பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் -ரா.ஜகையல்நாயகி

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் 11/2006

செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 3/2007

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D/991-92

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 991.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 28th September 1857.

Read the following papers.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letters from the Collector of Tinnevelly, forwarding reports from the Master Attendant at Tutacorin on the pearl banks on the coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura, &c. (Here enter 1st Sept. 1857, No. 2903.)

* * *

With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit Reports from the Master Attendant at Tuticoreen on the results of his examination of the Pearl banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura.

2. These Reports are in continuation of the one already laid before Government on the 19th December 1856, and the results, as given in them and detailed in the Board's proceedings,* are only more satisfactory than those of the examinations held in previous years, inasmuch as they tend to point out, with sufficient clearness to enable Government to apply a remedy, the causes which have hitherto acted detrimentally on the oyster fisheries. Some of the banks were found covered with oysters from a year to a year and a half and two years old; others again were scantily supplied, and many were altogether bare of oysters. Several banks were almost wholly free from the Sooram or Kalikay fish, which have been said to be destructive to the oysters, and in others, both with and without oysters, "more or less Sooram was discovered." On the whole, there were only three banks on which oysters were forthcoming of an age to hold out the prospect of a fishery in 1859 or 1860.

* 19*th Decr.* 1856, *No.* 4330, *paras. 2 to 4.*
1*st Septr.* 1857 „ 2903 „ *3 to 7.*

3. The causes which were assigned for the failure of the oyster banks on the occasion of former investigations were noticed in the resolution of Government dated 18th April 1856, No. 385. These were;

1st. The existence of two descriptions of fish called the Sooram and Kalikay, which, dying after certain periods, become putrid and poison the oysters.

2nd. The enlargement of the Paumben Channel, which, greatly increasing the current disturbs the banks so much as to prevent the oysters from adhering to them and thriving.

3d. The prevalence of clandestine fisheries, encroachments of the chank fishers, and the employment of dredges in the examinations, by which the beds are disturbed.

4. In the Resolution just referred to, in which these causes were mentioned, the Government came to the conclusion that the true explanation was to be found "in the imperfect precautions hitherto employed to preserve the oysters from the depredations of poachers." They held that the capabilities of the oyster banks had not yet been fully ascertained; and they were therefore willing to, and did, sanction an outlay to test the condition of a resource, which, if existent, is calculated to yield a large addition to the public revenues.

5. The result of this outlay is now laid before Government in the Reports of the Master Attendant, and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is quite satisfied, after a perusal of them and a further consideration of the subject, that his previous conclusion is correct. He has not the slightest doubt that the decay of this source of revenue is owing to the neglect with which the Pearl banks have been treated, and to the want of precautionary measures against poachers. At every examination numbers of thriving young oysters have been found, and yet it has been supposed that no one can discover why they never reach maturity. The favorite reason assigned by the divers and coast fishermen is, that the oysters are poisoned by the putrefying remains of two other molluses, the Sooram and Kalikay.

6. Specimens of these molluses having been obtained and submitted to an eminent Conchologist, he identified them; the former as a Modiola, the latter as an Avicula, a congener of the pearl oyster. These are always found associated with the oyster, and have lived and died on these banks from the creation; and to suppose that they are the cause of the disappearance of the full grown pearl oysters, seems absurd. The true cause of the poverty of the banks is that already mentioned, viz. that they are constantly fished by the divers on their own ac-

count. That they should abstain from profiting by the total absence of all conservatory measures can hardly be expected. The pursuit is a peculiarly exciting, and occasionally a very profitable one, possessing all the allurements of gambling without any of its risks. An instance of the impunity with which it may be pursued is to be found in para. 3 of Mr. Robertson's letter to the Collector, dated 13th March 1857, No. 20.

7. The second reason assigned of late years for the failure of the banks, viz. the opening of the Paumbem Channel, is shewn by the present Reports to rest on no good foundation ; inasmuch as the presence of a good supply of oysters on many of the banks, indicates that the Paumbem Channel has in reality had no such effect. It need scarcely be observed that, if the greater rush of water would carry away any oysters, it would be the younger and smaller ones, and yet these are precisely those that are now found in some abundance. On the other hand, the fact that many young, and no old oysters have been found, tends to shew that poaching is practised, and that the old oysters, which alone are valuable, have been taken.

8. The only remedy for this state of things is to be found in the adoption of adequate measures for guarding the banks. The Master Attendant suggests that two boats should be employed during some months of the year to cruise about the sites of the banks, to guard against their being approached. He considers it more economical to build boats than to hire them, and he estimates the cost of construction at Rupees 2,400, and the expenses of employing them for a season at Rupees 768, viz.;

				Rs.
2 Paurmauddies for 9 months	at 7	Rupees	each per mensem... ...	126
2 Divers for 3 months	at 9	,,	do.	54
10 Boatmen for 9 months	at 6	,,	do.	540
2 Canoes for 3 months	at 8	,,	each per month	48
				768

9. It appears to the Government that the protective establishment thus proposed is altogether insufficient for the purpose indicated ; for nothing can be easier than to elude the visits of two boats which have to traverse such an extent of coast. The Government propose to address the Government of Ceylon with the view of obtaining information as to the number and cost of the protective and watching establishments employed there, together with the extent of coast and number of banks entrusted to it; but in the mean time they resolve to sanction, as a temporary measure, the arrangement recommended by Mr. Robertson, to prevent present depredation. The Governor in Council is pleased accordingly to authorize an expenditure of Rupees 2,400 in the construction of two boats, and a further sum of Rupees 768 to meet the expenses of manning them. The Collector of Tinnevelly will, in communication with the Master Attendant, arrange for the building of these boats, and will consider, whether the boat Laura, purchased for the use of the Master Attendant, may not, on reaching its destination, be also employed in the protection and examination of the pearl banks.

10. The Board of Revenue report that, of the sum of Rupees 1,401 sanctioned for the examination of the pearl banks in Extract Minutes Consultation 18th April 1856, No. 385, para. 7, Rupees 960-3-10 have been actually disbursed, and they recommend that sanction be granted for including the latter amount in the contingent charges of the Collectorate. The Governor in Council approves of this Proceeding and accordingly sanctions it.

11. The Governor in Council considers Mr. Robertson well deserving of remuneration for his careful inspection of the pearl banks, and is pleased to sanction a donation of five hundred Rupees in recompense for his labor and the expense incurred by him on the occasion.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

3/991-92

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 29th September 1857.

Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched

No. 40. From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George ; to the Colonial Secretary at Colombo ; dated 28th September 1857, No. 992.

SIR,

1. The Government of Madras, have for some time past, had under their consideration the condition of the Pearl banks on the coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura in this Presidency, and the means of rendering them productive.

2. These banks were formerly a source of revenue to the state. In 1830, when the last fishery took place, the net revenue realized by this Government was nearly a lac of Rupees, or about ten thousand pounds sterling, since then, no fewer than fifteen examinations have been made at different intervals by the officers of this Government, and on one occasion, in 1838, by Captain Quinton, whose services were placed at the disposal of this Government by the Government of Ceylon for that express purpose. These examinations were in some instances partial, and in others more complete ; but, the results in all were more or less unsatisfactory ; sometimes the banks seemed to promise well ; at other times they were found to be totally denuded, and no satisfactory reason could be given for the disappearance of the oysters previously found on them. Several causes were assigned, such as the prevalence of clandestine fisheries ; encroachments of the chank fishers, the employment of dredges in the examinations ; the existence on the banks of certain descriptions of fish called the Sooram and the Kalikay, the death and putrefaction of which it was said poisoned the oysters ; the too near approach of dhonies ; and lastly the widening of the Paubem Channel.

3. It appeared to this Government somewhat remarkable that while the banks belonging to Ceylon should always be productive, those attached to this Continent should prove always barren, though it was reasonable to suppose that the same natural causes which operated prejudicially in the one case, would affect the other also. This Government therefore regarded the reasons assigned for the failure of the pearl banks on this coast to be inadequate, and after giving their full consideration to the subject, they arrived at the conclusion, that the true explanation would be found in the imperfect precautions hitherto employed to preserve the oysters from the depredations of poachers. The results of certain recent examinations of these banks have convinced the Government of the correctness of this conclusion, and they have resolved, in consequence, to mature a more systematic plan of operation for the future, in order to the restoration of this source of revenue to the state.

4. I am accordingly desired by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to solicit the assistance of His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon in the object which this Government have in view ; and to request that, with His Excellencey's permission, you will have the goodness to furnish this Government with information respecting the number and cost of the protective and watching establishment employed under the Ceylon Government, together with the extent of coast and number of banks entrusted to it, and generally with information on all matters appertaining to the subject, such as the management of the banks, the seasons and mode of conducting the fisheries, the interval allowed between one examination and another, and between the fisheries. The Government are also desirous of ascertaining whether the oyster banks of Ceylon are ever injured by other descriptions of shell fish existing on them, such as is said to be the case on this coast in respect of the Sooram and Kalikay.

5. I am also desired to take this opportunity of forwarding copies of resolutions dated 18th April 1856, and 28th September 1857, in which the examinations of the Pearl banks on this coast, the results that have attended them, and the causes assigned at different times for their failure, are noticed in detail, and to submit with reference to them, the further request of this Government to be favored with information and suggestions on any points other than those indicated above, which the Ceylon Government may regard as likely to prove useful to the purposes of this Government.

4/991-92

Report on the General Inspection of the Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly, and Madura, commenced on the 6th January 1857.

Pearl Banks off Tuticorin continued from the last Report.

Bank No 7.

Coothadia paur

Blank Sooroon none.

Bank No 8.

Pandee paur

Oysters in large Quantities, two and a half to three years old. No appearance of Sooroon or Kullievy

Bank No 9

Pathari paur

In the same condition as Bank No 8.

Bank No 10

Vadionbadoo paur

Soorun in Large Quantities.

No Oysters found.

Bank No 11

Thoolayerum paur

The largest Bank

On several parts of this Bank large Quantities of Oysters about one and a half to two years old were taken up without Soorun. On other parts Oysters were found in smaller Quantities mixed with Soorun, while other portions of the Bank were found blank.

Bank No 12.

Sayet Onbadoo paur.

No Oysters. Soorun found.

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Bank No 13

Poolepoontettoo paur

The Same as No 12.

Bank No 14

Cannapoontettoo paur

This Bank in the Same condition as No 12 and 13.

Bank No 15

Vanteevo Anvoo paga paur

Oysters in large masses extending over the entire Bank. One year and a half old. No Soorun found.

Bank No 16

Cannatheevo Anvoo paga paur

Blank - no Soorun -

Bank No 17

Aathsova Cubadoopaga paar

Oysters in large Quantities

one year and a half old over the en-

-tire Bank- Sooran none.

Bank No 18

Iwalaonbadoopaar

Blank- Sooran none.

Bank No 19.

Parcadanehanpaar

The Same as No 18.

Bank No 20.

Jenchooreechanpaar

Blank- Sooran none.

Bank No 21.

Aathsovaaurroopagapaar.

The Same as No 20.

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Bank No 22.

Vadavelanga Thoontoo paar

Oysters in large Quantities.

one year and a half old- no Sooran.

Pearl Banks off Punnicoil

Bank No 1

Rajavokoochisippiporeetha paar.

Blank

Bank No 2

Coodamoothee paar

Blank.

Bank No 3.

Santa Coodamoothee paar

A Small Quantity of Oysters

about one year and a half old with

dead Sooran-

Bank No 4

Poothoopaur

Oysters about one year
and a half old with Soorun some
of the former found dead.

Bank No 5

Kadianpaur

Some Oysters about one
Year old. found with dead Soorun-
Some young Oysters were also
found destroyed.

Bank No 6

Kanavaipaur

Blank Soorun none

Bank No 7

Nadoomalipedeethaipaur

This bank the same as No 6.

7/91-92

Bank No 8

Kanavaipaur Thoontaipaur

A Small quantity of Oysters
were found - no Soorun. Some Oy-
sters found upon the Sandy ground
round the Bank. Age one year.

Bank No 9.

Kadianpaur Thoonttoo

Blank. no Soorun.

Bank No 10.

Neelankullooparthanonnoo.

Blank. no Soorun.

Bank No 11.

Neelunkullooparthariipaur.

A Small quantity of Oysters
round the edge of the Bank
about nine months old. Soorun
gone

Bank No 12

Suthookoriapathanoonoo

Blank. Soorun none

Bank No 13

Sankooriapathenoonoo

A small Quantity of Oy-
sters about Six to nine months
Old Scattered over the whole ex-
tent of the Bank.

Bank No 14

Pundarathoppoopedathapanirendopaur

Blank. Soorun none

Bank No 15

Selttanpaur

Blank. no Soorun
found.

8/91-92 Bank No 16

Sundamarampedeethapaur

Blank. no Soorun.

Bank No 17

Coolpedeethapatharipaur

Blank. no Soorun

Bank No 18

Coolpedeethaputhopaur

Blank Soorun none

Bank No 19

Poodopaurvelangoothoonttoopaur

The Same as Bank No 18.

Bank No 20

Solavelangoothonttoopaur

No Oysters found Some
Soorun.

Bank No 21

Periamalipedeethapathanoun paur

Blank. Soorun none.

Bank No 22

Periamalipedeethapathoo paur

Blank. no Soorun.

Bank No 23

Velungookarovoal paur

Some Oysters about ten

months old found some Soorun,

and Kulleioy in considerable quan.

tities.

Bank No 24

Kariakarovoal Thonttoo paur.

Blank. Soorun none.

21

Pearl Banks off Manapaud.

Bank No 1

Periapaur

Blank.

Bank No 2

Coltho paur

A small Quantity of Oysters.

age one Year. Soorun found.

Bank No 3.

Soorookoonbadopaur

Well Stocked with Oysters

about one Year old. Soorun and

Kulleioy in large Quantities.

Bank No 4

Senmumpattypaur

Blank no Soorun.

Pearl Banks off Veerapantiampatam.

Bank No 1

Poothoopaur.

Off Trichendoor and Veerapantiampatam bounded on a Bank which was not before known to the Jadeekalavan or Parmundaries. On examination small Oysters one to two years old were found scattered over the Bank. one large Oyster fully six years old was also found.

Bank No 2

Poonthottapaur

Blank. Go Coorun

Bank No 3

Santhommia Coilpoodeethapaur

The same as Bank No 2

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Bank No 4

Tharadipukipoodeethapaur

Blank

Bank No 5

Kurryanpadopaur

Blank

Bank No 6

Odikarry

A small quantity of Oysters one and a half to two years old mush Coorun.

Bank No 7

Karriakarovaipaur

Some Oysters were found from two to three years old - no Coorun or Kulleoy

Bank No 8

Velangoo karvoodl paur

Blank

Pearl Banks off Vyypar

Bank No 1

Padothamarikan paur

Blank

Bank No 2

Thaveepaur.

A small number of Oysters about one and a half year old were found. Soorun and Kulliey none.

Bank No 3

Fernands paur

Soorun in large Quantities

Oysters none.

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Bank No 4

Vyypaur Periapaur

Blank

Bank No 5

Carriapaur

Two or three Oysters found. Age one to two years. no Soorun.

Bank No 6

Padothammarikan paur Soorun

Oysters found in large Quantities over the entire bank from one and a half to two years old. Soorun none.

Pearl Banks off Vaimbaur

Bank No 1

Vaimbauthoperia paur

Blank.

Bank No 2

Vaimbautho Kariapaur

Blank

Pearl Banks off Tootycorin

Bank No 1

Nullathunny theevopaur

One or two Oysters age one
and a half to two years. Sooran none.

Bank No 2

Aunipaur

Two or three Oysters taken
up. Some Kullicoy found

Bank No 3

Velliamalipaur

Two or three Oysters brought
up with Kullicoy.

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Bank No 4

Oppothunny Theevopaur

Blank

Bank No 5

Coomalanpaur

Blank

From the above Report and
the one furnished on the 27th November
last, it will be seen there are twenty
two Banks directly off Tuticorin, twelve
of which are well stocked with young
Oysters in an exceedingly healthy
state. and well adhered to the Banks
with little appearance of Sooran or
Kullicoy amongst them - consequently there may be some reason
to Expect that the greater portion
will come to maturity but to ensure
a successful Fishery it will be
absolutely

absolutely necessary to protect the beds from the encroachments of Chank Divers, and Fishermen, and for that purpose it would be advisable to have two fast sailing Patch boats cruizing north and South of Tuticorin during the fine weather season. each boat to be provided with a Parmundady and Diver. the former to act as Tindel or Pilot. With these boats the Inspector and Jadee Mallaven could occasionally by examine the beds which could be done more effectually and satisfactorily than with the boats formerly used.

With respect to the ten Banks found blank, there is every expectation that Oysters will in time form on some, particularly on those free from Coorum, and

A Mullicoy

13/991 2d Mullicoy. Seeing that the twelve Banks now so well covered with Oysters were in 1850 & 51 completely blank.

The same Remarks as above may apply to the Banks North, and South of Tuticorin.

In conclusion the Master Attendant hopes that a perusal of the accompanying Reports will testify satisfactorily to show that not only is he subjected to additional labours by the Inspection of the Pearl Banks, but to much additional expense also. And taking this together with the increased duties of the Port into consideration, the Master Attendant begs respectfully to request You will have the goodness to bring the circumstance to the notice of Government and to recommend him for an increase of Salary

Master Attendant's Office
Tuticorin 5th March 1857.

Signed W. Robertson
Master Attendant

No 302

To The Master Attendant
Tuticorin

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your Report on the inspection of the Pearl banks off the Coast of Tinnevelly, North and South of Tuticorin, and in transmitting the same to Government, I shall not fail to bring to their special notice, the additional labor and expense that has been entailed on you, and to solicit that they will be pleased to grant you remuneration for the same.

2 As there is no prospect of a fishery this year, the steps that ought to be taken for the future preservation of the Pearl banks remain to be considered.

I

3 14/991-92 request you will inform me, if from your own personal knowledge, or from credible information received from other parties, you are aware of the Pearl banks being poached, either by the Chank divers, or by fishermen. It is a matter of importance to determine this point correctly if possible. I made a good many enquiries on the subject, when I was at Tuticorin last January, but was always told the Chank divers and fishermen could not bring the Oysters on shore, without its being at once publicly known. I request you will state if you know of any well authenticated case, of oysters having been brought on shore, in their boats, or of the boat-men opening the Oysters, at sea, and then throwing the shells over board?

board? It may be that without actually taking away the Oysters, the Chank divers descend on the banks, in search of Chanks, and thereby disturb the Oysters.

4 As regards the two boats, which you propose should be employed to guard the Oyster Banks, during the fine weather, that is to say for nine months in the Year, I request you will have the goodness to state, what you consider would be the yearly cost of employing these boats.

From the present State of the banks, it would be four years from this time, before any fishery could be attempted with advantage.

I have &c
Tuticorin
7th March 1857 } Signed J. Silver
Collector

15/99-92 No 20

Master Attendants Office
Tuticorin 13th March 1857.

To The Collector
Tinnevelly

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th Instant (No 302) and with reference to the 3d para I beg to remark that, when I alluded in my Report to the encroachment of Divers and Fishermen on the Pearl Banks the meaning I intended principally to convey was, that they work over the banks, and consequently disturb the Oysters. I concur in some respect with the opinion you have gathered from various sources, that Oysters or even Pearls

cont'd

could not be brought into Tuticorin
without its being publicly known.
at the same time I see no difficulty
attending the smuggling of Pearls on
shore, at some of the small fish-
-ing villages, and almost unfrequent-
-ed parts of the coast. I have heard
that in former days the Divers and
Fishermen took up Oysters when they
had an opportunity, and opened them
at sea, but of this I could never
ascertain the truth.

2 During the Inspection
of the Banks it was fully ascer-
-tained that the largest Chanks
were generally found round the
edges, and on the Banks where
it is well known the Divers pre-
-fer fishing when occasion will
allow. On the Banks where Oysters
were found, the Chanks brought up
were invariably covered with Pearl Oysters.

The same as sample forwarded.

3 16/991-92 I consider the Fishermen
do more injury to the Banks than
the Divers on account of the large
Stones they use for anchoring their
Canoes being so frequently let
down, and taken up or dragged
over the Banks to change the posi-
-tion of their boats, which must
destroy a large Quantity of Oysters
on the beds where they are formed.
Coming up the Coast from Manar
I saw a number of boats were seen
off Punnicoil apparently fishing
on the Banks, and on the near ap-
-proach of the Schooner employed
for the Inspection they made sail
and ran for the shore, two were brought
alongside of the Schooner, and from
the description of the fish in the
boats it was evident they had been
fishing on the Banks.

I

4 It appears from the State-
:ment of the Jadeethalaven that
formerly when the Pearl Banks were
in a flourishing condition on this
Coast a person named by the Jadee
:thalaven, and sanctioned by the Collector,
was appointed at each of the places
noted in the Margin, for the purpose
of examining the fish brought on
shore, to ascertain if any of the boats
had been fishing on the Banks; the
persons appointed for that duty
did not receive any pay. Should the
same arrangement be adopted, and
boats sanctioned, the shore, and
boat parties, could co-operate together,
and effectually keep the Banks
clear of Fishermen. The Shank
boats should be provided with
one or two Parmundadies or persons
who are well acquainted with the
Banks, to keep the Divers from
going near them. In

Two Keyore
Vaimbaur
Vyppaur
Cevil
Pommicoil
Veripaintian
Jalam
Veanapaur

5 17/1991 90 In the Report on the Pearl
Banks I omitted to mention that the
Oysters on Clothee paar (No6) off Tuta-
:corin were three years old, and as the
Oysters on Banks Nos 8 & 9, are about
the same age a fishery may be ex-
:pected on the above three Banks in
March or April 1859. or at latest in
1860 provided they are not disturbed
and the Oysters allowed to come to
maturity. It is estimated that 150
boats for five days will be required
to fish the three Banks.

There being a balance of
Rupees (510-10-6) five hundred and
ten, annas ten and pice six unex-
:pended from the amount Sanctioned
for the Inspection of the Pearl Banks
I beg that a small portion may be
allowed for a further search in April
next, over the Bank on which the
large Oyster was found. I ask this

Rs 54.

request

request in consequence of the Divers
latterly not having given that satis-
faction that could have been desired
particularly on the Bank in Question
which is of large extent. The Divers
appeared to be more intent on their
own work, and nearly all the best
absconded at Punnicoil, and other
places on the Coast which left
the Inspection with inferior men
and others brought from Tutacorin
were much of the same stamp.
To the north the work was obliged
to be finished by six o'clock and nearly
worn out Divers.

I believe the Jadeeka.
have exerted himself to a certain
extent, to induce the Divers to
remain and perform their duty but
his advice and influence were entirely
disregarded. The

18/991-92

The accompanying Estimate will shew the probable amount that may be required for the expenses of two Government boats employed for the protection of the Pearl Banks on this and the Madura Coasts for nine months.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant

Estimate of the probable expenses of two Government Boats employed for the protection of Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly, and Madura for the period of nine months.

		Rs	a	p
2.	Paurmundadies for 9 months @ 7 Rupees each per month	126	-	-
2.	Divers for 3 months @ 3 Rupees each per month	54	-	-
10.	Boatmen for 9 months @ 6 Rupees each per month	540	-	-
2.	Canoes may be required for 9 months @ 8 Rupees each per month	48	-	-
	Rupees	768	-	-

Master Attendant's Office
Tutacorin 13th March 1857

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant

No 348.

To

The Master Attendant

Tuticorin

Sir,

With reference to that part of your letter of 13th Instant in which you request that a small portion viz.t Rupees 54 out of the balance of Rupees 510-10-6. remaining unexpended from the amount sanctioned for the inspection of the Pearl Banks may be allowed for a further Search in April next over the Bank on which the large Oyster was found, I beg to inform you that I have issued the necessary orders to the Tahsildar of the Ottapedarum Talook to remit to you on application the above sum of 54 Rupees, and request that you will make the promised further

Search

19/91-92 Search in April and report the result to me for communication to the Board of Revenue.

I have &c.a

Tinnevelly 17th March 1857. } (Signed) J. Silver Collector

No 33.

Master Attendant's Office
Tuticorin 23d May 1857.

To

The Collector

Tinnevelly

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 21st Instant, I have the honor to state that the delay in making a further examination of the Bank in which one old Pearl Oyster was found, has been occasioned by all the Divers who could be depended upon leaving this for the Pearl Fishery on the Coast of Ceylon and

and latterly on account of the Jadee Tallaven having been prevented from attending the work in consequence of Sickness in his family.

I made an attempt without the Jadee Tallaven to search the Bank by leaving this at daylight on the 7th Instant, but light winds and calm prevented me proceeding further than Tuticoril that day late in the evening the boat was again underweigh, and when off Trichendore the following morning, strong Southerly winds with a heavy Sea prevented the smaller boats following - and as the large boat was taking in heavy Seas, I considered it prudent to run for Veerapantianpatam and as there was every likelihood of the Southerly winds

Continuing

20/9 91-92 continuing for some time, I left the same afternoon for Tutacorin.

It is my intention to proceed to Trichendore tomorrow, and make another attempt to reach the Bank on Monday.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant.

No 37. Master Attendant's Office
Tutacorin 29th May 1857.

To

The Collector
Tinnevelly

Sir,

I have the honor to hand you the enclosed Report on a further Examination of the Bank on which a large oyster was found, and referred to in my letter of the 13th March 1857.

I have &c.

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant

A

In Ke 37.

A further Report on a Pearl Bank off Trichendore on which one large Oyster was found on the 6th February 1857.

The reasons which occasioned the delay in forwarding a report on a further Search of the large Bank off Trichendore, having already been given in my letter of the 23rd Instant, it will be unnecessary here to revert to the subject.

On the 8th Instant an attempt was made to reach the Bank above referred to, which I regret to state, proved unsuccessful in consequence of Strong Southerly winds, and heavy Seas off Trichendore, obliging the boats to return.

On

Vide Letter under date 13th March 1857 No 24

21/291-92

On the 26th the weather appearing more favorable, six Canoes with eight Divers went off and succeeded in reaching the Bank, but Strong Southerly winds, and a heavy Sea were again encountered, causing the Sand, and mud to be so much stired up from the bottom as to prevent the Divers seeing any thing on the Bank. Diving after having been carried on for an hour and a half without any favorable result was discontinued.

There is every reason to believe that, had the Bank contained Oysters to any extent, some of the Divers would have brought one or more up with other Stuff taken from the bottom each time a Diver went down.

Should

Should it be considered necessary to have a further examination of the Bank, it will be advisable to suspend further operations until after the change of this Monsoon, as the last attempts were attended with considerable risks and expense.

Master Attendant's Office Tuticorin 29th May 1857.

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant

(True Copies)

Collector

Comp.d R.C

22/491-92

1857 Depart.t

Enclosure No 1 in a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly dated 25th June 1857. No 206

R 16/7/57

Copies of Correspondence referred to in the above letter.

a/c Sic 2583/57
Sicl.d 5th Aug.t "

Origl

Account of Expenses incurred in making a further Exa ination of a Pearl Bank off Trichendore.

23/991-92

1857			Rs	as	ps	Rs	as	ps
May	1st	To Cash paid Battah for 2 Extra Boatmen in the Schooner Boat		7				
		" — Dº — Dº Battah for 24 Boatmen	1	8				
		" — " — " — Dº 8 Divers		8		2	2	
	3d	" — " — " 2 Extra Boatmen in the Schooner Boat		8				
		" — " — " 4 Canoes	1	1				
		" — " — " 24 Boatmen in Dº	6					
		" — " — " 8 Divers	2	8				
		" — " — " 2 Parmundadies		10				
		" — " — " 1 day's Battah for Tadeettalaven		12	5	11	7	5
	24th	" — " — " Batta for 2 Extra Boatmen in the Schooner Boat		2				
		" — " — " 26 Boatmen	1	10				
		" — " — " 8 Divers		8		2	4	
	25th	" — " — " 1 Schooner Boat	7					
		" — " — " Battah for 28 Boatmen and 8 Divers	2	4		9	4	
	26th	" — " — " 1 Schooner Boat	7					
		" — " — " 2 Extra Boatmen in Dº		8				
		" — " — " 6 Canoes	1	9	6			
		" — " — " 36 Boatmen in Dº	9					
		" — " — " 2 Parmundadies		10				
		" — " — " 8 Divers	2	8				
		" — " — " 1 day's Batta for Tadeettalaven		12	5	21	15	11
	27th	" — " — " 1 Schooner Boat	7					
		" — " — " Battah for 2 Extra Boatmen in Dº		2		9	2	
	28th	" — " — " 1 Schooner Boat	7					
		" — " — " 2 Extra Boatmen in Dº		2				
		" — " — " for Extra Boat hire attending Schooner Boat	4	6				
		" — " — " Water for Boatmen and Divers		4				
		" — " — " Fire wood — Dº — Dº		5				
		" — " — " Cooly hire carrying Service letters to & from Trichendore		10		12	11	
		Rupees				66	14	4
		To Balance due				12	14	4

Master Attendant's Office
Tutacorin 1st June 1857.

Compd AG

24/991-92

1857			Rs	as	ps	Rs	as	ps
March	24th	By Cash received from the Tahsildar of Ettapedarum Talook				54		
		Balance due				12	14	4
		Rupees				66	14	4

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant
(True Copy)
J. Pilcher
Collector

1857 Departt.

Enclosure No. 3 in a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly dated 25th June 1857 No. 206.

R 10 Oct 57.

Account of Expenses incurred in making a further Examination of a Pearl Bank off Tuticorin.

1
No. 3
In Rs. 2888/0
Inclosure 1st Statement.

1857 Departt.

Enclosure No. 2 in a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly dated 25th June 1857 No. 206.

R 10 Oct 57

Account of Expenses incurred in inspecting Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura during the months of November 1856 and January and February 1857.

2
No. 2888/0
Inclosure 1st Statement.

Account of Expenses incurred in inspecting Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura during the months of November 1856 and January and February 1857.

25/991-92

			Rs	as	p	Rs	as	p
1856 November	25th	To Cash paid for Schooner Boat	7	12	-			
		" Do Do 2 Canoes	-	8	3			
		" " " 11 Boatmen	2	12	-			
		" " " 4 Divers	1	4	-			
		" " " 1 Parmundady	-	5	-	12	9	3
1857 January	6th to 31st	" " " 1 Schooner	250	-	-			
		" " " 1 Dhony Boat	6	8	4½			
		" " " 40 Canoes	10	10	5			
		" " " 355 Boatmen	88	2	-			
		" " " 101 Divers	31	5	6			
		" " " 28 Parmundadies	8	9	-			
		" " " Battah for Tadee Mallaven	10	14	4½	406	1	8
	1st to 28th February	" " " 1 Schooner	250	-	-			
		" " " 1 Dhony Boat	2	12	6			
		" " " 78 Canoes	21	11	3			
		" " " 493 Boatmen	117	5	6			
		" " " 107 Divers	32	5	-			
		" " " 32 Parmundadies	8	14	-			
		" " " Battah for Tadee Mallaven	12	6	8			
		" " " Battah for Boatmen Divers &c &c	21	-	-	466	6	11
		" " " Coolyhire for carrying Service letters &c	-	12	6			
		" " " Water for Divers & Boatmen	-	5	-			
		" " " Firewood for Do	-	8	2			
		" " " 3 Gallons of Cocoanut Oil	4	2	-			
		" " " Writer's Travelling Expenses & Punnaccoil & Timber	2	8	-	8	3	8
					Rupees	893	5	6
						93	5	6
		To Balance due						

Master Attendant's Office
Tuticorin 5th March 1857.

Comp: AG

1374.

26/991-92

			Rs	as	p	Rs	as	p
1856 December	22d	By Cash received from the Tahsildar of Ottapidarum Taluk	500	-	-			
1857 February	17th	" Do Do	300	-	-			
						800	-	-
		Balance due				93	5	6
		Rupees				893	5	6

(Signed) W. Robertson
Master Attendant.

(True Copy)

J. Pikne
Collector

No. 206. 27/991-92

From,

A. Silver Esq.

Collector.

To,

J. B. Smith Esq.

Sy. Secretary to the

Board of Revenue.

Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation dated the 18th April 1856, sanctioning an outlay of Rupees 1104 for a search of the Pearl Banks off the Coasts of Madura and Tinnevelly, North and South of Tuticorin, to be conducted by the Master Attendant at Tuticorin, and to my letters of the 1st December following, and 18th March 1857, the former forwarding Copy of Mr. Robertson's Report of 27th November on the result of the preliminary investigation

vestigation, and the latter promising to submit a full report shewing the result of the Complete Examination of the Pearl Banks off the Coast after a further search over the Bank on which a large Oyster was found, I have now the honor to forward, for the information of the Board and Government, a copy of a second Report from the Master Attendant of Intaconin, dated the 5th March 1857, on the result of his continued Examination of the Pearl Banks off the Coast of this District together with that of a further Correspondence between that Officer and myself as noted in the Margin, from which it will be perceived that there is no prospect of a Pearl fishery for 3 or 4 years to come, the further search over a bank

To the Master Attendant 7th March 1857
From Do. 13th Do.
To Do. 17th Do.
From Do. 23d May
From Do. 29th Do.

bank on which a large Oyster was found having also proved unsuccessful. 28 291-92

2. No Oysters are worth fishing under six years of age, and it will be seen from the papers now forwarded, that the average age of the Oysters found on the different Banks, was from one to three years. One large Oyster supposed to be six years old was found, but a further search on the same Bank was unsuccessful.

3. For the unsatisfactory State in which the Oyster Banks of this Coast have been found on each successive Examination for a period now extending over several years, various Causes have been assigned

1st Encroachments by Chank Divers & Fisher Men.

2nd

2nd. The prevalence of two descriptions of Shell fish called "Soorum" and "Kallicoy", which dying soon, and putrifying, poison the Oysters.

3rd. The widening of the Paumben Channel.

But from all the enquiries which I have been able to make, I cannot pronounce any one of these three causes, to be certain. Upon the whole I am inclined to attribute the unsatisfactory state of the Banks, to the Chank Boats and fishing Boats anchoring on the Banks, for I do not believe that depredations by Poachers, could be carried on to any extent, without its being generally known.

4. With this view I would recommend a protective Establishment to guard the Banks, but I differ entirely from the Master

Master Attendant in his Suggestion, that people should be sent out in the Chank Boats, to keep them off the Banks, and that others should be stationed at places on the shore, to search the fishing Boats, the first proposition would not likely be acceded to, by the Chank Renter, and the second would be open to much abuse, and to the proposition, I think unnecessary.

I consider that if two Government Boats are employed for 9 months in the year, to guard the Banks, it will be sufficient.

The Master Attendant along with his letter of the 13th March, has given an Estimate of the probable expence of these two Boats, at 768 Rupees a year, but this is merely the hire of the Boatmen and Divers. I have called

called on the Master Attendant to state, what arrangement he would propose for providing two Boats, whether by purchasing them at Tuticorin, or procuring them from some other place, and I will communicate with the Board afterwards, on this Subject.

5. I beg to forward copies of two accounts received from the Master Attendant, one with his letter of the 5th March, and the other dated the 1st June, under a blank Cover, Showing the Expense incurred in the Examination of the Banks amounting to Rupees 960 3 10 leaving a balance of Rs 443 12 2 out of the amount of Rs 1404, sanctioned by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 18th April 1856. The amount

expended will be included in the Statement of Contingent Charges, to be forwarded to the Civil Auditor, for audit.

6. In conclusion I have the honor to request the favorable Consideration of the Board and Government, to the labor and additional personal expense, incurred by the Master Attendant, in the Examination of the Pearl Banks, and to solicit that the Government may be pleased to grant him such remuneration as they may think proper, in Consideration of the Same.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt Servt

Tinnevelly Collrs Circuit Cutcherry. Tencausey. 25th June 1857.

Collector

31/991-92

No 777 Shoalhaven Attendant's Office

Tuticorin 10th July 1857.

To

The Collector

of Tinnevelly

Sir

Adverting to your letter of the 2d Ultimo, I have the honor to acquaint you that after due enquiry and calculation, it is my opinion that, if two boats are stationed for the protection of the Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura they should be built by Government, expressly for the purpose. The cost of which may probably amount to Rupees 2400/ two thousand and four hundred. for as the use of boats here would be attended with a considerable extra expense as may be seen by the annexed

Statement

Statement; and further the boats at this Port, are not always available and not well adapted for the Service

I have &c.

(Signed) W. Johnston

Master Attendant.

(True Copy)

J. Tilson

Collector

Eqo. C.S.G.

Comparative View

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991-92

(Signed) J. Tilson

Collector

(True Copy)

Comparative Statement of the Number of Vessels and Boats employed in the Protection of the Pearl Banks

	Vessels	Boats	Men
1856	7	14	98
1857	7	15	105
1858	7	23	161
1859	7	23	161

Comparative Statement of the Number of Vessels and Boats employed in the Protection of the Pearl Banks &c. and of the Number of Persons employed in Diving on the Pearl Banks &c. and of the Quantity of Pearl Shell collected &c.

	Vessels	Boats	Men	Divers	Pearl Shell collected
1856	7	14	98	23	5100
1857	7	15	105	23	5100
1858	7	23	161	23	5100
1859	7	23	161	23	5100

(Signed) J. Tilson

Collector

(True Copy)

No 228 33/991-92

From,

A. Silver Esq.

Collector

To,

S. D. Sims Esq.

Sg. Secretary to the,

Board of Revenue.

Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to the concluding part of para 4 of my letter to you of the 25th Ultimo, I have the honor to forward for the consideration and orders of the Board, Copy of a further Communication from the Master Attendant at Tuticorin dated the 10th Instant, on the subject of supplying two Boats for the protection of the Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura, from which it will be perceived that the cost of the two Boats

Boats including charges on account of crew would amount only to Rs. 3168 whilst the hire of Boats at Tuticorin would be attended with considerable extra expense.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obed.t Serv.t

J. Shaw
Collector

Tinnevelly Collector's Circuit Cutcherry
Tenkassy
15th July 1857.

Rec.d 6th Aug.t 1857.
No. 2903
From the Collector of Tinnevelly
Dated 15th July 1857
Subject Boats
No. 335
Encloses
To the Sec.y to the Govt. to the Board of Revenue

Proceedings of a Consultation of the Board of Revenue dated 1st September 1857.

Read letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly dated 25th June 1857 submitting a second Report from the Master Attendant at Tuticorin on the pearl banks on the coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura.

(See enter No. 200)

Read also letter from the same Officer dated 15th July 1857 forwarding a further report on the same subject.

(See enter No. 228.)

Resolved that the foregoing reports of the Collector of Tinnevelly and Master Attendant at Tuticorin on the Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura be forwarded for the consideration and orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. The Board observe that these Reports are in continuation of the preliminary report submitted to Government with Extract Board's Proceedings, dated 19th December 1856.

The

3/4
99/1 9th Revenue Department.

No. 2903

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 1st September 1857.

Read letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 25th June 1857 submitting a second Report from the Master Attendant at Tuticorin on the pearl banks on the coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura.

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2. The Board observe that these Reports are in continuation of the preliminary report submitted to Government with Extract Board's Proceedings, dated 19th December 1856.

The

3. The general and final examination was commenced in January last as previously proposed and the result is reported to be the same as on the former partial investigation. Some of the Banks contain Oysters from one to three years old so that there is no prospect of establishing a fishery for at least the next three years.

4. Of the twenty two banks lying directly off Selticaire twelve were found to be covered with Oysters almost wholly free from Spawn or Killicoy fish which are said to be destructive to young Oysters; and the other ten Banks will, it is expected, contain Oysters in time as those banks to which they are now adhering were completely bare in 1850 and 1851.

5. Forty nine banks were examined North and South of Selticaire and Oysters were found on twenty five of them; the remainder were blank and in some of the banks both with and without Oysters much or less Spawn was discovered.

6. One Oyster fully six years old was taken up from a bank off Inchindoon but

a

35/991-92

a further examination in April last tho' not very satisfactory in consequence of the unsettled state of the weather, impressed Mr Robertson with the belief that no more Oysters of that age were to be had on it.

7. Three banks are mentioned on which the Oysters found were 3 years old and Mr Robertson estimates that if properly watched the fishery of these will afford work for 150 boats for 3 days in 1859 or 1860.

8. It appears that the chief obstacle to the formation of a Pearl fishery on these Banks is the destruction of the Oysters by fishing and Chank boats anchoring on the Banks by means of large Stones which are let down and dragged about when the fishermen wish to change the position of their boats.

9. The Collector does not agree with Mr Robertson that it is necessary or expedient to send Government officers in the Chank boats to prevent the latter from approaching the banks, or to station officers on shore to search the fishing boats, as the Chank renters will probably object to the first, and the second measure is open to abuse, but he proposes

that

that two boats should be engaged for nine months of the year in cruising about the sites of the banks and believes that this will better accomplish the object in view.

10. Mr Robertson estimates the cost of building two Boats at Rupees 2,400, which would be by far the most economical plan as the hire of two for 9 Months in the year would amount to Rupees 5,400, and the boats at Tuticorin besides not being available at all times are not well adapted for the intended purpose. In addition to this outlay the annual expenditure on account of the crew for nine Months and the hire of two canoes for 3 Months, is estimated at Rupees 758.

11. In authorizing the examination now reported on, Government appear to have contemplated the necessity of entertaining a preventive establishment for some time if the Banks were to be allowed a partial and as the papers before the Board give promise of a partial fishery being obtained at the end of the next three years and a general one ultimately, the Board resolved to

Extract Minutes Govt. No 385 dated 18th April 1858 Para 2.

36/991-92

to submit the Collectors proposals for consideration. The Board feel by no means certain that the anticipations of Mr Robertson will be fulfilled but for the reasons assigned in the latter part of Para 8 of the Extract Minutes Consultation above referred to, the proposed outlay seems advisable.

12. The amount sanctioned for conducting the investigation was Rupees 1500. Of this amount a sum of Rupees 966. 3. 10 has been actually expended and sanction is requested for including it in the contingent charges of the Collectorate.

13. As regards the recommendation of the Collector that Mr Robertson may be remunerated for the labor and additional expense he has been put to in conducting the examination, the Board remark that the proposal to search for Oysters emanated from Mr Robertson and that no expectations were then expressed by him of any special remuneration. He has no doubt undergone additional labor and probably also incurred some extra expenditure. The Board regard his claim as scarcely admissible but Government

Government may probably be disposed to grant him a donation in acknowledgment of his personal exertions. In this case the Board would call on Mr Silver to state what he considers would be a suitable sum, as they are not in a position to name one for the consideration of Government.

No. Resolved that Para 13 of these Proceedings be forwarded to the Collector of Limerick.

(True Extract)

Sd

Secretary.

To

A. Forbes Esq.

Ag Secretary to Government

Revenue Department.

Compd
J.G. Boyle

Compd - J.G.B.

37
971-92

Revenue Dept.
Ag. to Govt.
No. 2903
Dated 15th Sept. 1871
Collector of Limerick
Letter
Dated 13th Sept. 1871
Transmitting Copies of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 2nd Sept. 1871
Recommending a donation to Mr. Silver
Dated 22nd Sept. 1871
Letter
Dated 23rd Sept. 1871
Transmitting Copies of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 2nd Sept. 1871
Recommending a donation to Mr. Silver
Dated 22nd Sept. 1871
Letter
Dated 23rd Sept. 1871
Transmitting Copies of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 2nd Sept. 1871
Recommending a donation to Mr. Silver
Dated 22nd Sept. 1871
No. 2903
Dated 15th Sept. 1871

No 37.

37
971-92

38/1991-92

I think it is advisable
by a fire separate
for the hands & horses -
so as to have their
quarters fully detached -

It might as well
be mentioned that
protective precautions

Rev. No. 1016.

39/1991-92

In light of the circumstances of consultation of the 18 of above No 56, a letter was given to see the Pearl fisheries on the coast of Tuticorin for the removal from the said coast of the deterioration of the banks were referred to, and a general direction was issued that the poaching on the coasts of the fisheries bounding them may be taken into consideration.

In para para 6 of the order in question it was said that the Govt. were willing to accept an outlay "to test the conclusion of a treasure. Still, if at present it is calculated to yield a large income to public revenue

Dec. No 1876.

The repeal of this outlay is now laid before you in the report of the Harbour Attendants, and the first will be needed to decide if they entitle it to be sufficiently encouraging to warrant an outlay of Rs 2400 in providing two boats, & a preventive police to protect the banks from poachers, with an annual - allowance of Rs 768 for the rest.

The protection of a good supply of oysters on existing & the banks leads to the Boat the opening of the Pamban Channel, which had been

40
1891-92

suggested on the cause of the failure of the fisheries, but in vain had no such effect. If the greater part of water could carry away any oysters - it would, I could be the spawn and these
produce over, and each are
perfectly true was found in
these abundance.

On the other hand, the Jack Boat many young, and no old oysters have been found, leads to the Boat poaching is practiced, and that the old oysters, which alone are valuable, have been taken.

The required outlay is trifling, and even if no pecuniary results follow,

The cause will be left not
have been decided in settling
at rest the question Retro-
vaginal cancer as it ought
to present a hopeful history,
or rather a steril picture is
all that is registered.

5-9-57

Mr. Tate

41/991-92

I have not the slightest doubt
that the decay of the Fauna of Poonah
is owing to the neglect (2nd want of) the
Cautionary measures (with which the
pearl banks have been Metes
At every Examination Numbers
of thriving young oysters have
been found yet no one can dis-
cover why they never reach maturity
The favorite notion engaged the
Divers & each just learned — that the
Oysters are poisoned by the Sewage
2nd remains of the other matters
called Sooka & Kalekay
I obtained Specimens of both these
and submitted them to the eminent
Conchologist — Dr Smith.
He identified them — the former
as a Species

412
991-902

modiola the latter is an accela
a congener of the pearl oyster
there are always found associated
with the oyster three kinds of
dust on these banks from the creation
to cease them of the destruction
of their neighbors the pearl oysters
therefore appears absurd

I have no doubt in my own
mind that the true cause of the
poverty of the Banks is that they
are constantly fished by the divers
on their own account.

That Government should abstain from
proposing by the total absence of all
conservatory measures can hardly
be defended. The pursuit is a lucrative

exciting & occasionally profitable
one & proposing all the elements
of gambling without any
of its risks.

In instance of the unpenalty
with which crimes can be pursued may
be found in para 3 of Mr Robertsons
letter.

The only remedy for this
state of things is to be found
in the adoption of adequate measures for guarding
the Banks.

The establishment proposed
is doubtless insufficient. Nothing can
be easier than to elude the vigilance of
two boats with liberty to traverse not
an extent of coast.

I do propose that we should abstain
from the fishing of any less than the number
of last

the protection of watching established
at present employed at Manaar, together with
the extent of Coast & number of
banks entrusted to them.

I would also suggest that enquiry should
be made whether the Pearl banks are ever
injured by other description of shell
fish as is said to be the case here

Meantime, I submit that the
Engagement is a temporary measure
to prevent immediate depredation

And I think Mr Robertson
has well deserved the grant of a
Pearl allowance for his careful
examination of the banks

Walter Elliot

11/9/57

Copy sent to G. S. L. G.
dd 17th Decr 1857 No 45
Paras 39 to 47.

A3
991-92

29/5/58

No 38.

Revenue 1857 Septr
Dft to Govr 29th Septr

No 1119

Minute by the Honorable
Mr W. Elliot
Dated 11th Septr 1857.

No 991.

Giving it as his opinion, that the decay of Revenue derived from the Pearl fishery, is owing to the neglect with which the pearl banks have been treated, & to the want of precautionary measures, & proposing to obtain all possible information on the subject from the Govt of Ceylon.

A
991-92

Revenue Dept.

No. 991

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 28th. September 1837.

Read the following

papers.

Extract from the Proc: of the
Board of Revenue
/ Here enter 1st Septr 1837. No 29031 /

Minute by the Honble Mr. W. Elliot
/ Here enter 11 " " " " /

With those

A

Proceedings the Board of
Revenue submit Reports
from the Master attendant
at Tuticorein on the
results of his examina-
tion of the Pearl Banks
on the Coasts of Tinnevelly
and Madura.

2. These Reports
and

are in continuation of the one already laid before Government on the 19th December 1856, and the results, as given in them and detailed in the Board's proceedings, are only more satisfactory than those of the examinations held in previous years, inasmuch as they tend to point out, with sufficient clearness to enable Government to apply a remedy, the causes which have hitherto acted detrimentally on the Oyster fisheries. Some of the banks were found covered with Oysters from a year to a year and a half and two years old;

* 19th Decr 1856 No 4330 para 30
1st Septr 1857 — " 2908 — 8 & 9

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old; others again were scantily supplied, and many were altogether bare of Oysters. Several banks were almost wholly free from the Soorawn or Kalliway fish, which have been said to be destructive to the Oysters, and in others, both with and without Oysters, "more or less Soorawn was discovered". On the whole there were only three Banks on which Oysters were forthcoming of an age to hold out the prospect of a fishery in 1859 or 1860.

3 The causes which were

were assigned for the
failure of the Oyster
banks on the occasion
of former investigation
were noticed in the Re-
-solution of Government
dated 18th April 1856
No 185. These were
1st, the existence of two des-
-criptions of fish called
the Soorgeon and Halibay,
which, dying after certain
periods, became putrid
and poison the
Oysters,
2nd the enlargement of
the Pumbern Chan-
-nel, which, greatly
increasing the current,
disturbs the banks so
much as to prevent
the Oysters from adhering
to

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to them and thriving.
3rd the prevalence of
clandestine fisheries;
encroachments of the
Chank fishers, and the
employment of Dredges
in the examinations,
by which the beds are
disturbed.

4th In the Resolu-
-tion just referred to,
in which three causes
were mentioned, the
Government came to the
conclusion that the true
explanation was to be
found "in the imperfect
precautions — — —
— — hitherto
employed to preserve
the Oysters from the de-
-predations of poachers."

They

They held that the capa-
-bilities of the Oyster
banks had not yet been
fully ascertained; and
they were therefore willing to,
and did, sanction an
outlay to test the condition
of a resource, which,
if existent, is calculated
to yield a large addition
to the public revenues.

5. The result of
this outlay is now laid
before Government in
the reports of the Master
Attendant, and the
Right Honorable the
Governor in Council
is quite satisfied, after
a perusal of them and
a further consideration
of the subject, that his
previous

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previous conclusion is
correct. He has not
the slightest doubt
that the decay of
this source of revenue
is owing to the neglect
with which the Pearl
banks have been treated,
and to the want of
precautionary measures
against poachers. At
every examination
numbers of thriving
young Oysters have
been found; and yet
it has been supposed
that no one can discover
why they never reach
maturity. The favorite
reasons assigned by
the Divers and Coast
fishermen is, that the
Oysters

Oysters are pourtrayed by the petrefying remains of two other molluscs, the Soorans and Kullikay.

b. Specimens of these Molluscs having been obtained and submitted to an eminent Conchologist, he identified them, - the former as a Modiola, the latter as an Avicula, a Congener of the pearl Oyster. These are always found associated with the Oyster, and have lived and died on these banks from the Creation; and to suppose that they are the cause of the disappearance of the full grown pearl

Oysters

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Oysters, seems absurd. The true cause of the poverty of the banks is that already mentioned, viz: that they are constantly picked by the Divers on their own accounts That they should abstain from profiting by the total absence of all Conservatory measures can hardly be expected. The pursuit is a precarious exciting, and occasionally a very profitable one; possessing all the allurements of gambling without any of its risks. Any assistance of the empirical with which it may

be

be pursued is to be found in para 3 of Mr Robertson's letter to the Collector, dated 13 March 1857 No 20.

7. The second reason assigned of late years for the failure of the banks, with the opening of the Pamban Channel, is shewn by the present reports to rest on no good foundation; inasmuch as the presence of a good supply of Oysters on many of the banks, indicates that the Pamban channel has in reality had no such effect. It need scarcely be observed that, if

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if the greater push of water would carry away any Oysters, it would be the younger and smaller ones, and yet these are precisely those that are now found in some abundance. On the other hand, the fact that many young, and no old Oysters have been found, tends to shew that poaching is practised, and that the old Oysters, which alone are valuable, have been taken.

The only remedy for this state of things is to be found in the adoption

adoption of adequate measures for guarding the Banks. The Master Attendant suggests that two boats should be employed during some months of the year to cruise about the sites of the banks, to guard against their being approached. He considers it more economical to build boats than to hire them, and he estimates the cost of construction at Rupees 2,400, and the expenses of employing them for a season at Rupees 768- viz:-

2 Pournaudelies for 9 Months at 7 Rs each per mensem —— 126

2 Divers for 8 Months @ 9 Do —— 576

10 Boatmen for 9 Months @ 6 do — 540

2 Canoes for 8 Months @ 8 Rs each per Month. 48.

Rupees 768

It appears to the Government that the protective Establishment thus proposed is altogether insufficient for the purpose indicated; for nothing can be easier than to elude the visits of two boats which have to traverse such an extent of

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Authorize

Coast. The Government propose to address the Government of Ceylon with the view of obtaining information as to the number and cost of the protective and watching Establishments employed there, together with the extent of Coast and number of Banks entrusted to it; but in the meantime they resolve to sanction, as a temporary measure, the arrangement recommended by Mr Robertson, to prevent prevent depredation. The Governor in Council is pleased accordingly

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accordingly to authorize an expenditure of Rupees 2,400 in the construction of two boats, and a further sum of Rupees 768 to meet the expenses of manning them. The Collector of Customs will, in communication with the Master Attendant, arrange for the building of these boats, and will consider whether the Boat Saura, purchased for the use of the Master Attendant, may not, on reaching its destination, be also employed

employed in the protec-
-tion and examination
of the pearl banks.

10. The Board of
Revenue report that
of the sum of Rupees
1,404 sanctioned for
the examination of the
pearl banks in Extract
Minutes Consultation
18th April 1856 No 385
para 7, Rupees 960.3.10
have been actually
disbursed, and they
recommend that
sanction be granted
for including the
latter amount in
the contingent Charges
of the Collectorate.
The Governor in
Council approves of

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this proceeding and
accordingly sanctions
it.

11. The Governor
in Council considers
Mr Robertson well
deserving of remune-
-ration for his careful
inspection of the
pearl banks, and
is pleased to sanc-
-tion a donation of
five hundred Rupees
in recompense for
his labor and the
expense incurred by
him on the occasion.-

Copies to the Sec. to Govt with 6 Encls Dispy
1 — Accts Genl
1 — Civil Auditor
2 — Ceylon Govt

Dy to Cons: 25th April/57 No 849.
6 Sanads pa 95-36.

Cop. y Sec. y G. L. to G. of
y 17 Decr 1857 No 45

Paras 39 to 47

22/8/58

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Revenue 1857 Department
Dy to Cons: 29th September

No 991

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 28th Sept/57

Ex. from the Proc. of the Bd of Rev. 9 Oct 18/57
Cop. 1124 in Cons: 6 Oct.
Le Dr 20 Mar 58 No 403 in 6 Apl

Extract from the Proc. of the Bd of Rev. 30 Oct/57 No 1769 in

Copy & Ext. y Bombay
Bd of Rev. 5 March/58.
No. 425
Except Para 1 y the
Ltr Mr E.

No 37 at 39 & 40

Authorizing, as a temporary measure, an expenditure of Rs 2,500 on the Construction of two Boats, and a further sum of Rs 768, to meet the expenses of manning them, as a protective Establishment to guard the Pearl Banks in the Paumben Channel.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 30 January 58 Para 1 to 9 in 25 Feby/58 No 31-32

C 19 Sep R 23

2 Copies
Dispd 29

Bt
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Revenue Department
Fort St George
26th September

No 992.

To

The Colonial Secretary at
Colombo

Sir,

I have the Honour to
transmit, herewith for some time
past, had under their consi-
deration the Condition of
the Pearl banks on the
Coasts of Tinnevelly and Ma-
nadura in this Presidency
and the means of rendering
them productive.

2 These banks were
formerly a source of Reve-
nue to the State. In 1830,
when the last fishery took
place, the net Revenue
realized by this Government
was nearly a lac of Rupees

or about ten thousand pounds Sterling, since then, no fewer than fifteen examinations have been made at different intervals by the Officers of this Government, and on one occasion, in 1838, by Captain Swinton, whose services were placed at the disposal of this Government by the Government of Ceylon for that express purpose. These examinations were in some instances partial, and in others more complete; but, the results in all were more or less unsatisfactory; sometimes the banks seemed to promise well, at other times they were found to be so totally denuded, and no satisfactory reason could be

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given for the disappearance of the Oysters previously found on them. Several causes were assigned, such as the prevalence of clandestine fisheries, encroachments of the Chank fishery, the employment of Dredges in the examinations, the existence on the banks of certain descriptions of fish called the Seer and the Rale Way, the death and putrefaction of which it was said poisoned the Oysters; the too near approach of Dhonies, and lastly the widening of the Pamben Channel.

It appeared to this Government some what remarkable that while

while the banks belonging
to Ceylon should always
be productive, those attach-
ed to this Continent should
prove always barren, though
it was reasonable to
suppose that the same
natural causes which
operated prejudicially
in the one case, would
affect the other also. His
Government therefore re-
garded the reasons
assigned for the failure
of the pearl banks on
this Coast to be inadequate,
and after giving their se-
rious consideration to
the subject, they arrived
at the conclusion, that
the true explanation
would be found in
the imperfect precautions
hitherto

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hitherto employed to pre-
serve the Oysters from the
depredations & practices. The
results of certain recent
examinations of these banks
have convinced the Govern-
ment of the correctness of
this conclusion, and they
have resolved in conse-
quence to mature a more
systematic plan of operation
for the future, in order to the
restoration of this source
of revenue to the State.
I am accordingly
desired by the Right Hon-
orable the Governor in Co-
uncil to solicit the as-
sistance of His Excellency
the Governor of Ceylon in
the object which this Govern-
ment have in view, and
to request that, on the His
Excellency's

Excellency's permission you
will become the go address
to furnish this Government
with information respecting
the number and cost
of the protective and watch-
ing establishment em-
ployed under the Ceylon
Government, together with
the extent of Coast and
number of Banks entrusted
to it, and generally with
information on all matters
appertaining to the subject,
such as the management
of the banks, the seasons
and mode of conducting
the fisheries, the interval
allowed between one ex-
amination and another,
and between the Fisheries.
The Government are also
desirous of Ascertaining

whether

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whether the Oyster banks on
the Ceylon ~~Side~~ are ever
injured by other descriptions
of shell fish existing on
them, such as is said
to be the case on this Coast
in respect of the Scarave
and Kalakay.

I am also desired
to take this opportunity
of forwarding copies of
Resolutions dated 18th April
1856, and September 1857,
in which the examinations
of the Pearl banks on
this Coast, the results
that have attended them,
and the causes assigned
at different times for
their failure, are noticed
in detail, and to submit
with reference to them,
the further request of

this

this Government to be fa
voured with information
and suggestions on any
points other than those
indicated above, which
the Ceylon Government
may regard as likely
to prove useful to the
purposes of this Govern
ment.

Fort St. George
28th Sept. 1857.

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Revenue 1857 Dept.
Rd to Cons: 29th Sept.

No 992.

To
The Government at
Ceylon

Dated 28th Sept. /57

On the unsatisfactory results
of the Examination of the Pearl Banks
on the Coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura
and the means of rendering them
productive, with information and
suggestion on any points which
the Ceylon Govt may regard as
likely to prove useful to the purpos
es of this Govt

N° 1

Revenue Department

Accounts & Consultations

21st Sept 1867

Receipt No 37-40

Rs 991+992/28 Sept 1867