

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. *432*

Press
~~Misc~~

Dated *25-10-18* 58

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 29th October 1858.

No. 15. EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF CONSULTATION in the Revenue Department under date the 15th October 1858, No. 1406.

(Vide Diary, Revenue Consultation, 19th October 1858, Nos. 37 to 39.)
(Regarding carrying out a Pearl Fishery off the Coasts of Tuticorin early in 1860.)

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, No. 432; dated 25th October 1858.

To be Recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 1406.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 15th October 1858.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting with the Board's remarks and recommendations thereon, letters from the Acting Collector of Tinnevely enclosing reports of a late inspection of the Pearl banks of the coast of Tuticorin with the suggestions of Mr. Robertson as regards the arrangements necessary for carrying out a Fishery of the banks early in 1860.

(Here enter 17th Sept. 1858, No. 3499.)

1. In these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit for consideration and orders certain correspondence between the Collector of Tinnevely, the Master Attendant at Tuticorin and themselves respecting the Pearl banks situated off that Port.

Board, para. 3.

Eastward of the Port

Board, para. 5.

2. The state of the nine banks lying immediately off Tuticorin is quite satisfactory; and on these, a Fishery on a large scale may be undertaken in A. D. 1860; the examination of the six banks to the Eastward of the Port was not so satisfactory; only one bank being stocked with oysters and the rest being blank. From the fact of two of the banks on which oysters were observed on the previous examination being now bare, Mr. Robertson concludes that the oysters must have migrated. And with the view of precluding the possibility of disturbance during migrations he suggested to the Collector that the Chank Fishery should be prohibited. But Mr. Mayne states that on enquiry from the head of the fishermen and certain merchants at Tuticorin, he finds that it would be sufficient to prevent the Chank Fishery boats from approaching within two miles of the banks.

3. The Government are however of opinion that the Chank Fishery should if possible be put a stop to. The result of Mr. Robertson's examination proves what they before suspected to be the case that the banks have been heretofore plundered and the oysters destroyed. The Government are not disposed to concur with the Master Attendant in his "migration" theory. They doubt the power of locomotion of a mollusc which habitually lives attached to a rock. The Board will be good enough therefore to issue the requisite instructions to put an entire stop to the Chank Fishery when the term of the current contract expires; and in the interim efforts should be made to effect a compromise with the Contractors, and to check their depredations forthwith. It appears probable that Mr. Mayne's informers were themselves not disinterested parties.

4. The next point on which orders are required is contained in para. 6. The Government authorize an examination of the banks by Mr. Robertson in October next, and sanction his estimate for Rupees (187-8) one hundred and eighty-seven and annas eight for constructing 48 Buoys which he proposes mooring around the banks to be fished in the early part of 1860.

5. In para. 7, the Board state their inability to take into consideration any extensive proposal from Mr. Robertson for the organization of fishing operations on a large scale, until the information which Government expressed their intention of obtaining from the Ceylon Government in Extract Minutes Consultation 28th September 1857, para. 9, is supplied. No reply has yet been received from the Ceylon Government; their early attention to the subject has accordingly been solicited in a letter of this day's date.

Board, paras. 10, 11. 6. The grant of an additional months' leave to Mr. Robertson, is sanctioned.

(A true Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Accountant General.

„ Civil Auditor.

„ Marine Department.

Recd 18/10

