M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2537 Press
Mis.

53.54

Dated 3 - 12 - 19 86

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd December 1862.

No. 53. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th November 1862:—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Tinnevelly, 5th November 1862, No, 475.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board and Government copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, dated Tuticorin, 3rd November, from which it will be seen that there are no hopes of a Pearl Fishery this next year, as had been anticipated.

2. I am greatly disappointed at this, but I am quite satisfied that the disappearance of the Oysters is owing to natural causes alone. Similar cases have again and again been met with, and many theories have been started, to account for the mysterious disappearance of whole banks of Oysters. In a new work I have lately met with, "the Voyage of the Novara," I find it asserted by the author, on the authority of an eminent Naturalist, the late Dr. Kellaart of Ceylon, that the Pearl Oyster has the power of locomotion, and of transporting itself from one locality to another, which he assigns as the reason, for the frequent total disappearance of the Oysters from a bank, which had a few months previously been found to be thickly covered with them.

3. In a demi-official letter Captain Phipps writes to me as follows: "You will be greatly disappointed at the intelligence of the failure of the Trichendoor bank. The immense bank of Oysters has almost entirely disappeared. Last year, the divers could bring up from 50 to 100 each dive; now we can only get 5 or 10, and that only in some parts. I am inclined to believe that as the sand has accumulated, the Oysters have cast off, and been carried by the current either into deep water, or on to some other bank—the latter is improbable." Captain Phipps as soon as the weather will permit, will make a careful examination of all other banks in that neighbourhood, but I entertain no hopes now of a Fishery next year.

4. Captain Phipps' examination of the northern banks off the Coast of Madura, made last month, was likewise unsuccessful; no Oysters were found.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government. The loss is to be regretted, but affords no ground for surprise, or distrust of the real value of the banks.

2. The Collector will take care to note the probable diminution in receipts from this source in his Budget Memorandum.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed.) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 3rd December 1862, No. 2,537.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

regretted, but affords no ground for surprise, or distrust of the real value of the Banks.

2. The Collector will take care to note the probable diminution in receipts from this source in his Budget Memo.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
[illegible]
Secretary

To
A. J. Arbuthnot Esq.
Chief Secretary to Government
with enclosure.

Rev: 1862 O. 1st
Pro: of Govt. for Decr. No. 3136.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

2537

31 January /62 No. 278 C 281
Copy in a Letter to England
d/10th January No. 4 of 1863

Dated 12th
Despd. 12
Recd. 13th } November 1862.

C. I. Ol. cs. R. P.
A.

Submitting for the information of Govt. a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly informing that there are no hopes of a Pearl Fishery this next year as had been anticipated.

No. 2537.

RECORDED.

14 Copies to the B. of Revenue Dept. &c. with 1 orig. Encl. 3

No. 53 & 54.

15th Nov /62 R. 17th

Jint. Sect.
3d Decr. /62