M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1957-58 Press ~~Mis.~~

410-412

Dated 25—10—1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th October 1860.

Read the following papers:—

No. 410. Read the following letter from W.C. GIBSON, Esq., Colonial Secretary at Colombo, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Colombo, 27th September 1860, No. 88.

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No. 1,550 of the 8th instant, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Honorable the Governor of Madras in Council, that we have but one Diver now, and that he cannot be spared, under any circumstances, whether there be a Fishery or no, at the time mentioned by you.

No. 411. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th October 1860, No. 4,798.

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Tinnevelly, 12th October 1860, No. 389.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of a telegram from the Board, dated 9th instant, and in reply, beg to forward for the consideration of the Board, copies of a letter I addressed to the Master Attendant of Tuticorin, and of that Officer's reply, and I would beg to suggest the engagement of Mr. Burton, and the procuring a diving dress from the Ceylon Government, or elsewhere.

2. As regards the terms under which Mr. Burton should be engaged, I would suggest that the Ceylon Government be requested to state the period for which Mr. Burton was engaged in that Island, the rate of wages he received, and the reason of his having been discharged.

3. If the Ceylon Government do not intend to have a Pearl Fishery next year, they will most probably be able to supply us with a diving dress, and in the mean time I will inquire if the Diving Apparatus offered for sale by Mr. Cocq, some months ago, is still on hand.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government

2. The Board think that at present under the circumstances stated, it is not expedient to send to England for Divers, and they are of opinion that the services of Mr. Burton, should be secured if there is nothing in his leaving the employment of the Ceylon Government to preclude his engagement. They also recommend that a diving dress be procured from England at once unless there is one available in the Government stores at Madras.

(A true Extract and Copy.)

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

No. 412. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1860, No. 1,957.

1. In the letter recorded above, the Government of Ceylon intimate that they cannot spare their only English Diver for the Tinnevelly Pearl Fishery. After further consultation with the Collector of Tinnevelly, the Board of Revenue do not now advise the immediate procuring of Divers from England; but suggest the engagement if unobjectionable, of Mr. Burton, lately a Diver in the service of the Ceylon Government, and the obtaining of an apparatus for him.

2. In accordance with this recommendation, the Government of Ceylon will be requested to engage Mr. Burton, or, if from any reason he is not available or eligible, Mr. Farmer named in Mr. Phipps' letter of the 18th May No. 44. With respect to the apparatus, it seems clear from Mr. Phipps' letter of the 11th October, No. 76, that the Ceylon Government have none to spare, neither is any procurable at Madras. The Board will be requested to report as soon as possible whether that belonging to Mr. Cocq is in a serviceable state, and if so whether it can be had on reasonable terms. Should this not be the case application will be made, by telegraph to the Government of Bombay; and if that resource also should fail the Secretary of State will be requested to cause one to be sent out by Steamer.

3. The Government observe that they were formerly informed that a Diver would be wanted about the 25th February ;* but the Master Attendant now says that he will be required on the 1st November.

* *Board's Procs. Sept. 4th, No. 4,045.*

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

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 413. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, dated 25th October 1860, No. 1,958 :—

SIR,

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, No. 88 ; stating that there is now only one English Diver in the service of the Ceylon Government and that he cannot possibly be spared.

2. This Government has been informed that Mr. Burton, the Head English Diver of the Ceylon Government has been recently discharged, and that his services may be obtained. I am directed to request therefore that unless the circumstances connected with Mr. Burton's discharge were such as to disqualify him for employment under this Government, means may be taken to engage him. If thus engaged it is requested that he may be desired to repair to Tuticorin immediately and report himself to the Master Attendant there ; as it is desired that the examination of the banks should commence very shortly.

3. Should Mr. Burton not be avilable or eligible, I am to ask whether Mr. Farmer who was sent on the last occasion can be procured, and if so to request that he may be engaged and sent to Tuticorin.

4. I am directed to solicit the favour of an early reply to this letter.

2

No 757 Tinnevelly 10th October 1860

From

J. Silver Esqre
Collector

To

G. A. Phipps Esqre
Master Attendant
Tuticoreen

Sir,

From the enclosed Copy of a Telegram from the Board of Revenue, you will observe, that the Ceylon Divers are not available, and as regards the expediency of now sending to England for Divers, I am of opinion, that as the contemplated fishery next year, will only be on a small scale, and very much in the light of an experiment, it would not be prudent to incur the great expense of sending to England for Divers. Before however replying to the question put to me by the Board, I am desirous of having the benefit of your opinion on the subject. I request

you

request therefore that you will state whether from all that you have seen of the present condition of the Pearl Banks off this Coast, you would advise the step of getting Divers out from England immediately, and if so, what ought to be the terms of their engage-ment, for one season, or for a term of years? you will observe, that the Government must be guided mainly by your opinion on this point, and I therefore request you will give it very careful consideration. I beg also that you will state when the season begins and ends.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. Silver
Collector

No. 76
Master Attendant's Office
Tuticorin 11th October 1860

From
G. A. Phipps Esqre
Master Attendant

To
J. Silver Esqre
Collector of
Tinnevelly.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 757 dated 10th Instant, enclosing Copy of a Telegram received from the Board of Revenue, I have the honor to inform you that I am of opinion that as the Ceylon Divers will not be available in March next, it is at this period unnecessary to procure Divers from England, particularly as it will involve a very heavy outlay, and they will arrive too late for the examination of the Pearl Banks, which must take place in about 15 days from this.

2. As the Banks which I propose should be fished early this next year, are of considerable extent and will I think yield a large Fishery, the services of an European Diver at that time will be of great advantage; when in Ceylon, I was informed that Mr. Burton the Head

1110

head European diver employed by the Ceylon Government, had been discharged, and if wanted, arrangements could be made to procure his services here; as this plan will be much easier, and more certain, I beg to suggest it for your consideration.

3. Should you be of this opinion, it will be necessary to procure a diving Apparatus, the Ceylon Government are possessed two, but one was lately damaged at Galle, and they will therefore be unable to assist, it seems probable to me that one may be procured from the Arsenal Stores at Madras, or from one of the Indian Navy Steamers as frequenting that Port, if not there is time to procure one from England, which if brought over land and landed at Galle can be here in time for the fishery.

4. Should the Pearl fishery in March next be as successful as I anticipate, it may then be as a matter for consideration whether it will not be advisable to procure divers from England on an agreement to stay a certain number of years.

5 The season for examining the Pearl Banks commences about the 1st. of November and continues upto about the 5th. May, the Months of March and April are most favorable, as it is then often calm, and the Sea becomes exceedingly clear.

I have &c.

/signed/ G. A. Phipps
Master Attendant

/True Copies/
/signed/ J. Silver
Collector.

/True Copy/
J. D. Lee
Secretary.

Compd/ French.

1860 Dept.

Copy in a Letter to Govt.
of 2d. February 61 No. 29.

Enclosure in the
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 19 October 1860
No. 4798.—

P 2328/60.

Copies of correspondence
to and from the Master
Attendant of Tuticorin
regarding European
Divers.—

25 October 1860

…cated with the Colls of Jesus only
on the subject of the Jesuits

The reply of the Secretaries General
was to the effect that the Jesuits were
informed that a decision would be
arrived at in February
Easter allowed
The Colls. also that it will be
arrived at on the 1st April.

4 I suppose the first
will ask the Ceylon govt to
be requested to impose either a duty
Mr Saunders was writing
on Mr Farmer named in
Mr Phillips' former letter

Copies also
sent to Col Office
Sept 4-

…May 18.

5 As to the Apparatus:
it seems clear that the
Ceylon govt have some
Captain Jones. I will endea-
vour to ascertain from
Franklin whether
he has it; if not, a
Cooey is at the
may be sent with the
from England. It
sent by the middle
J. E. Lefroy

6 The Exeter drivers are

Revenue Dept

No 1957.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 25th October 1860.

Read the following

papers.

From the Colonial Secretary at Colombo.

States that the Govt
of Ceylon have but one diver now / Hereenter 27 September 1860
and that he cannot be spared. No 885

Proceedings of the Board of Revs

Submitting a letter
from the Collector of Tinnevelly
and recommending the en-
gagement of Mr Burton
for the Pearl Fishery and the
procuring a Divers Dress from
England.

(Hereenter 19 October
No 4799

In the letter record
above the Government of Ceyl
intimate that they cannot
spare their only Englis
diver for the Tinnevelly
Pearl fishery. After
further consultation wi

the Collector of Tinnevelly, the Board of Revenue do not now advise the immediate procuring of divers from England; but suggest the engagement if unobjectionable, of Mr Burlow, lately a diver in the service of the Ceylon Government, and the obtaining of an apparatus for him.

2 In accordance with this recommendation, the Government of Ceylon will be requested to engage Mr Burlow, or, if from any reason he is not available or eligible, Mr Farmer named in Mr Phipps' letter of the 18th May No 44. With respect to the apparatus, it seems clear from ~~the Master Attendant of Tuticorin~~ Mr Phipps' letter of the 11th October, No 76, that the Ceylon Government have none to spare, neither is any procurable at Madras. The Board will be requested to report as soon as possible whether that belonging to Mr Coey is in a serviceable state, & if so whether it can be had on reasonable terms. Should this not be the case application will be made, by telegraph to the Government of Bombay; and if that also resources should fail the Secretary of State will be requested to cause one to be sent out by Steamer.

3. The Government observe that they were formerly informed that a diver would be wanted about

about the 25th February; but
the Master Attendant now
says that he will be required
on the 1st November.

* Boards pro: Septr 4th 1846/45

10 Copies
To the Board of Revenue
Cust.

Rev. Dept.

No 1958.

To

The Colonial Secretary

at Colombo.

Sir,

I am directed to ac-
knowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 27th ultimo
No 88, stating that there is
now only one English diver
in the service of the Ceylon
Government and that he
cannot possibly be spared.

2 This Government
has been informed that Mr.
Burton, the Head English
diver of the Ceylon Govern-
ment has been recently
discharged, and that his
services may be obtained.
I am directed to request
therefore that enclosed the
circumstances connected
with

Ref. Chief Sec. No. 26.

European Diver and Diving Apparatus for Tuticorin Pearl Fishery.

130-31
9-9-69

Revenue 1869 Sept.
Pearl Fishery for Petition
No 1958.

Requisition of Madras Govt
Dy 25th Oct 69.

Letter to Govt
Dy 2 Nov 29.

Transmits the Petition of the Chetties of Madras praying that a Diver may be sent from Colombo to Tuticorin to assist in the Pearl Fishery.

Govt of Ceylon to be requested to engage the services of Mr. Burton on the usual terms for Tuticorin Pearl Fishery.

Board of Revenue to report whether the application be complied with.

Copies to Govt of Ceylon, Board of Revenue, and Pearl Fishery Committee.

Letter to Govt
Dy 2 Nov 29.

No 1041 of 1869.

Letter from Govt
Dy 28th Nov 69
No 2708.

with Mr Burton's discharge were such as to disqualify him for employment under this Government, means may be taken to engage him. If thus engaged it is requested that he may be desired to repair to Tuticorin immediately and report himself to the Master Attendant there, as it is desired that the examination of the banks should commence very shortly.

3 Should Mr Burton not be available or eligible, I am to ask whether Mr Farmer, who was sent on the last occasion can be procured, and if so to request that he may be engaged and sent to Tuticorin.

4 I am directed to solicit the favour of an early reply to this letter.

Fort St Geo:
25th Octr 1860.

Revenue 1860 Dept.
Proc: of Govt for October.

No 1958

To the Colonial Secretary
at Colombo-
Dy 25th October 1860.

Requesting to procure
the services of English
Diver Mr Burton or
Mr Farmer for the Tinnevelly
Pearl Fishery-

2

To the Govt
European Diver for Tinnevelly
Pearl Fishery.

Copy in a Letter to Engd.
Dy 2d Feby 61 No 29.

No 413.