$\frac{O}{19}$ · 2,000—5-3-93.

Revenue (1899) Department.

Mis

~~ROUTINE~~ SERIES.

G.O., No. 909

DATED 3rd March 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communicating to the Board of Revenue letter from the Govt of India forwarding ~~letter~~ copy of a report submitted by the H.C.V.D. on his deputation to Cyprus in connection with the Supply of Donkey Stallions for India.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

$\frac{O}{18}$ 4,000—18-10-98.

Revenue (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1430

From

The Govt. of India -
Revenue and Agri: Dept.

Order Mis No 909 Dated 23rd March

Communicate to the Bot Rev
for information

Cir: No. 5/167-4

Dated 20th February 1899

Received 25th ..

Registered 27th .. ..

Enclosures 1

Spare copies.

Copy sent to Bot Rev Dept. 6-3-99.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information copy of a report submitted by the Inspector-General Civil Veterinary Department of the result of his deputation to Cyprus in connection with the supply of donkey stallions for India.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Cir. No. 5
167-4

FROM

E. MACONOCHIE, ESQ., I.C.S.,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Calcutta, *the* 20th issued on 21/2 February 189 9.

Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

(C.V.A.)

SIR,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Governor in Council a copy of the report submitted by Veterinary Colonel A.E.Queripel, Inspector General, Civil Veterinary Department, of the result of his deputation to Cyprus in connection with the supply of donkey stallions for India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E Maconochie

Under-Secretary.

X Witt 15 M. C.

No. 327 C., dated Simla, the 30th October 1898.

From—Veterinary-Colonel A. E. Queripel, *Inspector-General, Civil Veterinary Department,*

To—The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the following report of my deputation to Cyprus in connection with the supply of donkey stallions, but prior to doing so I would lay before you the result of a series of interviews which I had when in England bearing on the supply from the Continent.

2. On my visit to Major-General Sir Oliver Newmarch at the India Office, I was informed that our purchasing Agent, Mr. C. L. Sutherland, would be unable to comply in full with our indent for 20 donkey stallions. I therefore saw that gentleman on frequent occasions and fully discussed the question with him, when I learned that all that could be expected this year were 10 Catalans, which he proposed purchasing through Agents, as he did not consider it wise to visit Spain himself owing to the state of public feeling. He further informed me that he would be able to send one more, *viz.*:—a cross between a Poitou and a Catalan—this therefore left 9 short of the number indented for. In discussing the supply from Italy he stated that he could not expect any donkeys to be offered for sale which would exceed 12 hands in height, these would be valueless to us for the production of Ordnance mules, and considering the price which would have to be paid for inferior animals of this class, I did not feel justified in the interests of the Government of India in recommending that any should be obtained from that country.

3. On the question being referred to me officially by the India Office, I replied that, under the circumstances, I deemed it advisable to recommend that Mr. Sutherland be allowed to purchase 10 Catalans through his Agents, although I felt that this was open to objection and risk, and that the remaining 9 be obtained from Cyprus, should I find that good Jacks were obtainable at reasonable prices in that Island.

4. The outlook, as far as the supply of Jacks for India is concerned, is a most gloomy one, as is proved by the fact that the whole of the Continent could only furnish 11 this year. I say the whole of the Continent, as Mr. Sutherland has the necessary authority to purchase wherever he may find good Jacks. It will be for the decision of Government what steps should be taken to obtain a further supply, for, as I shall hereafter show, the number that should be taken from Cyprus should not, if possible, exceed 25 per annum at least for a few years. Whether Damascus and Aleppo, which places are said to possess a fine breed, should be visited or not, must be a question which in my opinion is worthy of consideration.

5. It will be remembered that I was unable to visit Cyprus on my way to England owing to the fact that quarantine* had been imposed on arrivals from India both at Suez and at the Island itself; I therefore deferred my visit until my return. I am glad I did so as I obtained sanction to purchase 9 to complete the 20 indented for from the Continent. I obtained my final instructions from the India Office on 26th September in a letter† conveying the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council to my selecting a further number of 25 which had been asked for by the Government of India.

* *F. 36, S. S.*

† B. Pros. Aug., 1898, No. 16. *F. 140.*

6. I left London on 30th September for Port Said *vid* Brindisi, thence I proceeded to Alexandria and arrived at Limasol on 7th October. At Limasol I received a telegram from His Excellency the High Commissioner of Cyprus, kindly asking me to visit him at Troodos, the summer seat of the Government of Cyprus, but I deemed it advisable to see the Island first and make myself acquainted with the class of donkey obtainable, to be better able to discuss the question of a further supply with His Excellency. I therefore proceeded to Larnaca and thence to Famagusta, which district is supposed to produce the best class of donkey, although, as I shall hereafter show, I do not agree with this generally accepted idea.

7. On my way to Famagusta I visited the villages of Kooklia and Pylla, both of which are situated in the Mesorea plain, this being one of the best breeding centres of the Island. I subsequently visited the villages of Vataly, Asha and Timboo. This gave me a great insight into what was being done in the way of breeding. I saw many pony mares with mules at foot, their average height being 13-2½, this average exceeds that of the mares generally allotted to mule-breeding in India. I was able to see stock by some of the Jacks which had been purchased for India. I was very pleased with the stock got by them. One point which struck me very forcibly was that the donkey mares were generally of much larger size than the donkey stallions, and on enquiry I found that the cause was that the best mares are crossed with pony stallions in order to obtain mules, as they are more remunerative. This fact is a most important one, bearing as it does on the size and quality of the Jacks obtainable, and I shall hereafter allude to this when referring to my interview with the High Commissioner.

8. When donkey stallions are foaled, great care is exercised, the custom being to have a donkey mare and a pony mare with a mule foal, to foal simultaneously, the donkey foal is immediately transferred to the pony mare in order that he may become accustomed to ponies and not to his own species. All donkey stallions are termed Lakinari, such as have been suckled by pony mares being termed Alithinos or True Lakinaris, whilst those that have been suckled by donkey mares are termed Planos Lakinaris.

9. On arrival at Famagusta I visited all the potters, yards, as it is mainly from these men that good donkeys are obtained, for as in all eastern countries animals are worked at two years of age, very few are therefore bought direct from the breeders. The majority of the donkeys were however under 12-2 in height, 53 inches in girth, and 6½ inches in the shank, they were therefore under the standard required. This confirms what I have already said, that although the Famagusta district is supposed to produce the best Jacks, in my opinion it does not do so; they are lighter than those obtained in other districts and give me the impression of being much in and in bred, my opinion was further confirmed by the measurements of Famagusta donkeys purchased for shipment to India. By the list of measurements appended, marked A, it will be seen that Nos. 12, 16, and 22 which were bought in this district, compare unfavourably either in height, girth or shank with many of the others, and notably so with the first 9.

10. I proceeded from Famagusta to Nicosia where I carefully inspected the batch of 27 that are ready for shipment to India, this being the original indent, for India 25 and 2 for Faridkot and Kapurthala. I took all their measurements as noted in Appendix A, by which it will be seen that the averages are as follows:—

Height	12-2½
Girth	56 inches.
Shank	6⅝ inches.

These measurements are very tightly made, half an inch was allowed for shoes or long feet, and I have no hesitation in saying that I consider this the best batch that has ever been obtained from Cyprus. Italy could not produce as good a batch at the present time, and the cost per donkey is only about one-sixth of what the Italians would cost. It will therefore be seen how advisable it is that the supply from this Island should be fostered. I should add that we are indebted to Dr. Heidenstam, C.M.G., the Chief Medical Officer, for their purchase: this officer has been in Cyprus since the occupation, his knowledge of the Island, its people and their language enables him to obtain advantages which others not possessing this knowledge could not possibly obtain.

11. With reference to the above-mentioned measurements, I would call special attention to donkeys Nos. 1 to 9, this is the class of Jack required for India, and it could most easily be bred in large numbers in the Island.

12. The average measurements are better than last year, when, as will be seen by paragraph 137 of the Annual Administration Report of this Department for 1897-98, they stood at—

Height.	Girth.	Shank.
12-2	53½	6½

these were better than those supplied in 1896-97, it may therefore be said that as the demand for this class increases an improvement is taking place.

13. If we compare the Italians received during the past two years with this year's Cyprians, we find that the latter are the best, especially in girth—

	Height.	Girth.	Shank.
Italians, 1896-97	12-2 5/16	55	6¾
Do., 1897-98	12-2¼	54	6⅝
Cyprians, 1898-99	12-2⅜	56	6⅝

14. Whilst at Nicosia I visited all the large Khans or Serais and was favourably struck with the fact which I have before mentioned, that the best donkey mares are kept for mule-breeding, every big mare having a mule at foot.

15. I have hitherto said nothing about the further supply of the 34 Jacks required by us this year, *viz.*:—9 to complete the number indented for from the Continent and 25 sanctioned by Government in excess of the first Cyprian indent. On my arrival in Cyprus I received a letter from the Chief Secretary, copy of which is attached, marked B, in which the sanction of the High Commissioner was conveyed to the purchase of 9, but in which it was stated that it was not deemed desirable, that of the age and class required, any number beyond the 9 referred to, should be taken from the Island this year. I therefore, after consulting Dr. Heidenstam, addressed the Chief Secretary in terms of my letter, dated 10th October, copy of which will be found attached, marked C, and at an interview with the High Commissioner sanction was subsequently obtained to as many as possible being obtained. I doubt if the full number will be forthcoming, for as stated in my letter, I consider it advisable that a smaller number should be shipped rather that the standard should be lowered.

16. I feel that some explanation is due from me as to why I did not comply with my instructions to personally select the extra number required, the reason being that I found that it would necessitate a lengthened stay of from 6 weeks to 2 months in the Island, and this I was not justified in doing under existing orders; * besides which I feel that we can fully rely on Dr. Heidenstam's selection. I have given him the standard required, as will be seen by letter marked C, and have carefully explained to him the faults which are to be guarded against in donkeys required for India, and I am fully convinced that he will supply us with the best that the Island can furnish.

* *F 36, S.2.*

17. From Nicosia I proceeded to Limasol, and thence to Troodos to stay with His Excellency the High Commissioner, when the following points came under discussion:—

The export of donkeys from the Island—I find that large numbers leave the Island annually, amongst the most regular shipments being—

To Herzegovina, 10 or 12 Jacks annually.
To a private Farm near Constantinople, 7 or 8 yearly.
To the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago, such as Rhodes and others, one or two each.

To Caiffa (Syria), about 30, but these are generally indifferent.

Syria generally imports large numbers of young ones of one year old, in order to rear them.

I therefore suggested for His Excellency's consideration that a small export tax should be imposed.

I made the above suggestion having two objects in view, first to stop the wholesale export of young stock to Syria, and secondly to enable the Government to award prizes at the large Shows for donkey stallions. At present the Government of Cyprus does not feel justified in increasing expenditure and at the same time something is required to keep up the standard of the donkeys and to induce breeders to use their better mares for this purpose. Large Fairs are held annually at:—

Famagusta in March.
Larnaca in April.
The Carpas in September.
Papho in September.

If prizes were awarded at these Fairs for the best donkey stallions, I feel convinced that the result would be most beneficial; in this opinion His Excellency fully concurs. It would further enable the Commissioners of the districts to explain to the breeders the advisability of using better mares for breeding donkey stallions. I laid before His Excellency the necessity of most carefully upholding the splendid breed of donkeys now to be found in the Island, most of the prosperity of the peasantry depends on mule and donkey breeding, and as the donkey is the basis without which nothing can be done, it behoves the Authorities to foster their breeding with the greatest care, bearing in mind that which has occurred in Malta, which Island was at one time famous for its breed of donkeys but in which not a single stallion donkey of any value can now be found, even for mule breeding application has been made to Cyprus from Malta for Jacks. Taking the above into consideration I feel that we are demanding much of Cyprus, in asking it to contribute 61 donkey stallions during the year to India, still as in all probability the number will not exceed 50, I am of opinion that no harm will accrue, this, however, should not be repeated, otherwise we would do an injury to the Island; as I have before said, for some few years our demands should, if possible, not exceed 25 to 30. I say for some few years, as I feel convinced that breeding donkeys will be more largely embarked in now that it is known that India will deal largely with the Island.

18. On this point His Excellency the High Commissioner is of opinion that if the Government of India would guarantee to take a regular supply, say of 25 or 30 Jacks annually, that it would tend to better ones being obtained, as private individuals would, as in fact has already been done, commence breeding from good mares for the Indian market. As we shall certainly require this number and even more for some years to come, I would most strongly recommend, for the consideration of the Government of India, that His Excellency be informed that we shall be prepared to take this number regularly at approximately the prices now ruling in the market, provided they are of the stamp which I have carefully explained to the Authorities, or such donkeys as Nos. 1 to 9 on the appended list. Dr. Heidenstam also informed me that if this guarantee were given he would purchase as a private speculation Jacks of two years of age, retaining them in the Island for two years, where gram and fodder are very cheap. This would aid in their development and would be of advantege to the Government of India, as better Jacks would be supplied.

19. His Excellency further consulted me as to whether any further means might be adopted (*a*) with regard to improving the breed of donkeys, (*b*) with regard to the improvement of ponies of the Island. I strongly recommended with reference to (*a*) that at least two of the best Jacks that the Island could produce should be maintained at Government expense in each district in Cyprus, but that no attempt should be made to introduce foreign blood. I was aware that this had been proposed, and I cannot but record my opinion that any such step would be fatal: the island possesses a most excellent breed, and my advice is to improve it solely by selection; this can most easily and rapidly be done at a very trifling cost. In fact, so strongly do I feel on this subject that I would either impose a heavy tax on the importation of donkeys or prohibit their importation into the Island altogether.

With reference to (*b*), I saw that there was a wish in the Island to produce size; infact in one quarter I heard a suggestion that a small Hackney should be procured: any such measure would be fatal to the interests of mule-breeding, which, as I shall show in a subsequent report dealing solely with Cyprian mules, is of such importance to the peasantry. Increase the size of the mares to any great extent and you will produce a mule which cannot be maintained on the food obtainable in the Island, and the most excellent class of mule now to be found and which owe their value to their medium size, rendering them fit for pack purposes, would cease to exist. I am, however, of opinion that the ponies might be generally improved by the

introduction of high caste Arab ponies, not exceeding 14 hands; this class of sire would give them more substance and bone which at the same time would be beneficial to the mule.

20. My suggestions made to His Excellency the High Commissioner may be summarised as follows:—

(*a*) The levying of a small tax on all donkeys exported.
(*b*) The levying of a heavy tax on all imported donkeys, or, if possible, the prohibition altogether against their being imported into the Island.
(*c*) The awarding of prizes at all the large fairs to donkey stallions.
(*d*) The maintenance on the part of Government of at least two good indigenous Jacks in each district.
(*e*) The maintenance of a few good Arab pony stallions not exceeding 14 hands, should it be decided to undertake the improvement of the breed of ponies.

21. Perhaps the Government of India might deem it advisable to submit a copy of this Report to The Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, in order that it might be communicated to the Colonial Office. The object I had in view in making the above recommendation and in dealing generally with the improvement of stock on the island was as much in our interests in India as in the interests of the Island itself, but of course the matter referred to will have to be dealt with by the Colonial Office.

22. I cannot conclude my report without recording my best thanks to His Excellency the High Commissioner of the Island, to the Chief Secretary to Government, and to Dr. Heidenstam for their great kindness during my stay in Cyprus. I was assisted in every way, and it was due to their assistance that I was able to make myself as fully acquainted as I have done with the resources of the Island during my short visit.

A.

List showing ages and measurements of 27 Cyprian Donkey Stallions purchased for shipment to India—October 1898.

Nos.	Height. H.	Height. I.	Girth.	Shank.	Age.	
			Inches.	Inches.	Years.	
1	13	0½	60	7⅛	4	The Leper.
2	12	3⅓	58	7⅛	4	The Doctor.
3	12	3	57½	7	4	Augustina I.
4	12	3⅓	57	6⅝	6	Kythrea.
5	12	3⅓	57½	6¾	6	Lefkara.
6	13	0	57½	7	4	Sowry.
7	13	1⅓	59	7	5	Alban.
8	12	3¼	56½	7	6	Akathiot.
9	12	3	57	6⅛	6	Zamba.
10	12	1½	57	6⅝	6	Lorogina.
11	12	2⅔	57	6¾	7	Avkoron.
12	12	2	54½	6¾	4	Famagusta I.
13	12	2⅓	57	6¾	6	Armenian Monastery.
14	12	3	55	6¼	6	Limonofa.
15	12	2⅓	56	7	6	Lefkomko.
16	12	2⅓	55	6¼	4	Famagusta II.
17	12	2⅓	54	6½	5	Carpas.
18	12	2	54	6⅛	4	Augustina II.
19	12	3¼	54½	6¼	3	Nicosia.
20	12	0⅓	53	6¼	6	Kooklia.
21	12	1⅓	54½	6⅜	6	Asha.
22	12	1	53½	6⅜	4	Famagusta III.
23	12	2⅓	55½	6¾	4	Korna.
24	12	1	57	6½	7	Yalusa.
25	12	2⅓	54½	6¼	5	Agkrous-Famagusta.
26	12	0	55	6¼	6	Damascus.
27	12	1	55	6⅛	6	Alhambra.

A. E. QUERIPEL, *Vety.-Col.*,
Inspector-General, Civil Veterinary Department.

B.

No. 3474—98, dated the 7th October 1898.

From—The Chief Secretary to Government, Troodos,
To—The Inspector-General, Civil Veterinary Department in India.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that intimation has been received from the Secretary of State that you have been authorised to select nine stallion donkeys in addition to the 27 already obtained by Dr. Heidenstam.

2. It is understood that there are very few animals left in the Island of the age and class required by the Government of India, and that any that may be obtained this year can only be purchased at exorbitant rates.

3. Dr. Heidenstam will be able to point out to you where the further nine can be obtained, but it is not desirable that, of the age and class required, any number beyond the nine referred to should be taken from the Island this year.

Dated the 10th October 1898.

From—VETERINARY-COLONEL A. E. QUERIPEL, *Inspector-General, Civil Veterinary Department,*

To—The Chief Secretary to Government, Troodos, Cyprus.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3474—98, dated 7th instant, in which you inform me that authority has been accorded for the selection of nine stallion donkeys in addition to the 27 already obtained by Dr. Heidenstam.

2. You, however, make no mention of the further indent for 25 in addition to the above 36. Prior to leaving England I was informed by the Secretary of State for India in Council that sanction had been accorded for this extra number, and that the Colonial Office had been asked to address His Excellency the High Commissioner on the subject.

3. Referring to the latter portion of paragraph 2 of your letter under reply, I trust that, taking into consideration the urgent requirements for India, His Excellency will be pleased to sanction this number being obtained by Dr. Heidenstam, provided he is able to obtain suitable animals at reasonable prices.

4. I have visited Famagusta with Dr. Heidenstam, and have also inspected the 27 donkey stallions now ready for shipment to India, and have carefully explained to that officer the class of animal required. I have also informed him that I am quite prepared to accept good donkeys, known in this Island as "Planos Lakinari" *viz*:—those reared not by pony but by donkey mares, and that no objection would be raised to their being a few months under four years of age. This I am able to do as they will not be required for work till October 1899: it being customary to keep the imported animals in the depôt during the first hot weather.

5. Under the circumstances as above explained, Dr. Heidenstam is of opinion that it will be possible to obtain a large proportion, if not the whole, of the extra number required within two months. I have, however, informed him that should His Excellency be pleased to accord the sanction now sought, it would be advisable to send a smaller number rather than that the standard fixed by me should be lowered.

G. I. C. P. O. No.—518 R. & A.—17-12-98.—500.—Rose.

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