

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Marine DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	62	Press
		Mis.
Dated	28. 2	18.59

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Marine Consultation, 1st March 1859.

No. 3. EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF CONSULTATION in the Revenue Department under date the 18th February 1859, No. 227.

(*Vide* Diary to Revenue Consultation, 25th February 1859, Nos. 31 and 32.)

(*On the subject of the construction of the Boats required for guarding the Pearl Banks off the Coast of Tinnevelly.*)

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, No. 62; dated 28th February 1859.

To be communicated to the Superintendent of Marine.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 18th February 1859.

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 on the subject of the construction of the boats required for guarding the Pearl Banks off the coast of his district. (Here enter 20th January 1859, No. 214.)

Para. 1. In these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit letters from the Acting Collector of Tinnevely and the Master Attendant at Tuticoreen, on the subject of the boats required for guarding the Pearl Banks off the Tinnevely coast, and on the result of a partial examination of some of those banks on the 9th and 13th December 1858.

2. In Extract Minutes of Consultation 12th August 1858, No. 1126, the Master Attendant was granted an extension of leave to enable him to complete his arrangements for building at Alleppe the two boats for the protection of the Pearl Banks for which a sum of 2,400 Rupees was sanctioned on the 28th September 1857. From difficulties which presented themselves in the building of boats at that place, the Master Attendant was induced to invite tenders at Cochin, and the result is the estimate now submitted of Messrs. Oughterson and Co. to build the two boats at a cost of 8,500 Rupees. The Government concur with Captain Robertson and the Board of Revenue in regarding this estimate as exorbitant, and they resolve to avail themselves of his offer to superintend the construction of the boats, the cost of which he estimates will "be much less than 6,000 Rupees." They accordingly cancel so much of the order of the 28th September 1857 as authorizes an expenditure of Rupees 2,400 for boats and Rupees 768 for working them for one year, and are pleased to sanction in lieu, an expenditure not exceeding Rupees six thousand for the two boats. Captain Robertson being thus authorized to superintend the construction of the boats, is permitted to proceed to the western coast, for this and the other purposes specified in para. 11 of the Boards' Proceedings.

3. The letter of the Acting Collector dated 21st December 1858, No. 418, gives cover to one from Captain Robertson dated 17th idem, reporting the result of a partial examination of ten of the banks off the coast of Tuticoreen. On six banks healthy oysters from 4 to 4½ years old have been found in large quantities; on the remaining four banks the oysters were younger and less plentiful. Neither Sooram nor Kalicay, animals stated to be destructive to pearl oysters, were found on any of the banks. Captain Robertson remarks that from his report on the Pearl Banks in 1856 a Fishery over the first mentioned six banks might be looked for about the commencement of 1860, but that from his observations during his visit to the Pearl Fishery at Arripo in Ceylon, and "from subsequent results connected with that Fishery," he would not recommend that the Banks on this coast should be disturbed until the oysters have attained the age of 5½ to 6 years. The Government are disposed to regard the results of this last inspection of the banks as given above to be satisfactory; but as it now appears that no fishery can take place until 1862, it seems desirable that measures of precaution against depredation should be well considered and organized and brought into operation with as little delay as possible, especially as Captain Robertson's last report holds out such fair promise of success in the fishery. The Government cannot regard the measures heretofore suggested for this purpose as the result of any well digested plan. Not to go far back they would observe that in 1857 Captain Robertson considered two boats sufficient for the work, and recommended as the more economical arrangement, that they should be built in preference to being hired, the cost of the former being shewn at Rupees 2,400 and the latter at 5,400. The Government regarded the proposed establishment as altogether inadequate, and applied to the Ceylon Government for information as to the strength and cost of the establishments on that coast; in the mean time a Canoe was employed to meet present emergencies. This was followed by an application from Captain Robertson for a small Schooner from Bombay. No such vessel, however, was available; but the Bombay Government offered an armed Pattamar for the service. Captain Robertson then discovered that the two boats could not be built for less than 3000 Rs. each. The armed Pattamar he stated was not adapted for guarding the Banks and proposed to build a vessel of from 40 to 45 feet keel instead. This proposition fell to the ground when the offer of the Pattamar was accepted by this Government, and now that this vessel is at hand the boats to aid it in its operations, have yet to be built, and it is represented that to ensure complete success three more guard boats are required to guard the entire line of banks.

4. The Board have not recommended this last measure and have called on the Acting Collector for his opinion on it as well as for an estimate of the charge for carrying it out. The Government are of opinion however, that the time has arrived for the adoption of more systematic measures for the protection of the Pearl Banks on the Coasts of this Presidency; and as the best means of obtaining the necessary information, the Board of Revenue will consider whether it would not be advisable to depute an officer for the special object of collecting all particulars relating to the system of conservancy established on the Ceylon coast, as well as with respect to the cost and strength of the force employed, the extent guarded, and such other information as is likely to be useful. The Governor in Council is of opinion that Captain Robertson would be a suitable person for this employment; and if he is willing to accept it the Board will arrange details in communication with the Acting Collector of Tinnevely. Captain Robertson will be allowed his expenses for proceeding to and returning from Ceylon, with suitable compensation for his trouble; and the Board will state after his return, what they may consider a proper amount.

5. The Government approve of the Board's order (P. 17) authorizing the Acting Collector of Malabar to advance to the Master Attendant at Cochin such sums as may be necessary for the repair of the armed Pattamar "Pownah."

(A true Extract.)

J. Sandillon

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
 „ Accountant General.
 „ Civil Auditor.
 „ Marine Department.

Exd. H. M. Elliot.

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With an Order.

Communicating the order of Gov. on an extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in relation to the Collector of Tinnevely on the subject of the conservancy of the Pearl Banks required for guarding the Pearl Banks of the Coast of Malabar.

Feb 5 38.

h.c.c.
 14/2/38

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 14/2/38

Extract Minutes of the Board of Revenue Sept 1837

Minute. 1837. Sept 1837
 By the Board 1837

The Superintendent of the Marine Department

17th Feb 1838

[Signature]

To be communicated to the Superintendent of Marine.

N^o. 18.