Revenue Department

No 385

Dated 22 — 3 — 1859

No. 93. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th March 1859, No. 932.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 11th February 1859, No. 50.

(In Con. 17th February 1859, No. 633.)

Resolved that the foregoing communication be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to para. 8 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 4751, dated 23d December 1858.

2. In this letter the Acting Collector explains the cause of the marked fluctuations in the annual rents of the Tinnevelly Chank Fishery, and which were noticed by the Board in their Proceedings above quoted.

3. The produce is stated by the Acting Collector to vary greatly in different years, and its price to depend on the state of the Bengal market which derives an unsteady supply from the Ceylon Fisherries.

4. The risk to which even renters of local influence are exposed is said to be great owing to the irregular conduct of the Divers, whose services are indispensable and not at all times procurable.

5. On the whole however the speculation is profitable as a scanty season tends to reduce the stock in the market and raise the price ; and there is, and probably will be for a long time, a good demand for Chanks in Bengal.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

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No. 94. ORDER THEREON, No. 385 ; dated 22d March 1859.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
*Secretary to Government.*

In Con. 17th February 1859, No. 633.

From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Acting Collector of TINNEVELLY,

dated Tinnevelly, 11th February 1859, No. 50.

With reference to para. 8 of Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 23rd December 1858, No. 4751, calling for a fuller report on the Chank Farms of this District with explanation of the cause of great fluctuations in the annual proceeds, I have the honor to submit the following report.

| Fusly | Rs. | A. | P. | Fusly | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1211 | 38,850 | 0 | 0 | 1225 | 24,868 | 9 | 4 |
| 1212 | 39,025 | 0 | 0 | 1226 | 25,520 | 13 | 4 |
| 1213 | 39,200 | 0 | 0 | 1227 | 23,770 | 13 | 4 |
| 1214 | 40,936 | 13 | 1 | 1228 | 28,291 | 10 | 8 |
| 1215 | 22,166 | 9 | 5 | 1229 | 11,666 | 10 | 8 |
| 1216 | 26,395 | 10 | 10 | 1230 | 28,291 | 10 | 8 |
| 1217 | 36,198 | 10 | 2 | 1231 | 28,291 | 10 | 8 |
| 1218 | 23,260 | 6 | 9 | 1232 | 32,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 1219 | 32,447 | 14 | 9 | 1233 | 38,500 | 0 | 0 |
| 1220 | 31,221 | 4 | 0 | 1234 | 43,500 | 0 | 0 |
| 1221 | 36,458 | 5 | 4 | 1235 | 45,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 1222 | 39,407 | 1 | 4 | 1236 | 45,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 1223 | 33,575 | 15 | 0 | 1237 | 45,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 1224 | 26,687 | 8 | 0 | | | | |

2. The fluctuations in the annual proceeds from Fusly 1211 to 1237, A. D. 1801-2 to 1827-28 appear from a reference to the records of this Office, to have been partly owing to advantageous offers not having been received for the rent of the Chank farm in consequence of the markets in Bengal having been abundantly supplied with Chanks from Ceylon and other parts, which affected the sale of the Tinnevelly Chanks and partly to a dispute which existed between the Netherlands Government and the Divers of Tutacorin which prevented the renters procuring a sufficient number of Boats and Divers.

3. The falling off in the Chank revenue of Fusly 1229 was owing to the fishery having been put a stop to owing to the above dispute.

4. The sums set down in the statement forwarded with a letter from this Office dated 27th November 1858, No. 392 are the amounts of rents inclusive of the remissions granted in the following years.

| Fuslies. | Amount of remission. Rs. | A. | P. | Date of sanction of Government. | Date of the Board's order communicating the same. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1213 / A. D. 1803-4 | 10,500 | 0 | 0 | 17th August 1804. | 8th September 1804. |
| 1215 / A. D. 1805-6 | 2,916 | 10 | 8 | 28th October 1806 | 18th November 1806. |
| 1216 / A. D. 1806-7 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | „ | 12th October 1807. |
| 1217 / A. D. 1807-8 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | „ | 3rd October 1811. |
| 1219 / A. D. 1809-10 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | „ | 27th December 1810. |
| 1223 / A. D. 1813-14 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | „ | 14th November 1814. |
| 1224 / A. D. 1814-15 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | 8th December 1815 | 14th December 1815. |
| 1225 / A. D. 1815-16 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | 9th June 1817 | 16th June 1817. |
| 1227 / A. D. 1817-18 | 2,916 | 10 | 8 | 22nd Sept. 1818. | 5th October 1818. |
| 1231 / A. D. 1821-22 | 8,505 | 2 | 8 | 4th July 1823 | 10th July 1823. |
| 1235 to 1237 / A. D. 1825-26 to 1827-28 | 8,750 | 0 | 0 | 22nd August 1828. | 25th August 1828. |

5. The remissions above mentioned appear to have been granted in favor of the renters in consequence of the interruption to the chank fishery by the departure of the divers to the Pearl fisheries which took place in the above years at Ceylon, Manar, and Tutacorin.

6. From Fusly 1238 to 1240, A. D. 1828-29 to 1830-31 a small quantity of Chanks as per margin, was fished on the part of Government (no tenders having been received for renting the farm) and sold to amerchant at th rate of 15 Rupees per 1000 $\frac{\text{in 1238}}{\text{A. D. 1828-29}}$ at 20 Rupees per 1000 $\frac{\text{in 1239}}{\text{A. D. 1829-30}}$ and at 21 Rupees per 1000 $\frac{\text{in 1240}}{\text{A. D. 1830-31}}$ over and above the expenses of fishing them, being the most advantageous offers received.

| Fusly | Chanks. | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1238 | 1,55,134 | 2327 | 0 | 2 |
| 1239 | 2,04,609 | 4092 | 2 | 11 |
| 1240 | 1,85,886 | 3903 | 9 | 8 |

7. In Fusly 1241 A. D. 1831-32, the fishery was rented out for Rupees 11,500—the renter conducted the fishery for a short time, when it was interrupted by a Pearl fishery which took place at Manar, and a remission of Rupees 8,345-5-0 was allowed him under the sanction of Government of 15th May 1822. The net amount which actually came to hand in that year was only Rupees 3,154-11-0.

From Board 21st May 1832.

| Fusly | Chanks | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1242 | 530348 | 1500 | 0 | 0 |
| 1243 | 302399 | 1000 | 0 | 0 |
| | 832747 | 2500 | 0 | 0 |

8. In Fusly 1242 and 1243 A. D. 1832-33 and 1833-34, 8,32,747 Chanks were fished under Aumany (no proposals having been received for renting the farms) and sold to a merchant under the sanction of Government dated 15th August 1834 for Rupees 2,500-0-0 exclusive of the charges incurred by Government for fishing them, thereby securing to Government a clear profit of Rupees 3 per 1000 Chanks.

From Board 18th August 1834.

1,21,368 Chanks.

9. In Fusly 1244 A. D. 1834-35, only a small quantity of Chanks as per margin was fished under Aumany in consequence of the Divers having left Tutacoreen during the last part of the season, to attend the Pearl Fishery at Manar and sold to a merchant for Rupees 1,213-10-10 (not Rupees 3,713-10-10 as entered in the statement forwarded to the Board of Revenue) or at the rate of 10 Rupees per 1,000 Chanks exclusive of all charges, under the sanction of Government dated 17th July 1835.

* 1,20,684

10. In Fusly 1245 A. D. 1,835-36 Chanks * were fished under Aumany and made over to a merchant for Rupees 2,500 agreeably to the orders of Goverament dated 11th April 1836. From

Fusly 1246 to 1248
A. D. 1836-37 to 1838-39

the farm was rented out for Rupees 5,000 per annum under the orders of Government dated 11th April 1836 no better offers having been received.

11. There was no fishery in Fusly 1249 A. D. 1839-40.

12. From Fusly 1250 to 1252 A. D. 1840-41 to 1842-43 the fishery was rented out for Rupees 22,200 as shewn in the margin in conformity to the orders of Government dated 26th February 1841. The decrease in the Chank revenue of the first mentioned year, was owing to the Fishery having been rented out for the broken period of Fusly 1250 A. D. 1840-41 or from 5th February to 11th July. Out of the rent of Rupees 3,975, a remission of Rupees 1,376-8-10 was granted to the renter under the sanction of Government of 2nd October 1841—as no Chanks were fished for 55 days or from 5th February to 31st March owing to a delay in the receipt of the sanction of Government.

| Fusly | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1250 | 3975 | 0 | 0 |
| 1251 | 9112 | 8 | 0 |
| 1252 | 9112 | 8 | 0 |
| | 22200 | 0 | 0 |

From Board 4th March 1841.

From Board 11th October 1841.

13. From Fusly 1253 to 1255 A. D. 1843-44 to 1845-46 the Chank farm was rented out for Rupees 44601 or at the rate of Rupees 14867 per annum under the orders of Government dated 15th July 1843, the renters held the rent for 2 years and declined to continue it for the 3rd year or Fusly 1255 or to act up to the terms of their agreement, consequently the rent was advertised for resale at the risk of the Defaulters but as no one appeared to bid for it, the fishery was conducted under Aumany, agreeably to the sanction of Government dated 18th October 1845, No. 254 and the sale proceeds of the Chanks were carried to the account of the Defaulters.

Board's Pro. 20th July 1843.

14. From Fusly 1256 to 1260 A. D. 1846-47 to 1850-51 the fishery was conducted under Aumany and the fluctuations in the revenues realized in the above years is owing to the continual depreciation in the value of Chanks as will be seen from the accompanying statement.

| Fusly | Rs. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1256 | 30501 | 7 | 0 |
| 1257 | 18973 | 3 | 10 |
| 1258 | 18336 | 0 | 3 |
| 1259 | 14000 | 5 | 5 |
| 1260 | 10551 | 4 | 2 |

15. The Chank revenue having decreased year by year under Aumany the fishery was discontinued in Fusly 1261 A. D. 1851-52 agreeably to the orders of Government dated 23rd September 1851.

16. From Fusly 1262 to 1265 A. D. 1852-53 to 1855-56, the fishery was rented out for a small amount as shown in the margin under the orders of Government and Board of Revenue dated 1st July 1852 and 9th June 1853 respectively, no better offers having been received.

| Fusly | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1262 | 2250 |
| 1263 | 2250 |
| 1264 | 2250 |
| 1265 | 2250 |

Board's Pro. 3rd July 1852.

17. In Fusly 1266 A. D. 1856-67 the Chank farm was sold to Messrs. Cocq and Co. of Tutacoreen for 5 years at the rate of Rupees 4600 per annum, agreeably to the sanction of the Board of Revenue dated 11th October 1856 No. 3338.

18. The above is what is ascertainable from the Office records. From enquiries made in Tuticoreen I find that unless undertaken by some party having some local influence the purchase of the fishery is attended with risk owing to several causes.

1st. The difficulty of dealing with the divers who are an unmanageable drunken set, under no control except the influence of the Head man who makes them work in exact proportion to the bribes with which he is propitiated.

2nd. The fishery will vary from 1 to 5 lacks of Chanks.

3rd. If a shark takes a diver which occasionally happens, a delay of a fortnight takes place in pooja to choke off the shark's appetite for man. The power of so charming will only be with one man a delay may occur in procuring his attendance. Sometimes the charmer and Head man are at war and he wont go out till he has performed his incantations, not a man will dive.

4th. Too much or too little rain discolors the water which affects the vision of the divers at the bottom.

5th. If there is much cholera about, the divers wont work.

6th. Any Pearl fishery immediately attracts the divers that being a kind of gambling which suits them.

19. The reasons for variation in demand are as follows ; the Ceylon chank fishery is very uncertain and though the Tutacoreen shells are best yet when Ceylon chanks are plentiful prices immediately fall. Prices also rise and fall with reference to former good and bad seasons, 1855 and 1856 were very bad 56 a total failure, 1857 was in consequence very good. It will be seen by Messrs. Cocq's letter forwarded to the Board that the farm is very profitable and as long as the superstitions of the Bengalees are unaltered here will be a good demand for the shells.

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ENC. 1.

STATEMENT showing the number of Chanks fished under Aumany and the Revenue derived therefrom, from Fusly 1256 to 1260.

| | Fusly 1256. | | | Fusly 1257. | | | Fusly 1258. | | | Fusly 1259. | | | Fusly 1260. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of Chanks fished. | Rate of price per 1,000. | Total amount of sale. | No. of Chanks fished. | Rate of price per 1,000. | Total amount of sale. | No. of Chanks fished. | Rate of price per 1,000. | Total amount of sale. | No. of Chanks fished. | Rate of price per 1,000. | Total amount of sale. | No. of Chanks fished. | Rate of price per 1,000. | Total amount of sale. |
| Good Chanks | 497559 | 61 4 0 | 30475 8 0 | 496234 | 37 8 0 | 18608 12 5 | 498859 | 36 4 0 | 18083 10 4 | 506858 | 27 8 0 | 13938 9 6 | 391845 | 26 14 0 | 10530 13 4 |
| Bad Chanks | 25937 | 1 0 0 | 25 15 0 | 43160 | 8 6 0 | 361 7 5 | 55631 | 4 7 0 | 246 13 11 | 58437 | 1 0 0 | 58 6 11 | 30417 | 0 9 0 | 17 1 10 |
| Total | 523496 | 0 0 0 | 30501 7 0 | 539394 | 0 0 0 | 18970 3 10 | 554490 | 0 0 0 | 18330 8 3 | 565295 | 0 0 0 | 13997 0 5 | 422262 | 0 0 0 | 10547 15 2 |
| Small Chanks found in large ones | 0 | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 3 0 0 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 5 8 0 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 3 5 0 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 3 5 0 |
| Grand Total | 0 | 0 0 0 | 30501 7 0 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 18973 3 10 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 18336 0 3 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 14000 5 5 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 10551 4 2 |
| Deduct Sibbendy and divers' share, &c. | 0 | 0 0 0 | 10413 13 3 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 10538 9 9 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 10463 7 1 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 10625 11 3 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 8233 10 7 |
| Net Revenue | 0 | 0 0 0 | 20087 9 9 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 8434 10 1 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 7872 9 2 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 3374 10 2 | 0 | 0 0 0 | 2317 9 7 |

Tinnevelly,
11th February 1859.

(Signed) V. H. LEVINGE,
Acting Collector.

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No. 992.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 18th March 1859.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 11th February 1859, No. 50.
(In Con. 17th February 1859, No. 633.)

Resolved that the foregoing communication be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to para. 8 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 4751, dated 23d December 1858.

2. In this letter the Acting Collector explains the cause of the marked fluctuations in the annual rents of the Tinnevelly Chank Fishery, and which were noticed by the Board in their Proceedings above quoted.

3. The produce is stated by the Acting Collector to vary greatly in different years, and its price to depend on the state of the Bengal market which derives an unsteady supply from the Ceylon Fisheries.

4. The risk to which even renters of local influence are exposed is said to be great owing to the irregular conduct of the Divers, whose services are indispensable and not at all times procurable.

5. On the whole however the speculation is profitable as a scanty season tends to reduce the stock in the market and raise the price; and there is, and probably will be for a long time, a good demand for Chanks in Bengal.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.

R Cons = 25th Jany /59 No 17 & 19

Revenue 1859 Deptt
Cons 22d No March
471

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 18th
Recd 21st } March 1859.

1. Encl.

No 932.

Submitting a letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly explaining the cause of the marked fluctuations in the annual rents of the Tinnevelly Chank Fishery.

No 385 -

Recorded

Recorded

22d March 1859

No 93 & 94.

C 23d March R 28