

# RÉSUMÉ

OF

## PONY AND MULE BREEDING OPERATIONS

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

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## RÉSUMÉ OF HORSE AND PONY BREEDING OPERATIONS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

The question of improving the breed of horses in this Presidency, by the introduction of superior stallions, from England, the Cape, Kattywar and other parts of India engaged the attention of Government early in the present century. Horse-breeding had been successful in Mysore. In January 1829, Mr. John Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore, informed Lieutenant-Colonel (afterwards Sir Mark) Cubbon in a private letter that the practice of rearing horses had existed in his district for centuries and that the horses were large and active, and asked for the loan of a few stallions. Sir Mark Cubbon sent an extract of Mr. Sullivan's letter to Government and strongly urged the acceptance of his proposal.

He pointed out that it was dangerous to rely upon other countries for the supply of horses for the Military service of the country, and that it would be a distinct advantage to improve the breed of horses in the country so that the money annually spent in the purchase of horses in foreign markets might be spent in the country. He added that Coimbatore was particularly well-suited for horse-breeding, as the climate was favorable and the district had rich and extensive pastures,

Letter from the Commissary-General to Government, dated  
31st January 1829.

who had succeeded Mr. Sullivan as Principal Collector, was asked to report whether his observation of the district had led him to the same conclusion as that arrived at by his predecessor. Government informed him that they were prepared to place as many stallions as could be usefully

Letter to Principal Collector, Coimbatore, dated 12th April.  
1831, No. 96.

good stallions would be regarded by them as a

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 30th August  
1831, No. 59.

About the same time, the Government, on the

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 22nd November  
1831, No. 1066.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 27th January.  
1832, No. 85.

recommendation of the Collector, Government authorized

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 1st February  
1833, No. 85.

Commissary-General, whether, instead of allotting certain stallions to particular districts and leaving them in charge of Collectors, it would not be better to arrange for the stallions making periodical tours at appointed times through those districts where mares of the required description were

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th June  
1833, No. 81.

useful and likely to lead to better results. He was accordingly directed to withdraw the stallions from the several districts and to send them on tour through districts, care being taken to prevent

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 30th July  
1833, No. 51.

Captain Hill, Deputy Commissary-General, inspected the horse-breeding establishments in the Coimbatore, Bellary, Cuddapah and Salem districts, and submitted a report in which he did not speak hopefully of the prospects of horse-breeding in any of the districts except Coimbatore.

while horse-breeding had been the favorite pursuit of the people for centuries past. No action seems to have been taken on this proposal until April 1831, when Mr. James Thomas, who had succeeded Mr. Sullivan as Principal Collector, was asked to report whether his observation of the district had led him to the same conclusion as that arrived at by his predecessor. Government informed him that they were prepared to place as many stallions as could be usefully employed in the district, without charging any covering fees. Mr. Thomas having reported that the people took great interest in horse-breeding, and that the employment of a few good stallions would be regarded by them as a boon, Government ordered four stallions to be sent to the Coimbatore district and desired to be furnished with an annual report on the results of the experiment.

On the recommendation of the Collector of Salem and the Board of Revenue, sanctioned the supply of three stallions to that district.

The stallions sent to Coimbatore covered 48 mares during the twelve months from October 1831 to 30th September 1832. On the authorization of the Commissary-General to give liberal prizes to such colts as from their appearance and pedigree promised to make good cavalry horses.

In June 1833, Government asked the Commissary-General, whether, instead of allotting certain stallions to particular districts and leaving them in charge of Collectors, it would not be better to arrange for the stallions making periodical tours at appointed times through those districts where mares of the required description were most numerous, the stallions being in charge of Commissariat servants. The proposal was cordially accepted by the Commissary-General, as one calculated to make the stallions more useful and likely to lead to better results. He was accordingly directed to withdraw the stallions from the several districts and to send them on tour through districts, care being taken to prevent any fees being levied by the servants in charge of the stallions. In this connection it may be noted that Sir Mark Cubbon was of opinion that it was immaterial in this country in what part of the year foals were dropped.

In the last-named district the results were very good, and Captain Hill thought that they would have been better but for the paucity of suitable mares. He recommended the presentation to the breeders of a number of good brood mares of the Cape, Kattywar, Cutch and Korassan breeds, on condition of their maintaining the mares, bringing them regularly to the Government stallions to be covered and selling the colts to Government at a stipulated price. Captain Hill also recommended that some of the stallions stationed in the other districts should be withdrawn. Colonel Cullen, the Commissary-General, supported Captain Hill's recommendations. He deprecated the employment of English and Cape stallions. He also thought that all the mares should not be given away in Coimbatore, but that some of them should be distributed in Mysore and some retained in the Government Remount Depot as an experimental stud. Government sanctioned the purchase of 10 Cape and 25 or 30 Kattywar, Cutch and Korassan mares and their distribution in the manner suggested by Colonel Cullen.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 7th February 1837, No. 499.

A plan of operations was submitted by Colonel Cullen, who recommended the deputation of a special officer to purchase mares in Kattywar, &c., at an average cost of Rs. 700 or Rs. 800.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 10th October 1837, No. 3102.

The Government of India had no objection to the throwing in of a number of brood mares into the breeding districts, but declined to sanction the deputation of a special officer.

In 1841 the Commissary-General reported that owing to various causes, 15 mares in excess of the 50, the purchase of which had been sanctioned by Government, had been received for the experimental stud at Hosúr, and he recommended that 11 out of the 15 should be presented to breeders in Coimbatore on the conditions suggested by Captain Hill in 1837. The Government approved of this proposal.

Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 23rd June 1841, No. 2428.

Captain Hill visited the Coimbatore district in 1843 and found the breeders so careless in the treatment of their stock that he had to threaten to withdraw the stallions if he found no decided improvement when he next inspected them. In May 1847, he reported that he had noticed the same neglect on every subsequent occasion and that the threat which he had reiterated on each occasion did no good. The Government stallions made tours periodically throughout the district, and when they were near, the breeders brought their mares to the stallions; but when they were at a distance, the mares were given to any country stallions which were near. The breeders moreover did not feed the mares and their foals properly, and the growth of the foals was therefore permanently affected. Captain Hill had for twelve years taken the greatest interest in the establishment of an industry in horse-breeding in Coimbatore, the soil and climate of which were peculiarly suited for the undertaking; but all his efforts failed to induce the breeders to take proper care of their stock, and he therefore felt it his duty to recommend the withdrawal of the Government stallions from the Coimbatore district.

Vide papers printed in G.O., No. 2416, dated 6th July 1858.

This recommendation was sanctioned by the Commissary-General and the stallions were withdrawn.

The experiment had been in operation for about 13 years and had cost the Government Rs. 25,452. Government had purchased 101 colts, of which 52 were passed for the service of the mounted corps, 39 had been sold and 10 had died.

In 1858, the Committee of the Agricultural Exhibition of Coimbatore again took up the question and urged that it would be of advantage to endeavour to improve the breed of horses in the district by introducing superior stallions. The Board of Revenue consulted the Remount Agent, who reminded them of the failure of the previous experiment, and said that he did not consider that the Coimbatore mares had sufficient bone or substance for the purpose of breeding. The Government thought that no advantage would accrue from the proposed experiment in consequence of the acknowledged defects of the breed of mares in the district, and declined to accept the Exhibition Committee's recommendation.

G.O., dated 6th July 1858, No. 2416.

The desirability of attempting to improve the breed of horses was again urged on Government by Mr. H. E. Sullivan, Collector of Coimbatore, in the beginning of 1870. Mr. Sullivan admitted that it was improbable that for many years to come the produce of the mares of this part of the country would be suitable for military purposes, but he contended that the original object of Government in undertaking horse-breeding operations in the Coimbatore district, viz., to improve the breed of horses, had been fulfilled, as a really useful pony or horse could at that time be procured for prices varying from Rs. 30 to Rs. 300. He added that traces of the good blood were still to be met with, but that, for want of a fresh supply, the breed was fast degenerating. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the experiment should be undertaken as one of purely local interest, and its cost should be defrayed from the Surplus Pound Fund, the Act (V of 1860) being amended to permit of the employment of the fund for such purposes. As this would take time, Mr. Sullivan suggested that a well-bred Arab stallion should be lent to him for six months to enable him to begin the experiment and to judge what fees could be realized and how far they would meet the necessary charges. With a subsequent letter, he forwarded a petition from some of the ryots of the Udamalpet taluk in support of his proposal.



Government authorized the supply of a well-bred Arab stallion to Mr. Sullivan for the improvement of native ponies, and requested him to report the results after six months.

G.O., dated 5th August 1870, No. 1168.

The amount sanctioned for the purchase of a stallion was Rs. 1,500. In October 1870, the Collector reported that there had been some difficulty in getting a suitable animal, though the amount sanctioned was more than was necessary, and requested permission to purchase a pony stallion, which had taken the prize at the Nilgiri exhibition, for Rs. 300, in addition to the Arab stallion already sanctioned,

G. O., dated 4th November 1870, No. 1700.

Board's Proceedings, dated 20th April 1871, No. 1654.

1870, and an Arab stallion in January 1871 for Rs. 1,000.

on the understanding that the cost of the two did not exceed Rs. 1,500. The Government sanctioned the proposal. The pony was accordingly purchased for Rs. 300 in November

The work done by the two stallions up to the end of March 1873 is shown below :—

Stallions.	Number of mares covered.	Number of foals dropped.	Number of mares in foal.	Amount of fees collected.	Cost of feed and keep.
Pony stallion "Rajah" .. ..	66	11	6	RS. 165	RS. ..
Arab stallion "Sultan" .. ..	46	5	4	230	..
Total ..	112	16	10	395	1,097

The fee charged was Rs. 2-8-0 for each mare covered by the pony and Rs. 5 for that covered by the horse. The Collector, Mr. A. Wedderburn, was not satisfied with these results or with the Arab stallion "Sultan," and there was besides little demand for the services of the stallions. He, therefore, recommended their removal from the district. The Board considered the experiment a failure and requested the opinion of the Remount Agent, Colonel Thompson, as to the cause of the failure. Colonel Thompson, far from regarding the experiment a failure, considered it satisfactory as compared with the results of similar operations in the Bombay Presidency, and recommended the continuance of the operations on a larger scale. The Board referred the papers to Mr. Hunter Blair, Colonel Napier Campbell and Mr. Robertson for such remarks as might occur to them. Mr. Hunter Blair thought that the experiment had not been conducted for a sufficiently long time to pronounce an opinion, and recommended its continuance for three or four years. Mr. Robertson agreed with Colonel Thompson and recommended operations on a larger scale. Colonel Napier Campbell agreed with Colonel Thompson in considering that the results of the experiment were not discouraging, and recommended its continuance for some time longer, though he thought that good horses could never be bred in this country unless the ryots adopted a better system of culture and provided better nourishment for horses. The Board submitted the papers to Government with the recommendation that two more stallions might be purchased and employed in the Coimbatore and Salem districts. Government did not

G.O., dated 13th December 1873, No. 1422.

little demand for the services of the stallions in

G.O., dated 1st April 1874, No. 411.

In September 1883, Mr. Crole, Collector of Madura, suggested the purchase of an Arab stallion for improving the breed of ponies in that district.

G.O., dated 8th October 1883, No. 1247.

G.O., dated 10th September 1884, No. 1018.

In March 1884, Mr. Leman, Collector of Coimbatore, urged the renewal of pony-breeding operations in Coimbatore, on the ground that the experiment had not had a fair trial before, and that the employment of one or two stallions would be of much use. Mr. Wilson supported the proposal, and the Board recommended the purchase of four stallions, two Arab and two

G.O., dated 19th June 1884, No. 770.

Accordingly one Arab and one Persian stallion were purchased at the end of November 1884

G.O., dated 23rd January 1885, No. 103.

consider any further extension of the experiment desirable, but sanctioned its continuance for another year. There was, however, very little demand for the services of the stallions in either the Coimbatore or the Salem district, and the Government ordered the experiment to be abandoned and the pony stallion sold, the horse stallion having died.

Government purchased a stallion and sent it to Madura. The animal, however, turned out to be useless and had to be sent to the Veterinary hospital at Saidápet, where it was ultimately destroyed.

Persian galloways. The Government approved of the proposal to renew the experiment, but sanctioned the purchase of only two stallions.

and sent to Coimbatore in January 1885. In the following September, the Director, Mr. Price, submitted to Government a report on the results



of the operations, which he considered decidedly satisfactory, and recommended the purchase of at least one more Arab stallion. It is from this time that attention has been paid to the subject: and importance has been attached to it. Mr. Price deprecated the idea of scattering stallions in two or three districts, and recommended that operations should be confined to one district, viz., Coimbatore. He also recommended that the stallions should not be allowed to work all the year round, and that the covering fee of Rs. 2-8-0 for each mare served should be given up until such time as pony-breeding had become established and profitable. The Board agreed with Mr. Price regarding the desirability of restricting operations to one district, and recommended the purchase of two stallions. They thought, however, that the covering fee should be retained. They also recommended that no mare under  $12\frac{1}{2}$  hands or over  $14\frac{1}{2}$  should be allowed to be covered by the Government stallions. The Government agreed with the Board, except in regard to the covering fee, which they directed to be given up. They also sanctioned the purchase of two more stallions.

G.O., dated 21st November 1885, No. 1300.

G.O., dated 21st November 1885, No. 1300.

Some discussion ensued as to—

- (a) What the covering season should be ;
- (b) How many mares should be allowed to be covered by each stallion during the season ;
- (c) What the breed and size of the stallions should be ;
- (d) How many stallions could be usefully employed.

It was decided that—

- (a) The covering season should be from 1st February to 31st July ;
- (b) The number of mares to be covered by each stallion should be fixed at from 40 to 50 ;
- (c) That the breed of the stallions should be Arab or Persian, and their size not exceed the galloway size or 14 hands ; and
- (d) That five more stallions should be purchased.

G.O., dated 9th March 1886, No. 173, and G.O., dated 22nd July 1886, No. 605.

G.O., dated 22nd July 1886, No. 605.

G.O., dated 12th October 1886, No. 6053, in Board's Proceedings, dated 11th September 1886, No. 2036.

Government would enable him to buy. Four more stallions—all Arabs—were accordingly purchased in Bombay in December 1886 and January 1887. Government were also pleased, in view to preventing the employment of undesirable country ponies for breeding purposes, to authorize the grant of a present of Rs. 3 to the owner of each entire pony brought for castration.

G.O., dated 30th Jnly 1886, No. 640.

G.O., dated 30th Jnly 1886, No. 640.

Sanction was also granted for the employment of a number of salustries for castrating

G.O., dated 12th January 1887, No. 23.

G.O., dated 8th October 1887, No. 5991, in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st October 1887, No. 398.

Board's Proceedings, dated 6th July 1887, No. 198.

The Collector of Coimbatore pointed out that the rule directing the rejection of ponies under 12 hands was inconvenient, and that unless it was cancelled, some small and ill-bred stallions would be reserved and the castration of country stallions would be impeded. The

**Board's Proceedings, dated 17th May 1887, No. 74.**

G.O., dated 21st June 1887, No. 3545, in Board's Proceedings, dated 28th June 1887, No. 176.

One of the stallions purchased in 1884 having died, there are now ten stallions at work, seven in the Coimbatore district and three in the Hosur division of Salem.

The accompanying statement shows the number of mares covered by each stallion up to 31st March last and the results of the coverings up to 31st March 1887. It will be seen that the total number of mares covered by all the stallions up to 31st March last was 474. The results of the coverings up to 31st March 1887 were as follows:—

Number of foals dropped	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Number of mares aborted	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doubtful	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Failed	...	...	...	...	...	...	115

\* This does not include Mr. Shunker, as his pay (Rs. 300) is not charged to Pony-breeding operations.

The establishment,\* exclusive of horse-keepers and grass-cutters, is as follows:—

	RS.
Coimbatore—	
One salustry on ... ..	30
One pupil ... ..	10
	<hr/> 40
Salem—	
Two salustries on Rs. 20 each ... ..	40
Two pupils on Rs. 10 each ... ..	20
	<hr/> 60
Total ...	<hr/> 100

Some doubts having arisen as to whether February—July is the proper season for covering, the Board, after consulting Messrs. Shaw and Adams, Veterinary Surgeons, recommended that April to September should be fixed as the proper covering season. Government decided that the question should be left to the decision of the local officers, subject to the approval of the Commissioner.

G.O., dated 22nd February 1888, No. 162.

G.O., dated 18th February 1888, No. 157.

Arrangements have very recently been made for extending pony-breeding and castration operations to the Nilgiri district.

The progress of castration has been satisfactory, especially in the Salem sub-division.

STATEMENT showing the number of mares covered by Government stallions in Salem and Coimbatore up to March 1888 and the results of the coverings up to March 1887.

Stallions.	Number of mares covered till March 1888.	RESULTS OF COVERINGS UP TO 31st MARCH 1887.										Remarks.
		Number of mares covered till March 1887.	Deduct mares				Mares remaining.	Filled.		Empty.		
			Sold.	Died.	Doubtful.	Total.		Foaled.	Aborted.	Number.	Per cent.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Mahdi .. ..	34	34	3	..	..	3	31	7	1	23	74	Purchased at the end of 1884 with No. 2 and died in 1886, At work since February 1885.
2. Parfait Amour ..	92	68	2	2	1	5	63	14	1	48	76	
3. Agha .. ..	62	32	1	1	2	4	28	5	1	22	78	At work since July 1886.
4. Abdullah .. ..	56	19	2	..	..	2	17	6	..	11	65	
5. Pickford .. ..	43	7	..	..	..	..	7	..	2	5	71	At work since Jan. 1887.
6. Pasha .. ..	53	3	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	2	66	
7. Sultan .. ..	36	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	100	At work since Jan. 1887.
8. Rajah .. ..	23	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	100	
9. Kammal .. ..	28	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	At work since Sept. 1887.
10. Clipper .. ..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
11. Ali Baba .. ..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	474	168	8	3	4	15	153	33	5	115	75	

## A RÉSUMÉ OF MULE-BREEDING OPERATIONS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY FROM 1879 TO 1883.

Mule-breeding operations were first begun in the Madras Presidency in 1879. The local Government were opposed to the experiment, but the Government of India pointed out that, in view of the scarcity of mules in Northern India and of the prospective demand for mules all over the country, the question was one of vital importance as affecting transport and accordingly pressed the subject on the earnest consideration of this Government. In their order, dated 25th October 1878, No. 5697 (Military), Government called upon Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon Shaw to report generally upon the question of the proposed introduction of mule breeding and as to the style of mares to be used and the description of donkey stallions most likely to thrive in this Presidency. Government considered it essential that a place should be selected where mares and foals could subsist on the natural pasture so as to avoid the expense of grain food except for the mares at certain times. Mr. Shaw submitted his report about the latter part of November 1878 and in December following Mr. Hallen, General Superintendent, Horse-breeding operations, who had been deputed by the Government of India to inaugurate the scheme in Madras, visited this Presidency and after inspecting Ootacamund, Coimbatore and Hosúr and conferring with the local officers, submitted a detailed report on the prospects of mule breeding which he thought were very favorable and on the measures to be adopted to inaugurate the system. The report was referred to a committee consisting of Mr. Shaw and Colonel A. Drury, Remount Agent, Hosúr, with instructions to collect at once the details of the probable cost, &c., to frame a rough estimate of the funds to be provided for the experiment and to report on the several suggestions of Mr. Hallen and especially on the question of the gelding of mule colts. In the meanwhile, the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India was addressed and asked to procure two donkey stallions from Italy and two from Spain for the experiment suggested by Mr. Hallen.

G.O., dated 21st January 1879, No. 354, M.D., printed in  
G.O., dated 10th June 1879, No. 3065, M.D.

2. The committee proposed (Proceedings, dated 26th and 28th February 1879) that fourteen stallions—four European and ten Oriental, the latter to be procured from the Punjab, Cabul and Arabia as suggested by Mr. Hallen—should be procured and distributed as follows, with reference to the number of mares likely to be found available for covering:—

Stations.	STALLIONS.	
	Large or European.	Small or Oriental.
Hosúr ... ..	1	1
Salem ... ..	...	2
Coimbatore ... ..	1	2
Nílگیرis ... ..	1	1
Mysore ... ..	1	2
Madras and Chingleput ... ..	...	2
Total ... ..	4	10

3. They estimated the cost for the first year at Rs 10,000 as follows:—

	RS.
Maintenance of the 14 stallions at Rs. 20 each per mensem ... ..	3,360
Contingencies, including stationery, &c., &c. ... ..	640
Bonus for foals dropped to Government stallions at Rs. 10 each for 400 foals in the first year ... ..	4,000
Prizes for the first and second best foal, the produce of each stallion, at Rs. 50 and 20, respectively, Rs. 980, or in round figures ... ..	1,000
Travelling expenses of Inspecting officers ... ..	1,000
Total ... ..	10,000



The committee further proposed that, for some time to come, Government should purchase the foals either when twelve months old or when three years old as in the Punjab, an advance of Rs. 20 and 30 being made in that case to the owner for the maintenance of the foal during the second and third years and deducted from the price of the foal at the time of purchase. They also recommended that the young mule stock should be castrated.

4. The suggestions of the committee were generally adopted and the Government of India were requested to send four Bokhara, four Punjab and two Arab, donkey stallions. The Punjab Government were also addressed and requested to furnish information regarding (1) the number and amount of the prizes actually given at fairs for the mares best adapted for mule breeding and for the best mules, (2) the age at which the State purchases the mules from the breeder and (3) the Government's priority of right, if any, to the produce of Government stallions.

G.O., dated 10th June 1879, No. 3065.

G.O., dated 23rd July 1879, No. 3970.  
 „ „ 18th October 1879, No. 5846.

5. The stallions (fourteen in number) arrived in due course and were distributed as under :—

	Large (European.)	Small (Oriental.)
Hosúr (Remount Agent) ... ..	2	1
Salem (Sub-Collector) ... ..	...	1
Coimbatore (Collector) ... ..	1	1
Do. (Mr. Grimes, Superintendent of Jail) ... ..	...	1
North Arcot (Collector) ... ..	...	1
Madura (Collector) ... ..	...	1
Nílگیرis (Major Jago, Deputy Conservator of Forests) ... ..	1	2
Madras and Chingleput (Collector of Chingleput) ... ..	...	2
Total ...	4	10

Rules were framed for the management of the stallion asses and of mares in foal to the stallions. The rules for the latter were also printed in the vernacular and distributed to owners of mares.

6. Mr. Price, the Collector of Chingleput, having reported that there were no mares in the district fit to be covered, the two stallions sent to that district were transferred to Kurnool where 570 mares were reported to be available.

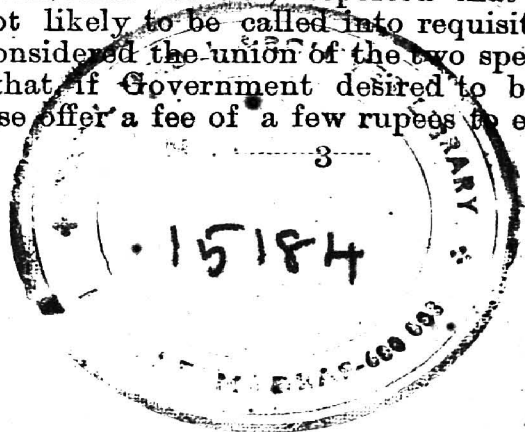
G.O., dated 25th October 1879, No. 6006.

7. On a review of the committee's report and other correspondence submitted to them, the Government of India sanctioned "tentatively and experimentally" the measures recommended for encouraging the breeding of mules in the Madras Presidency in furtherance of the scheme inaugurated by Mr. Hallen, but pointed out that the sanction must not be considered as countenancing the maintenance of any organized breeding establishments, but rather such a system of mule-breeding as practical experience would show to be a profitable pursuit within the reach of every ryot possessing a pony mare.

As an inducement to mule breeders, the Government of India suggested that all cast mares of British Cavalry and Artillery in the Madras Presidency not exceeding 14-2 or 14-3 in height and not over 15 years of age should, as in Bengal, be sold by auction to *bonâ fide* breeders instead of being disposed of to the public.

The instructions of the Government of India and the replies received from the Punjab Government containing an account of the systems followed in that Province in awarding prizes for foals and also certain suggestions for overcoming the prejudices of the natives against mule breeding were communicated to the departments concerned and to the Collectors of the districts to which the stallions had been sent, with orders to notify in their District Gazettes in English and the Vernacular that approved mares, including village pony mares, which might be brought forward would be served free, and that Government were prepared to grant prizes for the foals and purchase them at prices far more remunerative than could be obtained for tattoo country-bred foals. The Collectors were also requested to do all in their power to encourage the breeding of good pony mares and mules and to entrust the stallions and the supervision of the experiment in their districts to officers who really took an interest in the scheme. These officers were also allowed at their discretion to send out the stallions into the districts and Mr. Shaw was desired to assist the officers in charge with his advice and to visit each district as occasion might arise.

In November 1879 the Sub-Collector at Erode (Coimbatore district) reported that the services of the stallion ass stationed at that place were not likely to be called into requisition, that the people knew nothing about mules and that they considered the union of the two species, the horse and the ass, to be objectionable and he added that if Government desired to breed mules at Erode, they must either purchase the mares or else offer a fee of a few rupees to every



ryot who brought a mare to be served by the stallion ass. If this could not be done he thought that the stallion might be transferred to Mr. Mackenzie then in charge of the kheddah operation in Kollegal.

The Acting Collector, Mr. Wilson, agreed with the Sub-Collector and recommended that the stallion at Erode and the two at Coimbatore, whose services were in little request, should be transferred to some place where their services would be more appreciated. Mr. Wilson considered that there was no chance of the industry being established in this part of the country unless it was first taken up by Government and he accordingly suggested that half-a-dozen or so of mares be selected and placed under the care of Mr. Grimes at Coimbatore for carrying out the experiment.

The Government did not approve of the Collector's proposal to purchase mares for mule breeding nor were they disposed to order the removal of the stallions from Coimbatore on the grounds advanced. They remarked that some hesitation might perhaps be felt in the beginning on the part of native owners of pony mares, but as in the adjoining district of Salem a good beginning had been made and a dozen mares had already been put to the stallion, they saw no reason why similar results should not be obtained in Coimbatore.

In January 1880 a Punjab stallion was transferred from Ootacamund to Bellary on the recommendation of Mr. Shaw who, in the course of his inquiries, found that there were over 1,500 mares in the Bellary district.

G.O., dated 22nd January 1880, No. 434.

G.O., dated 13th March 1880, No. 1668.

In March following one of the three donkeys stationed at the Remount Depot, Hosur, was transferred to the Sub-Collector of Salem.

The experiments in the Nilgiris also met with little success, a result which Major Jago, who was in charge, attributed to the great prejudice which the natives entertained against this class of breeding. Even the European planters who came forward so eagerly when Mr. Hallen visited the place in December 1878, were now, he reported, holding back on the ground that, as matters stood, they could not see their way to remunerating themselves for their first outlay in the purchase of mares, building sheds and sundry other expenses. Major Jago accordingly recommended that Government should fix a price at which they would buy foals of two and three years, the produce of the stallions, and also start a small breeding establishment on the Nilgiris so as to show some results of their own. The Government accepted the first proposal and offered to purchase at from Rs. 40 to 60 each, all yearling mules, the produce of Government donkey stallions and private pony mares passed by the Government officers in 1880-81, 1881-82 and 1882-83. All Collectors in whose districts the experiment was being conducted were ordered to

G.O., dated 30th April 1880, No. 2683.

notify the resolution in their District Gazettes. At the end of May 1880 the two stallions at the Remount Depot were temporarily transferred for two months to the Sub-Collector of Salem who reported that he could employ them usefully in the sub-division. Government also sanctioned Rs. 2-8-0 for each mare covered, as at least five men were required to attend to the operation. The Collector of Coimbatore again reported that, although he took one of the stallions with him on two tours through the best pony-breeding tracts of the district and explained to the people how profitable the speculation might be, the greatest repugnance was evinced by the owners to their mares being covered by asses and the Collector pointed out that there was not the slightest chance of mule breeding being taken up by the ryots of his district. The Government, however, were not disposed to abandon the experiment, seeing that it promised to succeed in the adjoining district of Salem and drew the attention of the Collector to previous orders on the subject.

G.O., dated 13th July 1880, No. 4393.

In July 1880 Government sanctioned Mr. Shaw's recommendation to distribute a few cast mares to selected ryots in districts where there were Government stallions.

The following table shows the number of mares thus distributed :—

Districts.	No. of mules sent.	Date of order.
Salem ... ..	5	G.O., 24th August 1880, No. 5381.
Bellary ... ..	5	
Coimbatore ... ..	2	
Kurnool ... ..	3	„ 2nd Sept. 1880, No. 5570.
North Arcot ... ..	4	„ 11th Oct. 1880, No. 6415.

The mares were made over to the ryots on the distinct understanding that they were to be fairly kept and fed and used for mule-breeding purposes and the produce paid for at the Government fixed rates.

The Government of India, however, in a letter addressed to the Government of Bombay took exception to the gratuitous presentation of cast mares to breeders for the encouragement of the mule-breeding industry, and pointed out that the measure was inexpedient as being a

departure from the principles laid down for the operations of the department of horse-breeding operations, viz., that the only direct aid to horse and mule breeding operations should be the free use of Government stallions, the grant of prizes at fairs and shows and the purchase at liberal market rates of the produce. On receipt of this communication, the Local Government cancelled their Order, dated 13th July 1880, No. 4393, and directed that, in future, all cast mares

G.O., dated 28th October 1880, No. 6835.  
 „ „ 4th December „ „ 7583.

under 15 years of age be sold at auction to *bonâ fide* horse-breeders instead of to the public, if possible. This order was subsequently modified on a representation from the Commissary-

General, and the Government directed that cast mares should be sold in the ordinary course.

The two European (Palma) donkeys stationed at Coimbatore and Ootacamund were reported to be too large and coarse for the pony mares in this Presidency, and were therefore

G.O., dated 3rd September 1880, No. 5605.  
 „ „ 26th October „ „ 6771.

transferred to the Government of India, who offered to take them for use in the Bengal Presidency and to send in their place two Arab donkeys.

The Government of India having also taken exception to the action of this Government in fixing a price at which they would purchase yearling mules and in authorizing the grant of compensation to the owner of a pony mare which died from the effects of being covered by a Government donkey stallion, the Local Government pointed out that both the courses were found absolutely necessary in the beginning of the working of the scheme, as the people entertained a strong prejudice against the mixed breed and had no certainty that they could obtain any price at all for the mule produce which their neighbours did not want and which they did not desire to have for their own use; that it was hopeless to expect any success from the experiment unless the owners had a reasonable certainty that the time of their mares would not be lost and their own incomes impaired; that as regarded the payment of compensation, it was found that in Salem 157 mares were covered after the compensation of Rs. 12 was given, while there was none in Bellary after the compensation was withheld under the orders of the Government of India. The Local Government therefore urged most strongly the advisability of their being permitted to follow the course they proposed to adopt for the limited period which might be found necessary to introduce mule-breeding in this Presidency, an industry which they deemed most important on public grounds.

In deference to the strongly expressed opinion of this Government, the Government of India sanctioned the proposed measures tentatively and on the understanding that the expenditure involved was kept within moderate

Government of India letter in G.O., dated 6th April 1881, No. 1983.

limits. The Arab donkey stallions ordered in lieu of the two Palma stallions transferred to the Government of India arrived in, but as

they were found to be mere colts and unfit for immediate use they were sent to the Remount Depot at Hosûr.

In December 1881 Veterinary Surgeon G. Western, who was temporarily placed in charge of the mule-breeding operations during Mr. Shaw's absence on leave, submitted a report of the number of mule foals reported to have been dropped to Government stallions. These amounted

Salem	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Kurnool	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Coimbatore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Madura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
North Arcot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Total ..								16

to 16 as noted on the margin. Besides this number, it was reported from the Salem district, where the largest number of coverings were effected, that there were 38 foals born of mares covered by the stallion asses, but that they resembled a horse. On this report Government directed Veterinary Surgeon Adams, attached to the Remount Depot, to take charge

of the work and to inspect and report on the mule produce in the Salem and North Arcot districts, and buy such of the foals as he thought proper, provided they were weaned and fit to be taken away.

In March 1882 Mr. Adams submitted his report on the results of his tour through the Salem and North Arcot districts. He found only six mule foals (four in the Hosûr sub-division, one at Salem and one at Vellore)

Number.	Each at	Amount.
	RS.	RS.
1	60	60
4	50	200
1	40	40
Total ..		300

which he purchased at the prices given on the margin. The foals were all fine looking animals and had been well cared for. One of them measured 12½ hands, although only a yearling. Several other foals of mares said to have been covered by the Government stallion asses were produced, but were undoubted

“tattoos.” It was found that the number of mule foals dropped bore no reasonable proportion to the number of mares covered. For instance, in the Hosûr sub-division, up to December 1880, 160 mares were covered by the Government stallion asses, but only four foals were dropped. This poor result was attributed by Mr. Adams to the mares having been covered when not in



season, or when already in foal. Since December 1880, 95 mares were reported to have been covered, and of these 23 were said to have foaled, but Mr. Adams was not able to ascertain whether they were mules or tattoos. The Government considered that the results reported were not so satisfactory as might reasonably have been expected, and agreed with Mr. Adams as to the cause of the failure and requested district officers to issue a notification advising owners of pony mares desirous of breeding mules to keep their mares from the village pony stallions and to bring them to the Government stallion ass not later than the 10th day after they had dropped a foal.

The officers in charge of stallion asses were also instructed to take every precaution in their power to prevent pony mares being covered by the stallion asses when out of season. It was also ordered that mares of less than 11 hands should be rejected.

G.O., No. 1816, dated 19th April 1882.

In September 1882 the Collector of Coimbatore reported that one cause that tended to prevent people from bringing their ponies to be served was that they did not know what kind of animal would be the result. He considered that the prejudice might be overcome if two mules were sent to be shown to the people. Two mules from the Remount Depot at Hosur were accordingly ordered to be sent to the district.

G.O., No. 5806, dated 26th October 1882.

At this stage, the Government of India invited the attention of the Local Government to the following passage in the Administration Report on the horse and mule breeding operations in India for 1881-82 in view to measures being adopted to develop the industry :—

“ *Paragraph 140.*—In the Madras Presidency there are thirteen donkey stallions as shown in the statement of mule-breeding operations during the year 1881-82 (*vide* appendix XX), and it is therein recorded that only 175 pony mares were covered during the year under review against 299 served during 1880-81. This is an unsatisfactory report and indicative of mule-breeding not spreading.”

The Government thereupon called for a special report on the state of mule-breeding operations in the several districts, the expenses incurred to date, and the prospects of ultimate success.

G.O., No. 216, dated 12th January 1883.

In March 1883 Mr. Mills, who had been appointed Inspector of Cattle Diseases, was placed in charge of the mule-breeding operations in the Presidency, and he was requested to obtain and submit the special reports called for in G.O., No. 216, dated 12th January 1883.

G.O., No. 1474, dated 7th March 1883.

The report submitted by Mr. Mills showed that the industry was not thriving in Southern India, and that the cost was altogether out of proportion to the results achieved. The English donkeys arrived in November and the orientals in September 1879, and up to 31st March 1883 there were only 583 mares covered and but 15 mule foals dropped exclusive of horse foals as shown below :—

Return showing number of coverings from 1879 up to 31st March 1883 with results.

No.	Name of donkey.	District.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Sarmal .. ..	Salem .. ..	6	80	32	20
2	Modeste .. ..	Do. .. ..	..	55	14	..
3	Shabay .. ..	Do. .. ..	4	13	4	..
4	Parfait Amour .. ..	Do. .. ..	..	51	44	30
5	Chapathee .. ..	Do. .. ..	..	..	..	3
6	Do. .. ..	Bellary .. ..	2	9	7	..
7	Guznee .. ..	Do. .. ..	..	..	..	..
8	Yarkandi .. ..	Kurnool .. ..	2	33	5	2
9	Murree .. ..	Do. .. ..	..	9	4	..
10	Kandahari .. ..	North Arcot .. ..	5	16	38	2
11	Putmare .. ..	Trichinopoly .. ..	2	7	4	..
12	Hosur .. ..	Do. .. ..	..	..	..	1
13	Hindukush .. ..	Coimbatore .. ..	..	1	5	18
14	Pindi .. ..	Do. .. ..	4	4	6	3
	Peimari .. ..	Nilgiris .. ..	5	21	12	..
Total ..			30	299	175	79
Average coverings of each donkey for the year.			2.14	21.36	12.50	5.64
Cost Rs.			1,872 6 9	3,803 6 4	3,184 7 10	2,887 5 1

No.	Name of donkey.	District.	Total.	MULE FOALS.				Remarks.
				Dropped.	Died.	Purchased.	Remaining.	
			8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Sarmal .. ..	Salem .. ..	138	15	2	7	6	Two of the foals purchased for Government have been reported as useless by First-class Veterinary Surgeon W. S. Adams.
2	Modeste .. ..	Do. .. ..	69					
3	Shabay .. ..	Do. .. ..	21					
4	Parfait Amour .. ..	Do. .. ..	125					
5	Chapathee .. ..	Do. .. ..	3					
6	Do. .. ..	Bellary .. ..	18					
7	Guznee .. ..	Do. .. ..	..					
8	Yarkandi .. ..	Kurnool .. ..	42					
9	Murree .. ..	Do. .. ..	13					
10	Kandahari .. ..	North Arcot .. ..	61					
11	Putmare .. ..	Trichinopoly .. ..	13					
12	Hosur .. ..	Do. .. ..	1					
13	Hindukush .. ..	Coimbatore .. ..	24					
14	Pindi .. ..	Do. .. ..	17					
	Peimari .. ..	Nilgiris .. ..	38					
Total ..			583	..	..	..	..	
Average coverings of each donkey for the year.			41.64	..	..	..	..	

1883-84 up to June Rs. 644-7-1.

In August 1883 the Government reviewed the reports of Mr. Mills and the district officers and recommended to the Government of India that the mule-breeding operations in this Presidency should be abandoned. They gave a brief summary of the steps taken from the commencement of operations in 1879 to foster the industry, and remarked that the results obtained after nearly four years of trial were so unsatisfactory and so incommensurate with the care given and the money expended as to warrant its being pronounced a complete failure.

The number of covering certificates obtained during 1880-81 was 329, 1881-82 the number was only 175, and during 1882-83 only 79 certificates were received, showing a steady retrogression in the industry.

To the end of March 1883, the 14 donkey stallions maintained by Government were reported to have covered 583 mares, but the result obtained was only 15 mules, seven of which were purchased by Government, but of these two were reported to be useless as baggagers.

The cost of the undertaking up to June 1883 amounted to Rs. 12,350. The Government added that the district officers were unanimously of opinion that there was no prospect of mule-breeding being successful in Southern India, that, even if the prejudices of the people were overcome, the pony mares were generally too small to breed useful mules from, and recommended the abandonment of the enterprise and the transfer of the stallion asses to His Highness the

Nizam's Government for use in the Deccan, where a superior class of mares existed and where mule-breeding operations might be carried on with a better prospect of success than in Southern India.

G.O., No. 4755, dated 31st August 1883.

The Government of India accepted the recommendation as regarded the abandonment of the mule-breeding operations in this Presidency,

G.O., No. 5824, dated 30th October 1883.

but did not approve of the transfer of the stallions to His Highness the Nizam's Government. Veterinary Surgeon Mr. Shaw and Mr. Mills were therefore appointed members of a committee to report on the fitness of the stallions for breeding purposes, and orders as to the ultimate disposal of the donkeys were deferred

pending the receipt of the report. Of the 14 donkeys in the Presidency, two had been lent to the Nizam's Government and the other twelve were reported by the committee to be quite fit for stud purposes. The President of the committee added a remark that two of the twelve stallions were splendid animals and that they might be left with Mr. Mills for further trial. This suggestion was supported by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The Government, however, expressed their inability to advocate the continuance of mule-breeding operations, as the experiment, after a full trial, which had cost Government more than Rs. 12,500, had proved

G.O., No. 6388, dated 26th November 1883.

a complete failure, and the twelve stallions in the Presidency were sent, three to Bombay and nine to Rawal Pindi as desired by the Government of India.

G.O., No. 1041, dated 3rd March 1884.

„ „ 229, „ 16th January 1884.

