M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 987 Press / Mis.

Dated 29th July 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 23d to 29th July 1859.

No. 9. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th July 1859, No. 2711.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 15th June 1859, No. 238, submitting a further report on the proposed Pearl Fishery.

(In Con. 20th June 1859, No. 2877.)

In the orders noted in the margin, Government sanctioned the employment of a Canoe and Crew* and the construction of two boats† and 48 buoys‡ for guarding the Pearl Banks off the coasts of Tinnevelly and Madura; and an estimate was also called for of the cost of entertaining three additional boats§ which, the late Master Attendant at Tuticorin stated, were necessary to guard the whole line of banks.

* *No.* 1243 *Rev. Dept., dated 2d in Con. 4th Dec.* 1857, *No.* 4813.
† ,, 227 *do.* ,, 18*th* ,, 23*d Feb.* 1859, ,, 732.
‡ ,, 1406 *do.* ,, 15*th* ,, 18*th Oct.* 1859,

§ *Para.* 13 *of Board's Proceedings, No.* 214, *dated* 20*th Jan*, 1859, *and para.* 3 *of E. M. C., No.* 227 *already quoted above.*

2. The death of this officer, to whom the construction of the boats and the care and management of the banks were entrusted, rendered it necessary for the Board to call upon the Acting Collector to report what arrangements he would propose for the future conservation, &c., of the banks, and he has now replied to the requisition.

24th Feb. 1859, *No.* 696.

3. Mr. Levinge thinks that, the banks are not poached and is of opinion that an additional Canoe, at the same cost (Rupees 34½) as that now employed, will be sufficient, for the present for guarding the banks of Tuticorin.

4. From an examination made under his orders, by the Jodee Talaven‖ from the 9th to the 16th May last, there appears to be no prospect of a valuable fishery for, at least, the next two or three years; although it is probable that two banks may be ready for fishing in March 1860.

‖ *Head of the Diver caste.*

5. One bank was examined in March last and six more, as above stated, in May, by the head diver, and 981 oysters taken from them. The oysters (250 in number) taken from two of the banks were opened, and they gave no promise of any great return from these banks. The pearls found in the remaining oysters, are herewith forwarded for the inspection of Government.

Six Packets.

6. Mr. Levinge observes, "the oysters for years now do not seem to grow. I have been "long resident in the district and have seen the Pearl oysters brought up from year to year, but "they are always small and generally void of pearls; if there are any found, they are very small, "not larger than a pin's head," and the specimens now submitted support the Acting Collector in this assertion.

7. He proposes a further examination of the same banks, by the head diver after the close of the north-east monsoon (in November and December) when it will be ascertained whether or not it will be expedient to organise a fishery in March 1860.

8. In Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 1598, dated 29th November 1858, Government sanctioned Rupees 2,585-4-8 for making a complete inspection of the banks. The Acting Collector is requested to state whether any of this sum has yet been expended and to mention the probable expence of his proposition which, from its limited character, will, doubtless, require much less than the sum above mentioned.

In Con. 2d December 1858, *No.* 5386.

9. In the meanwhile, as only 17 out of the 48 buoys sanctioned, have been constructed, Mr. Levinge proposes making, if possible 24 more of lighter wood than those already made, and which are stated to be useless in consequence of their great weight.

10. With regard to the future management of the banks, the Acting Collector thinks that it might with advantage be left to him. He has great confidence in the intelligence and influence of the head diver, and proposes availing himself largely of his agency, in the protection and examination of the banks which will be placed under the immediate charge of the Head Assistant

Collector who is stationed at Tuticorin. In the event of a fishery being established, the head diver, it appears, will be entitled to one or two boats as a fee or perquisite in return for his services.

11. The Board observe that the plan originally contemplated requires, for its success, the personal co-opeation of an officer possessing the peculiar qualifications of Captain Robserton, which may or may not be found in his successor. Until, therefore, Government can find an officer competent to take charge of the banks, as Captain Robertson did, the Board would recommend, that the conservancy and general management of the banks be entrusted to the Collector, and that Mr. Levinge be authorized to employ an additional Canoe at a charge of 34½ Rupees per mensem, and to make the requisite number of buoys submitting an estimate of the cost making a further examination of the Tuticorin banks in November and December next.

12. Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings and of the Collector's communication, be forwarded for the consideration and orders of Government.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 25th July 1859, No. 987.

Para. 1. In these proceedings the Board of Revenue recommend that the general management of the pearl banks on the Tinnevelly and Madura coasts should be entrusted to the Collector of Tinnevelly until Government can find an officer competent to take charge of it.

2. Mr. Phipps, the present Master Attendant at Tuticorin, was carefully selected with a special view to his being employed on this duty in addition to the ordinary functions of his office, and it is the wish of Government that all the operations connected with the pearl banks should be under his immediate personal charge; though he should correspond on the subject through the Collector, and be subject to his orders. The Board of Revenue will be requested to instruct the Collector accordingly.

3. The packet of small pearls will be returned to the Board.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

IN CON. 20TH JUNE 1859, No. 2877.

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

dated Tinnevelly, 15th June 1859, No. 238.

With reference to my letter of 9th March last, No. 102, as there can be no longer any doubt about Captain Robertson's fate, I have the honor to report without further delay that for the present I consider two canoes sufficient for the purpose of guarding the pearl banks off Tutacorin. One canoe at a monthly charge of Rupees 34-8 has been already sanctioned, another at the same charge is all that is required.

2. I have come to this conclusion after a consultation with the Jadee Talaven of Tutacorin who is the head of the fishermen and diver caste people there, and all along the coast; a man who is possessed of influence amongst the divers and information on the subject of the pearl fishery handed down in his family for many generations. In both guarding and making an examination of the pearl banks I should like to make great use of this man's influence and intelligence—the divers will not work well except under his orders and it cannot be expected that his influence would be exerted on the part of Government if he is passed over and I think it would be more advantageous, and he could be got to work better if placed under the orders of the Collector to be worked through the Head Assistant Collector whose head quarters is at Tutacorin than if put under the Master Attendant. The Jadee Talaven is entitled if a fishery takes place to have one or two boats as maniyam, for this he should render service and is willing to do so if treated with proper courtesy.

3. The examination of the banks made by him by my orders from the 9th to the 16th May has been more satisfactory than previous ones made by the late Master Attendant, though he did, in a way, employ the Jadee Talaven to superintend. A copy of his urzee to me is herewith sent, also some small pearls brought up by him. He is of opinion that only two banks will be found worth fishing and recommends, with which I agree, that after the close of the N. E. Monsoon when the sea is clear and tranquil a further examination of the banks named in his urzee should be made to ascertain for certain what prospect there is of a fishery in March 1860. To make that examination the necessary number of boats can be hired at the time. The instruments he calls "Kandacoals" are buoys, 48 were sanctioned, 17 have been made; out of the balance, I will have if possible 24 made of lighter wood and after the pattern in use in former times.

4. I have no doubt that Captain Robertson's zeal made him over sanguine and that there is not a probability of a valuable fishery occurring for at least two or three years, but the strange thing is that the oysters for years now do not seem to grow. I have been long resident in the district and have seen the pearl oysters brought up from year to year but they are always small and generally void of pearls, if there are any found they are very small, not larger than a pin's head. I do not think the banks are poached, if such occurred it would come out; for the present therefore I do not think it advisable for Government to go to any great expense in building or purchasing guard boats, one canoe to watch and warn off fishing boats from the banks off Tutacorin and the 2d to be employed off the new bank at Veerabandyapatam will be quite sufficient. The banks mentioned in the Jadee Talaven's urzee are to be found in the Charts of the pearl banks made by Captain Franklin in charge of the Manaar Survey.

ENC. 1.

TRANSLATION of an urzee addressed by Jandythalaven of Tutacorin.

On examining the pearl banks at Tutacorin from the 9th to the 16th of May 1859 the pearl oysters as shown below have been found:—

	No. of Oysters found.
1. Nagurapaur.....	211
2. Klateepaur.....	160
3. Tolirumpaur.....	100
4. Atuwaccanvodoopaur.....	150
5. Curixanpaur.....	223
6. Curixantoondoopaur.....	55
	899

The 250 oysters that have been found in Tolirumpaur and Atuwaccanvodoopaur have been opened and examined and it does not appear that they will be productive of any great advantage to Govern-

ment. The estimated value of the pearls found in the remaining 649 oysters taken from the other banks is Rs. 2 per munjaudy.* The pearls have not been valued after subjecting them to a formal test by placing them on a vessel containing holes as there are not sufficient oysters to do so. Therefore if the pearl banks are as usual examined in the months of November and December, about 1,000, or 1,500 oysters can be taken from each bank, and the pearls can then be valued after subjecting them to a formal test, and then it can be said certainly whether a pearl fishery can be conducted in March 1860. The bank called, "Vypauthoocaraypaur"* was examined on the 21st and 22d March, and 82 oysters have been taken. On cutting and examining them, a pearl hard and round of 50 petties,* weighing ¼ munjaudy and valued at 1 Rupee and 12 Annas; a pearl of 400 "petties," a pearl of 600 "petties," and a small pearl have been found and forwarded to your honor on the 7th instant. The number of oysters is not abundant in the said bank. The said bank can be examined in connection with the banks of Tutacorin.

* Is equal to $\frac{1}{44}$th of a Tola.

* Not in the Chart.

* Is a mark on the hole of the vessel, by which pearls are tested for ascertaining their value.

If, according to custom and to the order issued by the Board during the time of Mr. Eden, on the 12th September 1836 in the name of my father, two large dhonies and four small ones together with the other instruments called "Kondacoal" are ordered to be provided for the examination it can be ascertained in how many days and with what number of dhonies, the pearl fishery can be conducted. The examination made by employing vessels,* not only involves great expenditure to Government but proves unsatisfactory.

* Schooners.

The instruments called "Kondacoals" which have been made by the Master Attendant with anuenywood being too heavy, are useless—24 "Kondacoals" made of hill margoza wood, being absolutely required, I request to be favored with your honor's orders for my guidance.

As the number of oysters is abundant in the bank which I newly discovered this year at Veerapaudiapatam, I solicit that a guard boat may, as requested by me, be employed there to prevent fishing boats from approaching it.

(True Translation.)

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

PALAMCOTTAH,
31st May 1859.

Revenue Sept.

No. 987.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 25th July 1859.

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Submitting a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly reporting on the arrangements he would propose for the future conservation of the Pearl Banks off the Coast of Tinnevelly and Madura; and recommending that the general management of the banks be entrusted to the Collector until Government can find an Officer competent to take charge of it, and that Mr. Levinge be authorized to employ an additional Canoe at a charge of Rs 3 4/2 per Mensem.

(Here enter 11th July 1859 No 2711)

P.P. In these proceedings the Board of Revenue recommend that the general management of the pearl banks on the Tinnevelly

and

Printed Copy of
1859. No 1815. Respecting

From the Collector of
Tinnevelly
To the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Fort St. George

dated 15th June 1859

Rec'd 20th "
Answd. 20th "

No 238 Public
Encl. No 2 Pearl Banks

No
Submitting a petition
Enclosed on the subject of the
Tuticorin Pearl Fishery
and stating that 12 Canoes
will be sufficient for the
Fishery at a Guarding the
Pearl Banks off
Tuticorin

An Order 27th July

and Madura Coasts should be entrusted to the Collector of Tinnevelly until Govt can find an Officer competent to take charge of it.

2. ~~The Government~~ ~~have not~~ Mr. Phipps, the present Master Attendant at Tuticorin was carefully selected ~~especially~~ with a special view to his being employed on this duty in addition to the ordinary functions of his office, and it is the wish of ~~Govt~~ that all the operations connected with the Pearl banks should be under his immediate personal charge; ~~and that~~ though he should ~~conduct his~~ correspond on the subject the Collector, through and be subject to ~~the~~ his orders. ~~of the Collector~~. The Board of Revenue ~~to whom the packet~~

~~packet of pearls received with the above proceedings will be returned~~, will be requested to ~~give~~ instruct ~~time to~~ the Collector ~~in~~ accordingly ~~with the correspondence~~ ~~above noted~~.

3 The packet of small pearls will be returned to the Board.

J. A. H.

6 Copies to the Bd of Revd Dispd 26th with Pearls

2 — Master Attendant for Comn to Master Attendt at Tuticorin

Revenue 1859 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. 29th July.

No 987.

9-9-10

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dd 25th July 59.

All operations connected with pearl banks on the Tinnevelly and Madura Coasts to be under the immediate personal charge of the Master Attendant at Tuticorin.

No 9 & 10