M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1076	Press ~~Mis.~~
198-199	
Dated 23 . 5 . 1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 198. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th May 1861, No. 2,362:—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Tinnevelly, 30th April 1861, No. 196.

SIR,

To Board 4th Jan. 1860, No. 2.
From do. 15th Feb. „ „ 827.
From do. 23rd March „ „ 1,489.
To do. 4th May „ „ 173.
From do. 5th July „ „ 3,102.
From do. 18th April 1861, „ 2,013.

1. Adverting to the correspondence noted in the margin, I have now the honor to report to the Board, the arrangements I would propose for the conduct of the Chank Fishery on the expiry of the present Contractor's lease, on the 30th June next.

2. The results of the late Pearl Fishery have shown that it is not now so much a revenue from the Chank Fishery that we have to look to, as the conservancy of the Pearl Banks, and it is keeping this object directly in view that I now address the Board.

3. To abolish the Chank Fishery altogether, would cause a general dispersion of at least the Tuticorin Divers numbering about 150; and it is of some consequence to add to, and not to diminish this class of men. Second, there is the consideration of the abandonment of a certain source of revenue, which I would not be justified in advocating, if it could be continued with due security to the greater interests involved in the Pearl Fishery. The question therefore resolves itself into two points, whether the Chank Fishery should be carried on under the direct immediate management of Government Officers acting under my orders, or whether a scheme proposed to me, by the Master Attendant of Tuticorin, of licensing boats should be tried.

4. I have given the subject very careful consideration, and while I am decidedly opposed to giving a lease of the Fishery as in former years, to one contractor, I am of opinion that the scheme proposed by Captain Phipps should be tried for at any rate one year, and if it is not found to answer, we can then revert to taking the Fishery under direct Government management.

5. A perusal of the old records shows that the management of the Chank Fishery under Aumani, in former years, was exceptional, and that efforts were always directed to having the Fishery rented. The cost of Establishment during the short and broken periods when the Fishery was directly managed by Government, was Rupees 75 a month, with an additional charge to the Divers, of Rupees 25 for every 1,000 Chanks fished and delivered. Under the present enhanced rate of wages, I could not estimate the monthly cost of Establishment under Rupees 100, while I could look for Chanks to be delivered at Rupees 25 a thousand, the rate formerly paid, for the present contractor I am told, only pays Rupees 20 a thousand; but then there is the chance of a fall in the price of Chanks, the risk of getting rid of them, and the additional labor imposed on the Master Attendant who would have immediately to superintend the management of the Fishery under my orders.

6. Captain Phipps is decidedly of opinion, that while the Fishery was in the hands of one renter to whom alone the boat owners and divers had to look, it gave much opportunity for poaching; throwing open the Fishery to general competition, and rigidly enforcing the penalties either for trespass, or neglecting to report trespass, would with the present fleet of guard boats, be a sufficient check to secure the Pearl Banks from being poached. His Estimate is based on the following data: The present contractor employs about 20 boats during one year, and these fish about 3,00,000 Chanks, giving an average of 15,000 for each boat. The contractor, it is reported, pays the boat owners at the rate of Rupees 20 per 1,000 Chanks, and has sold at an average of Rupees 100 per 1,000, for the price of Chanks has risen much above the price obtained during the former lease; it is said this rise took place after the mutiny from increased demand. This would give Rupees 1,500, as the amount realized by each boat for one season, if prices remained high, but supposing that from increased competition, parties taking out licenses paid double what the present contractor is said to pay, that is Rupees 40 a thousand, and deducting Rupees 600 from Rupees 1,500, and again deducting the cost of the license, it would leave a round sum of Rupees 500 as the profit for the speculator.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd May 1861.

7. It must be borne in mind that the price of Chanks may fall, and that there is the certainty of a Pearl Fishery next year; I do not, think therefore that the amount allowed for profit will bear reducing, for I have heard that the present contractor has still Chanks of the year before last on hand, which he has not yet been able to get rid of. At present only about twenty boats from Tuticorin are employed, but by throwing open the Fishery, I would look to perhaps double that number, including boats not only from Tuticorin, but from the ports both to the north and south, being engaged, and fishing Chanks more extensively than they could do under the management of one contractor. I beg to forward copy of the Master Attendant's scheme, and to recommend that it be given a trial for one year.

At the recommendation of the Collector the Board sanction the adoption of the plan proposed by Captain Phipps for one year as an experiment, the results of which are to be fully reported.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 199. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1861, No. 1,076.

Government approve of the Board's orders.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

which are to be fully reported.

(A true Copy and Extract)

Hudleston
Secretary.

To

J. D. Sim Esq
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Comp^d W^m Reid

Revenue 1861 Septr.
Brs: of Govt For May.
No 1127

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 8th
Despd 8th } May 1861
Recd 10th

Encs. 1- Ola Encs-

Encl } No 2362
1 Letter 06-10-63

Submitting a letter
from the Collr. of Tinnevelly
and sanctioning at his re-
recommendation the
adoption of the plan pro-
-posed by Captn. Phipps
for one year for conduct.
-ing Chank Fishery.-

No 1076. 23d May
With an order

No 1076
Govt

prove of the Board's orders.

Fort St. Geo:
23d May 1861

J. D.

14 Copies to the Board of Revenue.
with an Encl.

Cy 25-23d

Pro: 19th Octo 1858 No 376 to
" 20th Janry 1859 " 17 to 19
" 22d March 6 " 93-94
" 29 Do 1860 " 108-109
" 3d July " " 16-17
" 18th April 1861 " No 248
253-254

No 198 & 199.

C 16 May R 23d