Revenue (1908) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 364

Dated 28 June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lady-birds

Recording letter from the Secy. to the United Planters' Association of Southern India Submg. Copies of letters received from Mr. H. O. Newport with reference to his quest of — in Australia with a view to the extermination of scale-pes on coffee estates.

## BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Do. 2299 4-6-98 | | | | | |

## FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Cr. 1192/97 | | | | | |

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18 4,000—19-5-97.

# Revenue (1898) Department.

**CURRENT No.** 4286

Dft 22/6/98

1660

No. 364 of 28th June 1898.

Print recommendations of C.G.O.

**From** The Secretary to the United Planters' Association Southern India, Madras.

Read again G.O. No. 2294 26.5.98

2.6.H 25.6.98 C.R. No. 4286/98.

Recorded.

**Order** Print Press

**No.**

MK 18/6/98

GB 22/6/98

**Dated** 14 June

**Received** 16 "

**Registered** 16 "

**Enclosures** 4.

**Spare copies.**

To the Secy U.P.A.S.I.
~~To the~~ Board (L.R.)
To the Board (R.S.) } Desp'd. 12.7.98. 65/5

MK 17/6/98.

**SUBJECT.**

Secy

Enclosing for the information of Govt. copies of letters received from Mr. Howard O. Newport re: his quest for Lady birds to be brought from Australia.

Make portion of Mr. Newports letter marked need not & not be printed. The rest which relates exclusively to his work in getting Lady birds packing & bringing them over the seas to be printed.

MK

405

Forwarded. Office

C 23/6/98.
P 27/6/98.

## BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

1/0 1294 Rev 26-5-98

## FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

Copy.

South Brisbane,

Copy.

Brisbane, 6th March, 1898.

To the Secretary, U.P.A.S.I.,

M a d r a s.

Dear Sir,

I arrived in Australia safely landing from the "Oruba" at Sydney on the 19th February.

I stayed at the Australia Hotel while there and proceeded at once to the shipping offices to make arrangements for the completion of my journey.

I learnt that the usual boat for Brisbane had left the harbour as the "Oruba" came in, the next boat would sail in 3 days but they could not book me a passage at once for various reasons.

On the next 2 days I went to the office about this and was at last told that the whole boat had been chartered by an Operatic Coy and no berths could be booked at all. They offered to book me a passage in a boat sailing in another 4 days, but rather than delay so long I came on by rail, leaving Sydney on friday and arriving here late on Saturday evening the 26th February.

The Brisbane Post Office does not open on Sundays at all and I was able to obtain no postal information. On Monday I learnt that the Mails for India had left at 6 a.m. that morning - Hence my omission to report my arrival here by an earlier mail

On Monday the 28th February I proceeded to the Secretariat and delivered my credentials to the Under Secretary to Govt:- The chief Secretary being away.

Mr. Dutton received me cordially, saying that he had heard directly from the Madras Government the Mail before and was expecting me. He referred me to the Agricultural Department, making an appointment for me to meet the Minister for Agriculture the next morning and also to see the Premier.

The Premier Sir Hugh Nelson - whom I interviewed the following day - said much the same, adding that the Govt would assist me in any way they could, and he would give me free Govt passes over the Railways should it be found necessary for me to travel.

Mr. Chatterway, the Minister of Agriculture, introduced me at once to Mr. Henry Tryon the Government Entomologist, and I proceed-

-ily- I

Copy.

South Brisbane,



at once to his office and had a long interview with him.

I naturally questioned Mr. Tryon regarding the telegram that was sent to him by the Ag. Secretary U.P.A.S.I. but to which no reply had been received before I left India. He said that not knowing the telegraphic reply had been prepaid he had mailed a reply. In this reply he had suggested that the person sent out should wait till after the Colonial winter, anticipating a delay of 6 or 8 weeks at least before anything would be done by the U.P.A. On seeing me he said however that he was glad I had come out now, that I was in good time for the Autumnal brood of Lady birds which would last for another 2 months or so. That more over I could get back to India at a good time of year and save nearly a year in time.

Mr. Tryon said he would write by this mail to the U.P.A.S.I. corroborating what I have just said.

I have naturally not been able to get into full swing of work immediately on arrival. Indeed Mr. Tryon advises my not collecting in quantity yet awhile, nor should I have been able to do so if I had wished to, for want of knowledge with regard to identification, and of apparatus.

The necessary apparatus is not much, and I have now obtained nearly all through the kindness of Mr. Tryon.

I have found my time during this first week fully occupied however, with interviewing many gentlemen and going about to various estates seeing scale pests and lady birds with letters of introduction from the Minister of the various departments or Mr. Tryon himself.

At present my work consists in collecting dead specimens of lady birds etc, under the supervision of Mr. Tryon and mounting them taking notes and making observations meanwhile of localities and habits for subsequent identification.

This work, as you will understand is very important and necessary for there are a vast number of Coccinellidae that are harmful, as well as those that are useful in destroying various scale pests.

I have already been out in some 3 or 4 directions by rail and on foot to places where Professor Koebele went on his last visit here, but for the present the indoor work - microscopic examination and

Copy.

Bank Street,

South Brisbane,



observation of structural differences between specimens (some are very minute)- occupies as much if not more time than the actual collecting.

Mr. Tryon thinks that the investigation and subsequent work will take some 2 or 3 months in Australia, and he had work then.

At present I am still at an hotel, but as it has been suggested that I had better make Brisbane my head quarters returning here from my tours into the country, I propose getting rooms somewhere near the offices, which will not only be more convenient, giving me more room and quiet for my indoor work, but will also be more economical.

So far as I can see now the allowance on the estimate for the expenses of bringing to India the consignments of Lady birds will have to be somewhat increased.

The Refrigerators on the ordinary liners vary considerably in temperature, I understand, and are frequently below freezing point, while the consignments I bring out will have to be kept at a uniform temperature somedegrees above freezing. This may necessitate my having a special ice case made, which may cost a few pounds, and also occupy more room on board ship.

I do not anticipate having to draw more funds however, and think the funds I have in hand will be ample to cover all expenses provided the investigation does not extend over the 3 months estimated, the more especially if I can retrench in the matter of travelling expenses by having free Govt passes on all Railways.

I am very glad to report that so far the work is progressing satisfactorily and I have every reason to think I shall be able to work the scheme to a most successful issue.

With regard to shipments of Lady birds and arrangements for their reception, I will write fully by a late mail.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sigd) Howard Newport.

Bank Street,

South Brisbane,

Queensland,

2nd April 1898.

Copy.

The Secretary, U.P.A.S.I.,

M a d r a s.

Dear Sir,

I have received no letter from you as I expected to do by either of the last two mails.

I received a letter from the Hon. Sec. L.P.P.A. however with several enclosures, and replies to it on the 20th ultimo.

I regret that I was not able to write to you by the same mail, but in writing now, at the end of the month, I can send you at the same time, accounts of money expended as requested by you.

On the 20th ultimo I was very much out of sorts and found myself unable to write more than the one letter to the Hon. Sec. L.P.P.A, copy of which I presume will have been sent to you. During the subsequent week I had to call in a doctor who told me that I had the Dengue fever which is very prevalent about here just now, and which appears to be a form of Influenza. Hence my silence last mail.

The Hon. Sec. L.P.P.A. in his letter to me dated 20-2-98 informed me that (1) no consignments of Lady birds need be despatched before my departure from here- (2) that future consignments will be decided upon after my report on those I bring, and (3) that my head quarters on return are to be the Lower Pulneys.

He also added that the amount to the credit of the fund was on no account to be exceeded-which I think was unnecessary as you already impressed this point upon me before my departure.

Mr. Fred. Gerrard enclosed a copy of your letter to him of the 5th February '98. This was in reply to a letter you had received from him dated I-2-98, but copy of which Mr. F. Gerrard does not enclose.

I note that you say I must have misunderstood instructio with regard to the Chairman's suggestion of correspondence with the Hon. Sec. N.P.A. andL.P.P.A. I very much regret that I should have don so and not have waited for replies before starting. I do not still see

[illegible] work I beg to report that everything is going on satisfactorily- I have made several excursions to outlying



observation of structural differences between specimens (some are very minute)- occupies as much if not more time than the actual collecting.

Mr. Tryon thinks that the investigation and subsequent work will take some 2 or 3 months in Australia, and he had work then.

At present I am still at an hotel, but as it has been suggested that I had better make Brisbane my head quarters returning here from my tours into the country, I propose getting rooms somewhere near the offices, which will not only be more convenient, giving me more room and quiet for my indoor work, but will also be more economical for the expenses of bringing to India the consignments of Lady birds will have to be somewhat increased.

The Refrigerators on the ordinary liners very considerably in temperature, I understand, and are frequently below freezing point, while the consignments I bring out will have to be kept at a uniform temperature somewhere above freezing. This may necessitate my having a special ice case made, which may cost a few pounds, and also occupy more room on board ship.

I do not anticipate having to draw more funds however, and think the funds I have in hand will be ample to cover all expenses provided the investigation does not extend over the 3 months estimated, or more especially if I can return in the matter of travelling expenses by having free Govt passes on all Railways.

I am very glad to report that so far the work is proceeding satisfactorily and I have every reason to think I shall be able to work the scheme to a most successful issue.

With regard to shipments of Lady birds and arrangements for their reception, I will write fully by a late mail.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) Howard Maxwell.

1898

that any benefit would have accrued to the scheme by any further delay however; everything else being settled these were comparatively minor points and I can act on the replies, having received them out here, just as satisfactorily as if I had waited to receive them before starting.

Moreover any further delay would have, as it happens, and as I suspected, endangered the success of the scheme.

I admit the instructions, but submit that I fully carried out the spirit of the Chairmans' instructions, tho' I may have not kept strictly to the letter. I trust Mr. Fred. Gerrard will see it in this light.

I note what you say re making arrangements for subsequent despatches (should they be needed) through the department of Agriculture and I will, I think, be able to do this.

Mr. F. Gerrard also enclosed a copy of a letter from the Hon. Sec. N.P.A. also in reply to one of his, copy of which he does not enclose. I am therefore left to conjecture what Mr. Gerrard said.

Mr. Windle's remarks with regard to subsequent work in connection with the experiment seem very just. I personally, understood that I was to go back to the Estate I have been in charge of, and was certainly prepared to continue experiments in this line while there- I did not understand that the Nilgiris Plantations Coy had ever raised any objections to this. I left them on leave (without pay) for as long as may be necessary; up to six months- and understood that they only objected (and very naturally) to my drawing salary from them while I was out of India or away from the Estate where I could continue my ordinary work, and a substitute had to be provided.

The Hon. Sec. L.P.P.A. seems to have taken things into his own hands and obtained permission from the Managing Director of the N.P.Coy, Coonoor, for me to use the Pillavaly Estate bungalow. Unless some correspondence has taken place between the Managing Director N.P. Coy and the Hon. Sec. L.P.P.A. that I know nothing of, I fail to see why this was necessary- Still less so since it has been decided that the Pillavaly Estate is to be my Head Quarters on return. What I am to understand from this I cannot tell.

With regard to the work I beg to report that everything is going on satisfactorily- I have made several excursions to outlying

districts, Govt giving me free passes over the Railways, and have identified and named several varieties that I propose to bring over to India, besides the Cryptolaemus Montrougerii. The variety Rhigolius Ventralis I have found but it is somewhat rare, and although I will bring all I can get, I do not expect to find many. There are several varieties of Orcus, particularly Orcus Australiae that Mr. Tryon advises my bringing over, and judging by the good work they are doing here on various scale pests, notably Ceroplastes rubra, I am of opinion that they would be of great use to us in India both for the soft shelled Green Scale Lecanium Viride, and the Black bug (Lecanium Coffee)

I have all the apparatus necessary except the ice chest, which I am making arrangements for now. This will cost some £5 or so I expect, but it is necessary as I have to keep the insects some time while I bring in the consignments from different parts and collect them- Moreover it will be necessary on the voyage as I hear it is somewhat risky using the ships refrigerators.

To ensure as far as possible every success, constant attention will be necessary on the voyage back and a uniform temperature of 40F or so.

I cannot yet tell when I shall be able to leave - My departure depends upon the collections I shall be able to make this month, as well as upon the state of the weather here. I hope however to have finished by the end of this month.

Finance- I beg to report that up to the end of March I have only had to draw £25 from the Circular Note for £160 that you gave me. I have paid all expenses out here, and ended March with some £4 in hand.

Unless I have unexpected and heavy expenditure I hope to bring back in cash at least half of the sum to my credit here in the Circular Note I carry-

The expenditure roughly has been as follows.

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| | | Expended | Rs. | As. | Ps |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Received from Mr. Ronaldson | Rs I,500 | Drawn against Salary | 390. | 0. | 0 |
| Expended | Rs I,190-6-0 | Return passage to Sydney | 620. | 0. | 0 |
| Balance | 309-10-0 | Expenses Madras to Colombo | 145. | 10. | 0 |
| | | " in Colombo 2 days | 20. | 8. | 0 |
| | | Sundries | 14. | 3. | 6 |
| | | Rs | 1190. | 6. | 0 |

| | | | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Exchanged @ 15/8 ¢ £. | £20 | | | | |
| In hand | £20-0-0 | Expenses on "Oruba" | I. | 10. | 0 |
| Drawn | £25-0-0 | " at Sydney | 5. | 17. | 9 |
| | | " Sydney to Brisbane | 6. | 2. | 6 |
| | | Drawn against salary | 5. | 0. | 0 |
| | | Hotel & rooms | 16. | 7. | 3 |
| | | Apparatus | I. | 14. | 9 |
| | | Sundries | | 12. | 9 |
| | | Trav: Exs: to and from, Grovely, Gatton, Newfarm Milton, Enoggera, Musgrave Park etc (Trams. cabs etc Railage free) | 3. | 15. | II |
| | £45-0-0 | | £ 41. | 0. | II |

Balance Cash in hand I-4-98 £3-19-I.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sigd) Howard Newport.

Gatton,
Queensland,
14th May 1898.

Copy.

To the Secretary,
United Planters' Association, of S. India,
Madras.

Dear Sir,

I regret I was not able to write last mail as I intended to - I was away from head quarters and returned too late to catch the English Mail-

Since I last wrote I have had some trouble with the ice chest- I found an ordinary ice chest would not bring the temperature low enough to suspend animation in the Lady birds- This had to be done of course.

Mr. Tryon had had no experience of this part of the business and in my perplexity I called upon the Engineer in charge of the Railway cold storage works. He, I found quite by chance, had had some practical experience in this very line, having sent insects from N.S.W. to California. He had he said, put the insects into a temperature below freezing point. He gave me a plan of a brine chest that would bring and keep the temperature low enough to keep the insects dormant. This I took to Mr. Tryon and with his approval had constructed In fact the Agricultural Department had it done for me in their own workshop. The construction of this case delayed my collecting work for some ten days or more- but it was absolutely necessary- Since it has been completed I have been collecting steadily and have been successful in getting a good number of insects- I am making arrangements now to return to India by the O.S.N. Coy Steamer leaving Sydney on the 28th instant- To catch this I leave Brisbane by boat on the 25th instant, and should arrive at Colombo on the 17th or 18th June.

Before leaving I will, of course submit my insects to Mr. Tryon's inspection. Should he advise me to wait for another fortnight and collect more of any one kind of insect I will do so and leave by the boat of the 11th June, but I do not anticipate his suggesting this.

I beg to submit my accounts for the month of April.



Received from Mr. Donaldson — Expended Rs. As. Ps.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs 1,500 | Drawn against Salary | 390. 0. 0 | |
| Expended Rs 1,190-6-0 | | Return passage to Sydney | 620. 0. 0 | |
| Balance | 309-10-0 | Expenses Madras to Colombo | 145. 10. 0 | |
| | | " in Colombo 2 days | 20. 8. 0 | |
| | | Sundries | 14. 3. 6 | |
| Exchanged £ 15\8 \ £ = | £80 | Rs | 1190. 6. 0 | |

| | | | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| In hand | £80-0-0 | Expenses on "Orube" | 1. 10. 0 |
| Drawn | £85-0-0 | " at Sydney | 5. 17. 9 |
| | | " Sydney to Brisbane | 6. 2. 6 |
| | | Drawn against salary | 5. 0. 0 |
| | | Hotel 6 rooms | 16. 7. 3 |
| | | Apparatus | 1. 14. 9 |
| | | Sundries | 12. 9 |
| | | Trav: Exs: to and from, Grovely, Gatton, Newlarn Milton, Roggera, Rosgrove Park etc (Trans. cobs etc Railage free) | 3. 15. 11 |
| | £85-0-0 | | £ 41. 0. 11 |

Balance Cash in hand 1-4-98 £3-19-1.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Sgd) Howard Newport.

1898
DEPARTMENT
No. 2
Current No. 4286

I have - to the end of April - drawn £60 from the letter of credit I hold for £160 and expect to have to draw some £30 or £35 more before my arrival in India.

| | | | Expenditure £. | S. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brought forward | | | | | |
| Cash in hand March | £ 3- I9- I | Ice & brine chest | 6. | 5. | 0 |
| Drawn from Bank | 35- 0- 0 | Thermometer | | I6. | 6 |
| | £ 38- I9- I | Ice | | I5. | 0 |
| Expended | £37- I2- 0 | Moss, felt, boxes, & tools | 2. | 6. | 6 |
| Balance cash in hand | £ I- 7- I | House rent | I3. | I0. | 0 |
| | | Sundries | | 6. | 0 |
| | | Travelling Expenses (Trams to & from City & Ag. Office Cabs, Busses,& Buggys in out-stations £I-I2-6; Hotel bills at Ipswich, Catton Grovely etc £I-I0-6 | 3. | 3. | 0 |
| | | Drawn on Private A/c | I0. | I0. | 0 |
| | | Total Expenditure | £ 37. | I2. | 0 |

As I have stated above I expect to leave for India on the 25th instant by the Orient Steamer "Oroya" - Should I have to stay for the later boat I will write again.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sigd) Howard Newport.

Copy.

Catton,

Queensland,

14th May 1898.

To the Secretary,

United Planters' Association of S. India,

M a d r a s.

Dear Sir,

I regret I was not able to write last mail as I intended to do - I was away from head quarters and returned too late to catch the English Mail-

Since I last wrote I have had some trouble with the ice chest- I found an ordinary ice chest would not bring the temperature low enough to suspend animation in the Lady birds- This had to be done of course.

Mr. Tryon had had no experience of this part of the business and in my perplexity I called upon the Engineer in charge of the Railway cold storage works. He, I found quite by chance, had had some practical experience in this very line, having sent insects from N.S.W. to California. He had he said, put the insects into a temperature below freezing point. He gave me a plan of a brine chest that would bring and keep the temperature low enough to keep the insects dormant. This I took to Mr. Tryon and with his approval had constructed in fact the Agricultural Department had it done for me in their own workshop. The construction of this case delayed my collecting work for some ten days or more- but it was absolutely necessary- Since it has been completed I have been collecting steadily and have been successful in getting a good number of insects- I am making arrangements now to return to India by the O.S.N. Coy Steamer leaving Sydney on the 28th instant- To catch this I leave Brisbane by boat on the 20th instant, and should arrive at Colombo on the 17th or 18th June.

Before leaving I will, of course submit my insects to Mr. Tryon's inspection. Should he advise me to wait for another fortnight and collect more of any one kind of insect I will do so and leave by the boat of the 11th June, but I do not anticipate his suggesting this.

I beg to submit my accounts for the month of April.

Copy.

Bank Street,
Brisbane,
22nd May '98.

H. Ormerod, Esq,
Secretary, United Planters' Association of S. India,
M a d r a s.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th April for which many thanks. As mentioned to you in my last letter, the funds I have in hand will be ample, and I shall therefore not need any more while away from India.

There is no need for me to write you re packing and transit, I think, as I am not sending any consignments before I come. I certainly think via Tuticorin the better route and will come that way.

With regard to the share of the consignment that is to be sent to the Nilgiris I could do as the Chairman suggests if thought most advisable. I think however that it would be better if I were to divide the consignment at Dindigul, leave half on ice there for a day or two while I took half up to the Pulneys freeing them and leaving them in my brother's charge there- Then returning and taking the other half to the Nilgiris.

I think this most advisable as the consignments will have to be examined for parasites on opening- There is no need for me to stay long on the Nilgiris and I could give the hints for propagation better verbally than by letter.

Distribution is a matter that will come later on, I think. Once on the Hills a dozen or two of each kind could be sent round to any interested parties to experiment with if desired without any trouble but it would, I think, be better to let the Lady birds propagate first and distribute them after acclimatization.

I beg to report that I have at last succeeded in getting a chest that will keep at a fairly low temperature, i.e. about 25° to 35°F. It has been a great deal of trouble and entailed a lot of work and more worry. I hope however to be able to bringout my collections safely and alive. I have been collecting steadily and have some 4,000 specimens chiefly of the three kinds mentioned in my last letter. I

338
Entered No. 3
Consignment 4284

trust I shall be able to produce most of these alive in India but the most trying time is to come i.e. the voyage back. It will be exceedingly difficult work to keep my brine chest working steadily all the time, but I will do it if it possibly can be done.

I have taken my return passage in the Orient boat "Oroya" leaving Sydney on the 28th instant. I leave here therefore on the 25th instant and hope to arrive at Colombo on the I7th or I8th June.

I will telegraph my arrival to you from Tuticorin.

You will get this letter I think a week or so before my arrival- Would you kindly write me to Colombo (C/o Orient line Agent) or to Tuticorin (C/o B.I.S.N. Coy Agent) informing me where I can obtain ice in Tuticorin also mentioning any other instructions you may have for me. I anticipate no difficulty about ice at Colombo. On second thoughts I think my best place would be to telegraph from Colombo to Messrs. G. Mengel & Co, Dindigul, for a consignment of 50 lbs or so of ice to await my arrival at Tuticorin in any case. (Whether I hear from you or not)

On my arrival in India I shall proceed direct to Dindigul If you wish to reply to my telegram announcing arrival at Tuticorin would you kindly wire me at Dindigul C/o my Agent S. Rungasawmy Naidu.

I shall not have time, nor will there be any need for me to write again before my arrival.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sigd) Howard Newport.

UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

Madras, 14th June, 1898.

The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Ootacamund.

Sir,

With reference to Proceedings of the Madras Government in G. O. No 2294 of 26th ultimo,

I have the honour to inclose for your information typed copies of letters received from Mr. Howard O. Newport with reference to his quest of Lady birds in Australia, with a view to the extermination of scale pests on Coffee Estates.

These will, I think, satisfy you that due precautions have been taken to avoid the introduction of noxious species of Lady birds.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
Harry Sheppard
Secretary

3

1898
REGISTERED
No. 4
No. 4286



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I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) Howard Newport.

# Government {1898} of Madras.

## REVENUE.

2

*Recd.* } 1898. *Enclosures*

*Regd.* *Spare copies.*

**G.O., No. 364, 28th June 1898.**

**JUNE.**

9

### Lady-birds.

Recording letter from the Secretary to the United Planters' Association of Southern India submitting copies of letters received from Mr. H. O. Newport with reference to his quest of [illegible] in Australia with a view to the extermination of scale-pests on coffee estates.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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Read—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 2294, Revenue, dated 26th May 1898:—

*Read*—the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 28th April 1898, No. 4-Rev.:—

I forward herewith a copy of a * letter received from the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, and of its enclosure from Professor Blandford, offering some precautionary observations which may be useful on the subject of Mr. Newport's deputation to Australia for the purpose of obtaining a consignment of certain species of lady-birds. I am aware of the circumstances in which Mr. Newport was selected for this duty in the absence of a skilled entomologist.

* Dated 17th March 1898.

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Enclosures.

From W. T. THISELTON-DYER, Esq., Director of Royal Gardens, Kew, to Sir CHARLES BERNARD, K.C.S.I., India Office, dated 17th March 1898.

I have before me the Proceedings of the Government of Madras (G.O., No. 351, dated 18th May 1897, and G.O., No. 28, dated 17th January 1898), of which I have received copies, through the Secretary of State in Council.

2. It appears from these that coffee in the Madras Presidency is affected with scale-bugs and other insects. To remedy this state of things it has been decided by the Madras Government to pay Rs. 2,000, a moiety of the expenses of the delegation of Mr. Newport to Australia to collect and carry to India a consignment of lady-birds.

3. The principle of dealing with scale-bugs by introducing their appropriate enemy has been worked out by American entomologists, and is undoubtedly sound. But as pointed out in the papers, there are 1,700 known kinds of lady-birds and for the most part each of these will only feed on one kind of scale-insect. The method therefore will obviously not work unless the appropriate enemy is set to work on its destined prey.

4. As it appeared to me doubtful if this point had been adequately considered by the Government of Madras, I obtained the opinion of Mr. W. F. H. Blandford, one of the Secretaries of the Entomological Society. This I enclose.

5. I may be permitted to observe that it appears to me improbable that any attempt to utilise these refined entomological expedients will lead to anything except waste of money and perhaps as Mr. Blandford points out worse mischief, unless carried out by a competent expert.

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From W. F. H. BLANDFORD, Esq., Secretary of the Entomological Society, to the Director of Royal Gardens, Kew, dated 48, Wimpole Street, W., 15th March 1898.

With respect to the support which the Government of Madras is giving to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, in order to send Mr. Newport to Australia for the collection of lady-birds it is clear that the Government and the planters are relying on the success of the Hawaiian and American experiments in the same direction.

I have looked up as much information as I can find of what has been done in this direction and it appears that certain Australian lady-birds (of the genera Chilocorus, Orcus and Cryptolæmus) have been found to attack and feed on species of Lecanium (insect life, IV., 164–65).



Although the official papers are silent on the point, it may be inferred that the destructive coffee scale of Southern India is *lecanium viride* first described by Green from Ceylon. It is therefore quite within the bounds of possibility that Mr. Newport may provide a return for the Rs. 5,000, by bringing back lady-birds that really will be useful in India.

At the same time, though not necessarily foredoomed to failure, the experiment is being carried out on quite unscientific lines.

No study appears to have been made of the Indian parasites of lecanium viride. Whatever the native home of this scale may be, it is presumably not Australian, as was Icerya purchasi; there are plenty of Indian lady-birds, which perhaps already accomplish all the destruction that imported kinds could do.

The success of the "Vedalia experiment" has given rise to a sort of delusion that one must inevitably turn to Australia for coccidiphagous insects; and it is worth pointing out that *Icerya ægyptiacum*, Dougl., which has been introduced into India, was found in 1894 to be attacked in the compound of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, by an indigenous species of *vedalia*, V. *funida* (*roseipennis*). In this case the introduction of the Australian V. *cardinalis* would have been utterly unnecessary.

In considering the chance of success of such experiments, it is well not to lose sight of considerations thus expressed by Riley in a paper which lays down authoritatively the principles of such economic methods (insect life, VI., 130 *et seq*). "There is very little to be hoped from the miscellaneous introduction of predaceous or parasitic insects for the suppression of a phytophage which they do not suppress in their native home or in the country from which they are brought," also "all other things being equal, we should expect the species which are beneficial in Australia to be less so when brought to this country (America) a deduction which brings out still more clearly the exceptional nature of the case of *vedalia* and icerya."

Whatever good result the present experiment may have must depend on Mr. Newport's capacity for carrying it out, and as the Planters' Association has vainly asked for the services of a skilled entomologist, he must be presumed not to be one.

To study and collect suitable predaceous species from among the various Australian coccinellidae appear to me to be no easy task even for an expert, and to be probably beyond the powers of a non-entomologist. * * * * *

The selection of the species is only an initial difficulty; possibly injurious forms must be eliminated, a point on which Mr. Koebele, who introduced icerya into America was specially cautioned. The examples collected must be brought back alive, and sufficient investigation of their life-history, &c., made to enable this to be done. Moreover, they must be fed during the voyage on Australian scale-insects, unless Mr. Newport exports with him a supply of shrubs infested with *lecanium viride* on which to test and subsequently to rear the lady-birds. In either case there is a risk that unskilled management might introduce an Australian scale into India, or *vice versâ*, which would be a most lamentable outcome of an ill-considered experiment.

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*Order*—Mis. No. 2294, Revenue, dated 26th May 1898.

Copies of the correspondence received with the Right Honourable the Secretary of State's despatch read above will be communicated to the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India.

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" " (Revenue Settlement).

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Read—the following letter from H. ORMEROD, Esq., Secretary to the United Planters' Association of Southern India, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 14th June 1898:—

With reference to Proceedings of the Madras Government in G.O., No. 2294 of 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose, for your information, typed copies of letters received from Mr. H. O. Newport with reference to his quest of lady-birds in Australia, with a view to the extermination of scale-pests on coffee estates.

These will, I think, satisfy you that due precautions have been taken to avoid the introduction of noxious species of lady-birds.

Enclosures.

From H. O. NEWPORT, Esq., to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India, Madras, dated Brisbane, 6th March 1898.

I arrived in Australia safely landing from the "Oruba" at Sydney on the 19th February.,

* * * * *

On Monday the 28th February, I proceeded to the Secretariat and delivered my credentials to the Under Secretary to Government, the Chief Secretary being away.

Mr. Dutton received me cordially, saying that he had heard directly from the Madras Government the mail before and was expecting me. He referred me to the Agricultural Department, making an appointment for me to meet the Minister for Agriculture the next morning and also to see the Premier.

The Premier, Sir H. Nelson, whom I interviewed the following day, said much the same, adding that the Government would assist me in any way they could, and he would give me free Government passes over the railways should it be found necessary for me to travel.

Mr. Chatterway, the Minister of Agriculture, introduced me at once to Mr. H. Tryon, the Government Entomologist, and I proceeded at once to his office and had a long interview with him.

* * * * *

I have naturally not been able to get into full swing of work immediately on arrival. Indeed Mr. Tryon advises my not collecting in quantity yet awhile, nor should I have been able to do so if I had wished to, for want of knowledge with regard to identification and of apparatus.

The necessary apparatus is not much, and I have now obtained nearly all through the kindness of Mr. Tryon.

* * * * *

At present my work consists in collecting dead specimens of lady-birds, &c., under the supervision of Mr. Tryon and mounting them taking notes and making observations meanwhile of localities and habits for subsequent identification.

This work, as you will understand, is very important and necessary, for there are a vast number of coccinellidae that are harmful, as well as those that are useful in destroying various scale-pests.

I have already been out in some three or four directions by rail and on foot to places where Professor Koebele went on his last visit here, but for the present the indoor work—microscopic examination and observation of structural differences between specimens (some are very minute)—occupies as much if not more time than the actual collection.

Mr. Tryon thinks that the investigation and subsequent work will take some two or three months in Australia. . . . .

* * * * *

So far as I can see now the allowance on the estimate for the expenses of bringing to India the consignments of lady-birds will have to be somewhat increased.

The refrigerators on the ordinary liners vary considerably in temperature, I understand, and are frequently below freezing point, while the consignments I bring out will have to be kept at a uniform temperature some degrees above freezing. This may necessitate my having a special ice case made, which may cost a few pounds, and also occupy more room on board ship.

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I am very glad to report that so far the work is progressing satisfactorily and I have every reason to think I shall be able to work the scheme to a most successful issue.

With regard to shipments of lady-birds and arrangements for their reception, I will write fully by a late mail.

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From H. O. NEWPORT, Esq., to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India, Madras, dated Queensland, 2nd April 1898.

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With regard to the work I beg to report that everything is going on satisfactorily. I have made several excursions to outlying districts, Government giving me free passes over the railways, and have identified and named several varieties that I propose to bring over to India besides the *cryptolaemus montrougerii*. The variety *rhigolius ventralis* I have found, but it is, somewhat rare, and although I will bring all I can get, I do not expect to find many. There are several varieties of *orcus*, particularly *orcus Australiæ* that Mr. Tryon advises my bringing over, and judging by the good work they are doing here on various scale-pests, notably *ceroplastes rubra*, I am of opinion that they would be of great use to us in India, both for the soft shelled green scale *lecanium viride*, and the black-bug (*lecanium coffee*).



I have all the apparatus necessary except the ice-chest, which I am making arrangements for now. This will cost some £5 or so I expect, but it is necessary as I have to keep the insects some time, while I bring in the consignments from different parts and collect them. Moreover, it will be necessary on the voyage as I hear it is somewhat risky using the ships rerigerators.

To ensure as far as possible every success, constant attention will be necessary on the voyage back and a uniform temperature of 40°F. or so.

I cannot yet tell when I shall be able to leave. My departure depends upon the collections I shall be able to make this month as well as upon the state of the weather here. I hope, however, to have finished by the end of this month.

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From H. O. NEWPORT, Esq., to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India, Madras, dated Queensland, 14th May 1898.

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Since I last wrote I have had some trouble with the ice-chest. I found an ordinary ice-chest would not bring the temperature low enough to suspend animation in the lady-birds. This had to be done of course.

Mr. Tryon had had no experience of this part of the business and in my perplexity I called upon the Engineer in charge of the Railway Cold Storage Works. He, I found quite by chance, had had some practical experience in this very line, having sent insects from New South Wales to California. He had, he said, put the insects into a temperature below freezing point. He gave me a plan of a brine-chest that would bring and keep the temperature low enough to keep the insects dormant. This I took to Mr. Tryon and with his approval had constructed. In fact the Agricultural Department had it done for me in their own workshop. The construction of this case delayed my collecting work for some ten days or more, but it was absolutely necessary. Since it has been completed, I have been collecting steadily and have been successful in getting a good number of insects. I am making arrangements now to return to India by the O.S.N. & Co. steamer, leaving Sydney on the 28th instant. To catch this I leave Brisbane by boat on the 25th instant, and should arrive at Colombo on the 17th or 18th June.

Before leaving I will, of course, submit my insects to Mr. Tryon's inspection Should he advise me to wait for another fortnight and collect more of any one kind of insect, I will do so and leave by the boat of the 11th June, but I do not anticipate his suggesting this.

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From H. O. NEWPORT, Esq., to the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India, Madras, dated Brisbane, 22nd May 1898.

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With regard to the share of the consignment that is to be sent to the Nilgiris, I could do, as the Chairman suggests, if thought most advisable. I think, however, that it would be better if I were to divide the consignment at Dindigul, leave half on ice there for a day or two while I took half up to the Pulneys freeing them and leaving them in my brother's charge there; then returning and taking the other half to the Nilgiris.

I think this most advisable as the consignments will have to be examined for parasites on opening. There is no need for me to stay long on the Nilgiris and I could give the hints for propagation better verbally than by letter.

Distribution is a matter that will come later on I think. Once on the Hills a dozen or two of each kind could be sent round to any interested parties to experiment with if desired without any trouble, but it would, I think, be better to let the lady-birds propagate first and distribute them after acclimatization.

I beg to report that I have at last succeeded in getting a chest that will keep at a fairly low temperature, *i.e.*, about 25° to 35°F. It has been a great deal of trouble and entailed a lot of work and more worry. I hope, however, to be able to bring out my collections safely and alive. I have been collecting steadily and have some 4,000 specimens chiefly of the three kinds mentioned in my last letter. I trust I shall be able to produce most of these alive in India, but the most trying time is to come, *i.e.*, the voyage back. It will be exceedingly difficult work to keep my brine-chest working steadily all the time, but I will do it if it possibly can be done.

I have taken my return passage in the Orient boat "Oroya" leaving Sydney on the 28th instant. I leave here therefore on the 25th instant and hope to arrive at Colombo on the 17th or 18th June.

* * * * *

Order—No. 364, Revenue, dated 28th June 1898.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary, United Planters' Association, Southern India.
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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