M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1745	Press ~~Mis.~~
215. 216.	
Dated 16 8.	1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 16th August 1862.

No. 215. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1862, No. 4,692 :—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Tenkasy, 20th June 1862, No. 240.

SIR,

1. As it is now necessary to determine the system under which the Chank Fishery shall be conducted, after the close of the present Fasli, I have the honor to submit to the Board my opinion that the system of licensing boats should be continued.

2. I beg to forward, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, dated 18th June on this subject, and also copy of a communication from Mr. Cocq of Tuticorin, dated the 11th June. Mr. Cocq's letter needs no remark, he would doubtless bid high to get a monopoly of the fishery again, but I am satisfied that the open system is the best, with reference to the conservation of the Pearl Banks, an object of far greater importance than the revenue from the Chank Fishery.

3. I beg therefore to propose to the Board, that licenses be granted to boats paying each a license fee of *Rupees* 400, and under the same rules and restrictions as have been in force this year, all of which have been already detailed to the Board, to fish Chanks this next season commencing 1st October 1862, and ending 30th June 1863. The revenue derived from the Chank Fishery this season amounted to Rupees 6,400.

ENCLSOURE No. 1.

From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 18th June 1862, No. 54.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 665, dated 13th instant, and in reply beg to inform you that the system introduced last year for conducting the Chank Fishery has worked completely to my satisfaction, during the diving season just closed, I have had no complaints made by the Tindals of the Guard Schooners, and am fully satisfied that the parties who obtained licenses have carefully attended to the terms under which they were granted.

2. The new system has without doubt improved the condition of the Divers, the competition that exists for their services and the higher rates of pay which they obtain, has had a good effect, and as I anticipated the number engaged in the Chank Fishery is already increasing, and I fully expect that several Boatmen, who were formerly Divers, will again become so during the next season.

3. The price of Chanks in Bengal has fallen considerably during the last year, so much so, that a part of those that have been fished during the last season have been sold here for Rupees 7-8-0 per 100, this has diminished the amount of profits formerly expected, in suggesting therefore that the same system should be continued during the ensuing season, I am not disposed to recommend that any alteration should be made in the amount of the fee to be paid for the licenses.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From C. H. R. COCQ AND CO., to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 11th June 1862.

SIR,

1. By your letter of the 29th June 1861, you informed us in answer to our letter of 26th of the same month, that Government had determined to make an experiment for one year, with regard to the Chank Fishery ; as that year has now expired, and we have heard nothing further with regard to it, will you please inform us if you think it advisable to carry it on in the same manner for the succeeding years, or whether you will again submit it to public auction.

2. We now as we did at that time, fancy that had the right been sold by auction, G ment would have received an increased revenue from the Fishery ; as it now is, as the Divers are all retained by two parties, the Fishery is as much a monopoly as ever, and there is no chance for any outsider to take any part in it. Government will, therefore, receive only the same revenue during this Fasli as they received during the last, which was much under what we then offered.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

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1. The Board accede to the Collector's proposal to continue the system of licensing boats, and request to be furnished with a report of the results at the close of the current Fasli.

2. In the meanwhile Mr. Silver will explain the cause of the great difference between the amount (Rupees 16,000) anticipated last year from the Chank Fishery as reported in his letter, dated 12th June 1861, No. 253, and that actually realized which he now states to have been only Rupees 6,400.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 216. ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1862, No. 1,745.

1. The Board's order in paragraph 1 of these Proceedings is approved.

2. The explanation called for from the Collector in paragraph 2 should, when received, be laid before Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 4,692.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th July 1862.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. Silver, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly.

Copy to A. J. Arbuthnot, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Exd. J. Wright.

Dated 19th July 1862.

No. 4692.

Acceding to the proposal to continue the system of licensing boats, and requesting a report of the results at the close of the current Fasli and explanation of the cause of the difference between the amount anticipated last year from the Chank Fishery and that actually realized.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

1862 Department.

No.