that India did not contribute as much cotton as she was capable of doing to the markets of Europe, it was considered advisable to appoint a special officer to investigate the causes of the deficiency, and to devise measures for supplying the same. If this was necessary in the case of cotton, still more is it required for silk. The former has, from time immemorial, been one of the staple crops of the country; the latter, except in a few isolated tracts, will have to be fostered as an exotic, and the people instructed, and at first encouraged, in its culture. That it is a branch of industry peculiarly suited to the natives of this country no one acquainted with their habits and disposition can doubt; and it has this advantage over the cultivation of other special products, that it will not, to the same extent, usurp the place of, nor absorb the labour required for, raising the food-grains of the country, whilst rearing the worms and reeling the silk would afford a profitable and congenial occupation to the wives and families of the ryots. I am convinced that the Government could not confer a greater boon on a large section of the labouring poor of this Presidency than by taking a strong initiative in the development of this important industry; but (and I am sure the Board will agree with me) if the movement is to be a comprehensive one—one calculated to bring to light a hitherto only partially developed source of national wealth—success can only be attained through the medium of a special agency. To bring about the results which the opinion of competent judges lead us to expect, and which experience of what has been actually done in this direction in some parts of the country leaves little room for doubt may be generally arrived at, will require undivided attention; and although it is not within the scope of this letter to point out what would be the duties of an officer who may be specially appointed to conduct the experiment to a successful issue, I venture to submit that, with all deference to the Board's opinion expressed in paragraph 8 of their report to Government, it may be found necessary in parts of the country which are suited to the operations, but where silk-culture has hitherto been untried, to establish on a small scale a breeding establishment, and perhaps a filature under the direct management of Government. The object of this would be simply to give an impetus to the movement, and to show the people what could be done, Government agency being gradually withdrawn as they learned to appreciate the advantages held out to their grasp. The disfavour with which the Indian raw material is regarded in the home markets is owing to the inequality of the silk thread caused by defective reeling, and the superiority of the European method was illustrated to me by Mr. DeVecchj by comparing some silk reeled at his factory from Collegal cocoons with some I had brought from the talook

with me, and his wish is, I believe, to get the ryots to sell the cocoons to him for reeling. But if this was universally done, the ryot would lose quite half his profits, and it is in view to the introduction of simple and effective Cottage Reeling Machines, and the instruction of women in the art, that I would advocate a filature being attached to any Government Silk Factory which may be established.

5. I have endeavoured to show that the success or failure of what, in my opinion, is a very important measure, will depend entirely on its being entrusted to some one who can give it his undivided attention, and whose range is not limited to a single district. If it is pitch-forked on to Collectors along with Boohmeria Nivea, Sydney Maize, and Carolina paddy, I cannot but anticipate that it will end in a few formal reports and returns and a flash in the pan.

6. In conclusion, I would ask the attention of the Board, with reference to the question of improving the breed of silk worms by importation of foreign seed, to a very practical letter on the subject of silk-culture in Dharwar from Mr. Mackenzie, the Superintendent of the Dharwar Jail, to the *Times of India*, which has been re-published at page 187 of *The Indian Economist*, dated January 10, 1870. From this it would appear that they have in that district a healthy acclimatized worm, yielding silk at the rate of nearly 9 lbs. per 100 lbs. of cocoons, the value of which was last year nearly Rupees 8 per lb., or 16s. in this country. Mr. Mackenzie says that the transmission of eggs is easily effected, if the journey does not occupy more than five or six days. Mr. DeVecchj might be consulted whether it would not be advisable to import healthy seed of this worm in view to an eventual cross with the Japanese breed.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 19th February 1870, No. 1,151.

2. In this letter Mr. Sullivan, anticipating the early assent of Government to the proposals submitted in the above Proceedings, requests that the permission of Government may be obtained for his visiting the Mill Factory of Messrs. DeVecchj and Pater at Oossoor, with a view to acquiring practical information on the subject of silk-culture preparatory to the introduction of the new silk expected by those gentlemen into the Collegal Talook of the Coimbatore District. Mr. Sullivan does not anticipate being absent from his district more than a week or ten days, and expects, if permission be granted, to be able to take charge of the new silk and personally superintend its distribution.

3. The Board cordially support Mr. Sullivan's application for leave to absent himself from his district for the above-named purpose for a period not exceeding ten days. They would suggest that Mr. Sullivan should visit the factory of Messrs. DeVecchj at Kuigherry near Bangalore, that at Oossoor being only a branch on a comparatively small scale; and they fully approve of his proposal to superintend in person the introduction of the new silk into the Collegal Talook in communication with Messrs. DeVecchj, and anticipate great advantage from the personal interest which Mr. Sullivan evidently takes in the success of the experiment.

4. Mr. Sullivan proceeds in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of his letter to discuss the question of the introduction of silk-culture generally into the districts of Southern

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd June 1870.*

India, and urges the necessity of the appointment of a special agency to foster the spread of this form of industry amongst the people. While fully agreeing with the Collector as to the importance of the subject, and commending his remarks to the consideration of Government, the Board are not prepared to recommend any immediate steps in this direction until the result of the measures already recommended is known.

5. In the concluding paragraph of his letter Mr. Sullivan refers to a letter from the Superintendent of the Dharwar Jail, published in *The Indian Economist* of 10th January 1870, in which that officer details his experiments in silk-culture with the aid of convict labour at Dharwar.

6. It would appear from Mr. Mackenzie's letter that there exists in the Dharwar country a healthy worm which produces good silk in large quantities. The attention of Messrs. DeVecchj will be drawn to this communication, and they will be requested to favour the Board with their views as to the advisability of procuring eggs from Dharwar, with a view to experiment in some of the Madras Districts.

No. 36.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd June 1870, No. 810.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council has perused Mr. Sullivan's letter, which the Board of Revenue

submit with the foregoing Proceedings, with much interest.

2. His Lordship in Council readily assents to the Board's recommendation that Mr. Sullivan should be permitted to absent himself from his district for ten days for the purpose of visiting Messrs. De Vecchj & Co.'s factories. He also authorizes Mr. Sullivan to procure some eggs from the Dharwar Jail, should he be able to obtain them, and would suggest that the industry might be eventually introduced as a branch of employment for the female convicts at the Coimbatore Jail, should Mr. Grimes deem it advisable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Judicial Department.

„ the Collector of Coimbatore.

„ the Accountant-General.

Memo. for Orders on No. 1136.

Printed with the Board's Proceedings, dated 9. April 1870, No. 2407 is a letter from Mr. Sullivan the Ag. collector of Combarone, in which that officer (1) requests that he may be allowed to visit Messrs. De Vecchi and Paten's silk factory at Ossor, or Madoor in order to acquire practical information regarding silk with a view to the extension, and improvement of silk culture in the Combarone District.

I would let the whole matter lie over, till we hear how the Experiment succeeds in any one on the trial. The first I understood was a failure.

L. W. S.

I think Mr. Sullivan should not let him go to inspect the Messrs. factory and sanction the purchase of the larvae eggs. I think

(2) calls attention to a

better

1296/1870
C. Sullivan

Govt. of 1870

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Ac., Ac., &c.

Dated June, 3rd.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O. No. June 1870, No. 810.

JUNE.
Nos. 35-36.

Silk-culture.—Passing orders with reference to Mr. Sullivan absenting himself from his district for ten days for the purpose of visiting Messrs. De Vecchi & Co.'s factory.

letter from Mr. Mackenzie,
Supt. of the Dhawar Jail
published in the Indian Eco-
-nomist from which it ap-
-pears that there is in Dhawar
-war a healthy acclimatized
and prolific worm, the eggs
of which can be safely trans-
-mitted by post if the journey
does not occupy more than
five or six days.

2. The remainder of Mr.
Sullivan's letter contains re-
marks regarding silk culture
of a general nature which
do not appear to call for
notice

that a collector should
be sent to stop in a
matter of the sort. The
experience of introducing the
Dawar worm is an
interesting one & might
afford labour to the
female committee & the
Cultivation Society. N.P.

18
notice at present, as the Govt.
have postponed outlay on
silk worms for a year.

3. It is submitted
that as the Government
have for the present de-
-clined to accept Messrs.
De Vecchi and Pater's terms
for introducing foreign silk
worms into this Presidency,
it will hardly be consistent
to authorize Mr. Sullivan
to inspect their factories.
Their object probably is
to make a profit by keep-
-ing to themselves as much
as

16
as possible the monopoly
of supplying silk worms to
Govt., and this being the case
they will not give Mr. Sullivan
silk worms or information
except for value received.

It. However Mr. Sullivan
seems interested in the ques-
tion, perhaps he might be
authorized to obtain a few
eggs at once from the Supdt.
of the Shanwan Jail and use
his own judgment in disposing
of them or rearing them under
his own superintendence.

Chas.

Mr. Sullivan
B. Sullivan
B. Sullivan
B. Sullivan
B. Sullivan

Council

Follow the
allowance to be
authorised to be
used for Bhawan and
to employ the post holder
at Coimbatore.

No 810 Rev: Dept
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date 3rd June 1890.
Read the following Pro. of the
Bd of Revenue
(M.E. 9th April 90 No 2409)
The Rt Honble the

Gov. in Council has
received Mr. Sullivan's
letter, which the Board
of Revenue submit
with the foregoing Pro.,
with much interest.

His Lordship in
Council readily assents
to the Bd's recommendation
that Mr. Sullivan should
be permitted to absent
himself from his District
for ten days for the
purpose of visiting Messrs
De Vecchi & Co's Factory.
He also authorises Mr.
Sullivan to procure

N
JDD
A/A

Sept

We shall in fact of

the mountain from the top

of the hill and

west to west house

and up to the top

of the mountain

to the top of the

mountain and

to the top of the

mountain and