M.R.O. 1—77,003—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 11 Press Mis.

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th June 1864.

No. 126. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department :—

Communicating Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly regarding the construction of the proposed Pearl Oyster Nursery at Tuticorin, and requesting that Captain Moberly may be called on to state the grounds upon which he formed his opinion that the coral was exhausted and that the inhabitants were opposed to the project. } (Here enter 30th May 1864, No. 920.)

No. 127. ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1864, No. 1,650.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, for early report with reference to paragraph 1.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

9. I have to apologize for the above detail, but the Government will understand, that as the Officer at the head of the District, I was naturally anxious that no work should be undertaken which might injure the Port of Tuticorin, and I was desirous of obtaining the best opinion I could get regarding it.

10. I know of no other place on the coast where the nursery could be advantageously constructed. At one time I had thought of a place inside the Reef off Trichindoor, and Captain Phipps, when with me here last February, took soundings at my request, but he found that the current ran too strong, and the sea broke too heavily there, to allow it to be a suitable place.

11. Captain Moberly does not mention who the residents of Tuticorin are who he states are entirely opposed to the project. As far as my inquiries have gone, I think he is labouring under a considerable mistake.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to Captain G. A. PHIPPS, Master Attendant of Tuticorin, dated 20th April 1864, No. 420.

1. In forwarding to you the accompanying copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated 7th April 1864, I have been directed by the Government to state whether you cannot aid the Superintending Engineer in procuring materials for the construction of the Oyster nursery.

2. Connected with this point, I also request you will state, if Captain Moberly is correct in his supposition "that all the coral in the neighbourhood is *exhausted*," for I can scarcely imagine this to be the case.

3. The Government further desire to be informed, with reference to the concluding sentence of Captain Moberly's letter, that one cause of the difficulty in arranging for the construction of the Oyster nursery is, that "the residents of Tuticorin are entirely opposed to the project which they believe will affect the harbour."

4. I request you will report on this point also, for the information of Government. I read this sweeping assertion of Captain Moberly's with astonishment, nor can I understand how he, writing from Palamcottah on the 29th March, came to such a conclusion regarding the general opinion he states exists at Tuticorin.

5. Captain Moberly has never held any communication with me on the proposed Oyster nursery, but as you are aware the subject is one I have frequently discussed with you, as also with Major Paxton, Executive Engineer, who framed the estimates, regarding this very point of risk of injury to the harbour, and that both Major Paxton and yourself are fully agreed that there are no grounds to suppose the work will tend to cause obstructions to the channels into the inner harbour, but on the contrary will rather tend to deepen the north east channel, at present the shallowest of the two.

6. Except Mr. Gray and Mr. Adderley, I have heard no one express an opinion that the proposed work was likely to injure the harbour. Mr. King at the last discussion we had at my house, agreed with Major Paxton and yourself. You have also personally informed me, that none of the people at Tuticorin, and particularly none of the Tindals, have expressed any apprehensions on the subject, but with regard to the broad statement now advanced by Captain Moberly, that "the residents of Tuticorin are entirely opposed to the project," I request you will report to me fully on the same, for the information of Government, without delay.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Captain G. A. PHIPPS, Master Attendant of Tuticorin, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 26th April 1864, No. 43.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 420, dated 20th instant, forwarding a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, with the order thereon.

2. In reply to the first part of the order I beg to state, that although I am most willing to assist the Superintending Engineer in procuring the necessary materials for the construction of the Oyster nursery, I do not think that any advantage would be gained by my doing so. Under

No. 341. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1864, No. 3,009.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Trichendoor, 20th April 1864, No. 164:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the Order of Government dated 14th April 1864, No. 630, forwarded to me by the Board on the 15th April, for report on certain statements made by Captain Moberly in a letter he addressed to Colonel Orr, Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Palamcottah, 29th March 1864, regarding the construction of the proposed Pearl Oyster nursery at Tuticorin.

2. I beg to annex to this letter copies of a communication I addressed to the Master Attendant, Tuticorin, on the 20th instant, and of that Officer's reply of the 20th idem. Two points called for notice in Captain Moberly's letter, one his supposition that all the coral in the neighbourhood of Tuticorin is exhausted, the other that one cause of the difficulty in arranging for the construction of the Pearl nursery was, that the residents of Tuticorin were entirely opposed to the project.

3. It is to be regretted that Captain Moberly should make such hasty assertions, without first being careful to verify them, as they tend to mislead the Government, and although Captain Moberly was writing from Palamcottah, where I was also residing at the time, he held no communication with me on the subject of the proposed work.

4. The Government will see from the letter of the Master Attendant, Tuticorin, that so far from the stock of coral being exhausted in the neighbourhood, that Officer considers it to be *inexhaustible*, and that there are no grounds, as far as either the Master Attendant or I know, for Captain Moberly's assertion that the residents of Tuticorin are entirely opposed to the project *founds* this statement. Captain Moberly does not assign the grounds on which he

5. In regard to any apprehended injury to the harbour by the intended Oyster nursery, I will go a little into detail, for the information of Government. About five months ago, Mr. Gray, a merchant of Tuticorin, but who has since left the place, wrote to me unofficially, to say that in his opinion the formation of the nursery would tend to obstruct the north and south channels into the inner harbour, by causing them to silt up. I took a chart of the harbour on which Mr. Gray had made some pencillings for my information, to Major Paxton, the Executive Engineer, who had inspected the harbour, and discussed the subject with him at length. Major Paxton gave me a very positive opinion, that so far from the contemplated work obstructing the channels, it would, he considered, have the effect of deepening the north channel, and not injuring the south channel in any way.

6. I wrote at the same time demi-officially to Captain Phipps, asking him regarding the objection started by Mr. Gray, and Captain Phipps replied that he knew Mr. Gray held this opinion, but that he differed entirely from him, and agreed with Major Paxton.

7. When Captain Phipps met me on the coast last February, I again discussed the same subject with him with a chart of the harbour before us, when he explained the grounds of his opinion, referring to the set of the currents, and also informed me that none of the Tindals, who are the parties most interested, had started any objections.

8. Again, last month some of the Tuticorin merchants having come up to the Tinnevelly Exhibition, and as both they and Captain Phipps were staying at my own house, I took that opportunity of asking Major Paxton to meet them, and again talked over the matter. The result was, that Major Paxton, Captain Phipps and Mr. King were all of one opinion, that the proposed work would in no way injure the harbour, Mr. Adderley alone holding a contrary opinion, but which I now learn from Captain Phipp's letter, he has considerably modified. I may add also, that Captain Barber, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, an Officer who has had experience in Engineering, was with me when I first discussed the subject with Major Paxton, and he agreed in opinion with that Officer. My own opinion also coincides with that of Major Paxton and Captain Phipps.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th May 1864.

any circumstances, the coral, &c., will have to be purchased, and the interference of another Officer would, I think, be injurious; no doubt the Government are aware that the coral is procured from off the Reefs in the neighbourhood, the Public Works Department are I may say continually buying it for the roads, &c., and any arrangement they might make for obtaining the material either by contract or otherwise, could not fail to be more suitable, than any that I could make.

3. Regarding Captain Moberly's supposition that all the coral in the neighbourhood is exhausted, I would beg to remark that during my residence of nearly five years in Tuticorin, it does not appear to me to have decreased; large quantities have always been landed daily, and this is still going on. In my opinion, the stock of coral is inexhaustible; the price has no doubt increased very considerably, but that is from the higher rates of wages that are now required, and is perhaps more to be attributed to the greater demand for the coral itself.

4. With reference to the assertion that one cause of the difficulty in arranging for the construction of the nursery is, that the residents of Tuticorin are opposed to the project, this I cannot agree with. Since the proposal was brought forward, I have taken every opportunity to discuss the subject with both Europeans and Natives; of course differences of opinion will exist, with the natives the fact of it being something new, is in itself sufficient to make them suspicious, though no one has as yet made any real objection, and when the matter has been explained they all agree that the advantage to be derived from it, if successful, will be unbounded. I would here beg to state that, as I should regret exceedingly doing anything that would injure this thriving Port, I suggested to the merchants themselves, who I thought might perhaps be timid in stating their objections personally to me, that they should put their views on paper, which would be forwarded for the information of Government; this however has not been done, and a vessel owner, a native and resident of Tuticorin, is a party who tendered for the construction of the work. Mr. Gray and Mr. Adderley expressed surprise that the nursery would injure the harbour. I am glad however to be able to say, that the latter gentleman has now modified it very considerably, and although he agrees with Major Paxton and myself, that a tail of sand will form off the southern edge, he does not think there is any chance of either channel being injured; he would wish however to see the effect caused by the current upon the sand bank, after the most eastern bed is completed, before the others are proceeded with. In my opinion the construction of the nursery will have the effect of deepening the northern channel, and any spits of sand that may be thrown out, will in no way impede the navigation of the harbour.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, *Collector.*

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to the Order quoted by the Collector.

2. Captain Moberly's information as to the public opinion on the work appears to have been partial and incorrect.

No. 312. ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1864, No. 920.

1. Communicated to the Department of Public Works, with reference to G. O. in that Department dated 7th ultimo, No. 976, in view to Captain Moberly stating the grounds upon which he formed his opinion that the coral was exhausted and that the inhabitants of Tuticorin were opposed to the project.

2. The Collector has not yet had time to reply to G. O. 6th instant, No. 784, Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Department Public Works.

P.P. 1864 Depot
Rec. of Sanit. for June.

No 2419

Nos 126. 127

Rec. of Goods on the
Revenue Depot

Dated 31 May
Received 1st June

No 920.

S.A. 1650 – 1st June/64

Communicating
Brig the Brg Park sub-
-mitting letter from the Co
of Limerick regarding
the construction of the
proposed Park System
Fairy at Limerick;
requesting that Engineer
may be called on to state
grounds upon which he

he formed his opinion
that the canal was taken
up and that the rails
taken were of wrought
iron & not

S.A. 1650.

Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer 8th Divisi
for early report with
Reference to former.

Glasgow
1st June 1864

To The Supt Engineer
8th Div

Copy for June