

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 848	Press Mis.
190-191	
Dated 15-5-19	1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th May 1863.*

No. 190. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th April 1863, No. 2,379:—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th April 1863, No. 155.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a report from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, dated 11th April, showing the result of his examination of the Oyster Banks. The prevalence of the Mollusc called "Sooram," remarked on by Captain Phipps, is doubtless one cause of so many banks being reported blank; it kills the Oysters, and the dead shells would be washed away by the action of the water. I beg to recommend that the guard boats be laid up, retaining a Tindal and two Lascars, as recommended by Captain Phipps, till the close of the south-west monsoon permits further examination to be made.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

No. 35.

Report of the examination of the Pearl Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevely and Madura, 1862 and 1863.

The examination of the Pearl Banks commenced on the 20th October, on which date I set sail from Tuticorin in the "Emily" having the "Edith" with the European diver and two canoes in company with four Native divers, at 4 P. M. I anchored at Yawaddy for the night, and proceeded on the morning of the 21st for Paumban, where I arrived during the day. Here I was delayed by strong winds and cloudy weather until the 25th, when I again got under weigh, and examined the three Banks off the Island of Ramusserem. These I found to be blank, and with no appearances of Pearl Oysters; off one Bank the divers brought up three Kallikoy and some Sooram: on this Bank the sea broke heavily, and I am doubtful if the Pearl Oyster could thrive on it. After completing the examination of these Banks, we passed over the rocky edge off Munnali Island. This is a very narrow patch. The divers went down several times, but found no Oysters. At 5-30 P. M. I anchored for the night close to Moolee Island.

26th October.—Weighed at daylight and stood to the southward crossing the reef in 2½ fathoms, at 9 A. M. I hove to and examined the Banks between Moolee and Mossel Island; found no Oysters: these Banks are now mostly covered with sand. After finishing these I steered to the westward over the patches of rock off Sheemoodeely Island, which the divers reported blank. I then anchored for the night.

27th October.—Weighed at daylight and examined the Banks off Keelacarry; found them to be large and hard rocks: the divers reported no Oysters, but brought up some Kallikoy. After completing these Banks I was joined by the "Edith" with the European diver who reported having examined the Anie Par Banks, on one of which he found one Oyster of three years' old. Passed over the Nallatanny Teevo Banks which were found blank, and then over a patch of rocky ground in 4½ and 5 fathoms, which the divers reported also blank. At 4 P. M. the vessels anchored for the night.

28th October.—Weighed at daylight and proceeded to the Mookoor Banks; the divers found nothing but weeds and coarse sponge. I then steered to the southward over a patch of rock but found nothing on it. Examined the Banks off Vambar; these were also found blank. This completed the examination of all the Banks on the Coast of Madura, and in the evening returned to Tuticorin.

30th October.—Weighed at daylight, the wind very light at 1 P. M. Anchored off Pundicoil.

31st October.—4-30 A. M. weighed with light land wind and proceeded to the Velangoo Karooval Par; found very few old Oysters, but the whole Bank covered with young ones a few months old; kept the divers at work who reported that Sooram was mixed with the young Oysters in many places. At 4 P. M. anchored for the night.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th May 1863.*

November 1st.—At daylight calm proceeded in a Canoe to the south-east the European diver working from the "Edith;" the divers reported young Oysters mixed with Sooram in every direction; in one part a few old Oysters were found. As these were the Banks proposed to fish this year, and the old Oysters having disappeared, I returned to Tuticorin to report the same to the Collector.

The following Tuticorin Banks were then examined on various dates:—

OODOOREEVY PAR.—Blank.

KLATIEE PAR.—Blank.

PAUSEE PAR.—Young Oysters mixed with Sooram.

PUTARI PAR.—Sooram with a very few young Oysters.

CRUCHAN PAR.—Sooram.

CRUCHAN TONDoo PAR.—Blank.

NAGARA PAR.—Blank.

OOTTEE PAR.—Blank.

AUTTOOVUAUROOPOGA PAR.—Young Oysters much mixed with Sooram.

KANNUTTREVOAKOOPAGA PAR.—Blank.

KOOTADIA PAR.—Sooram and Kallikoy with a few young Oysters.

THOLAYERM PAR.—Sooram and Kallikoy with a few young Oysters.

November 13th.—Proceeded to Trichendoor and examined the

SUNTONICOVILPUDITA PAR.—Plenty of young Oysters free from Sooram.

November 14th.—Heavy rain returned to Tuticorin.

December 22nd.—At daylight proceeded to examine the Trichendoor Banks with four Canoes, wind very light; kept the divers employed on various parts; found plenty of young Oysters mixed with Sooram and a few old ones. Anchored on the Bank this night, and the next day continued the examination with no better success; in the evening returned to Tuticorin.

January 22nd.—At 5 P. M. set sail from Tuticorin; at 9 P. M. anchored for the night off Trichendoor. At daylight weighed and passed over the Velangoo, Karoovel, and Karia Karoovel Pars. On these Banks again found a few old Oysters with plenty of young ones mixed with Sooram. At 3 P. M. anchored near Trichendoor.

January 23rd.—At 6-30 A. M. set sail and proceeded to the Poontata Par; found young Oysters mixed with Sooram; returned in the evening to Tuticorin, the weather not being favorable for continuing the examination.

16th February.—At daylight left Trichendoor and proceeded to the Semmanputtee Par; found no Oysters or Sooram; 1 P. M. anchored at Manapad.

19th.—At daylight proceeded and examined the Banks to the south-east in 4½ and 5 fathoms which were found blank, wind blowing strong from the north-east at 4 P. M. anchored at Manapad.

20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th detained by bad weather at Manapad.

25th.—More moderate.

26th.—At daylight made sail; sent "Edith" to examine the Banks off Thally; examined the Manapad Par which was found blank. At 5 P. M. anchored at Allentolly.

27th.—Made sail and stood to the eastward; examined large patches of rock, on one of which the divers reported a few young Oysters; this the Parmandadies called a part of the Kariakaruvel Par.

In the evening anchored off Trichendoor when the "Edith" returned, and reported the Banks of Thally blank.

28th.—Weighed at daylight and examined the

KADIAN PAR.—Sooram.

KUNAVA PAR.—Sooram.

NADOMALIPUDITTA PAR.—Blank.

PERIAMULIPUTTA PAR.—Blank.

In the evening anchored at Tuticorin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th May 1863.*

March 3rd.—Set sail from Tuticorin; at 4 P. M., anchored off Punnicoil, and on the 4th and following days I examined the

Poodoo Par which was found blank with some Sooram.

SOITTOOCODAMOTTEE PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

RAJAOOKODSEPPPEORETTA PAR.—Blank.

SANDAMURAMPUDITTA PAR.—Nearly blank; on one part a few young Oysters.

SETTAN PAR.—Blank.

COVILPUDETTAPATTARI PAR.—In one part the divers brought up a few young Oysters mixed with Sooram.

COVILPUDETTAPATHO PAR.—Blank.

VADONBADO PAR.—Blank.

SAYATONBADO PAR.—Blank.

POOLEEPOONTETTOO PAR.—Blank.

CANNAPOONTETTOO PAR.—Blank.

PARKUDANCHAN PAR.—Blank.

NENCHOORICHAN PAR.—Blank.

MALAONBADO PAR.—Blank.

SATACORIAPADINONNO PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

SANCORIAPADINONNO PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

NEELANGALLAPATTI PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

NEELANGALLOOPADINONMOO PAR.—Blank.

PANDARATOPPOPUDITTAPANEERENDO PAR.—Blank.

VYPPAR BANKS, KARIAPAR.—Blank, but since stocked with 12,000 young Oysters.

PADOTTANMARIKAN PAR.—Blank.

CASOOVARAURAPAGA PAR.—Blank.

VANTEVO AUROPAGO PAR.—Blank.

PEROONANDO PAR.—Blank.

DAVIPAR.—Young Oysters found on this Bank.

PERIAPAR.—Blank.

TUTACORIN BANKS, AUTTOOVAAROOPAG PAR.—Blank.

KANNATEEVOAUROOPAGA PAR.—Young Oysters in small quantities.

TOONDOPAR.—Young Oysters in small quantities.

ATONBADO PAR.—Blank.

From the foregoing report it will be observed that I have examined, during this season, 72 Pearl Banks, besides several patches of rock which I found by the lead; the result is unfavorable. Out of the 72 Banks, four only contain Oysters free from Sooram and eleven with young Oysters mixed with Sooram, and 57 blank or partly covered with Sooram. The quantity of Oysters on those Banks that are free from Sooram is not very large; but will I think be sufficient to yield a fishery. I regret that I cannot hold out any hopes of a fishery off those Banks on which the young Oysters are mixed with Sooram, as in a few months they will probably be blank again. The Sooram this season appear to be more abundant than usual, very few of the Banks being entirely free from it. As I consider that keeping up the full establishment for guarding the Banks in their present state is unnecessary, I beg to recommend that all the guard boats be laid up from the 30th instant, the Tindal and Crew of the "Edith" and "Pearl" being discharged, and the Tindal of the "Emily"

1 Tindal.....	Rupees 19	and two Lascars at an expense as per margin, being
1 Lascar.....	" 12	retained to look after the three vessels. At the close
1 Do.....	" 10	of the south-west monsoon all the guard boats can then
	Rupees 41	be fitted out and further examinations made.

During the 1st and 2nd of this month I endeavoured to try the experiment of shifting some young Oysters from the Velangoo Karooval Par to the Vyppar Kariapar. This I regret to say it was found impossible to do properly, Mr. Farmer, the European Diver, being unable to work, and having only one Native Diver with me, I was therefore only able to remove 12,000

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th May 1863.*

young Oysters. This quantity is very small; but as the Karia Par, on which they were placed was before perfectly blank, I hope to have no difficulty in finding them again. Should they however disappear, I would not consider the experiment to have been fairly tried: the proper quantity should have been fully a lac or more. I have found young Oysters when torn from a rock, and placed in a finger glass, quickly to re-form a fresh Byssus, and when again roughly torn off fix themselves to the side of the glass within a few hours. This I consider sufficient to warrant the trial of stocking the banks artificially on a large scale.
TUTACORIN, 11th April 1863.

(Signed) G. A. PHIPPS,
Superintendent of Pearl Banks

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, *Collector*

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government. The Collector will as proposed lay up the guard boats till after the south-west monsoon.
2. Captain Phipps' examination appears to have been conducted very thoroughly and satisfactorily although the find of Oysters was small.
3. The Board will look with interest for the reports of his further experiment in artificially stocking the Banks.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 191.

ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1863, No. 848.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government

March 3rd.—Set sail from Tutacorin; at 4 p. m., anchored off Punnicoil, and on the 4th and following days I examined the

Poodoo Par which was found blank with some Sooram.

SOITTOOCODAMCTTEE PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

RAJAOOKOOSPEEPPORETTA PAR.—Blank.

SANDAMURAMPUDITTA PAR.—Nearly blank; on one part a few young Oysters.

SETTAN PAR.—Blank.

COVILPUDETTAPATTARI PAR.—In one part the divers brought up a few young Oysters mixed with Sooram.

COVILPUDETTAPATHO PAR.—Blank.

VADONBADO PAR.—Blank.

SAYATONBADO PAR.—Blank.

POOLEETOONTETTOO PAR.—Blank.

CANNAPONTETTOO PAR.—Blank.

PARKUDANCHAN PAR.—Blank.

NENCHOORICHAN PAR.—Blank.

MALANBADO PAR.—Blank.

SATACORIAPADINONNO PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

SANCORIAPADINONNO PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

NEELANGALLAPATTI PAR.—Blank and Sooram.

NEELANGALLOPADINONMOO PAR.—Blank.

PANDARATOPPODITTAPANEERENDO PAR.—Blank.

VYPPAR BANKS, KARIAPAR.—Blank, but since stocked with 12,000 young Oysters.

PADOTTANMARIKAN PAR.—Blank.

CASOOVARAURAPAGA PAR.—Blank.

VANTEVO AUROPAGO PAR.—Blank.

PEROONANDO PAR.—Blank.

DAVIPAR.—Young Oysters found on this Bank.

PERIAPAR.—Blank.

TUTACORIN BANKS, AUTTOOVAAROOPAG PAR.—Blank.

KANNATEEVOAUROEAGA PAR.—Young Oysters in small quantities.

TOONDOPAR.—Young Oysters in small quantities.

ATONBADO PAR.—Blank.

From the foregoing report it will be observed that I have examined, during this season, 72 Pearl Banks, besides several patches of rock which I found by the lead; the result is unfavorable. Out of the 72 Banks four only contain Oysters free from Sooram and eleven with young Oysters mixed with Sooram, and 57 blank or partly covered with Sooram. The quantity of Oysters on those Banks that are free from Sooram is not very large; but will I think be sufficient to yield a fishery. I regret that I cannot hold out any hopes of a fishery off those Banks on which the young Oysters are mixed with Sooram, as in a few months they will probably be blank again. The Sooram this season appear to be more abundant than usual, very few of the Banks being entirely free from it. As I consider that keeping up the full establishment for guarding the Banks in their present state is unnecessary, I beg to recommend that all the guard boats be laid up from the 30th instant, the Tindal and Crew of the "Edith" and "Pearl" being discharged, and the Tindal of the "Emily".

1 Tindal..	..	Rupees	19	and two Lascars at an expense as per margin, being
1 Lascar..	..	"	12	retained to look after the three vessels. At the close
1 Do.	..	"	10	of the south-west monsoon all the guard boats can then
		Rupees..	41	be fitted out and further examinations made.

19. During the 1st and 2nd of this month I endeavoured to try the experiment of shifting some young Oysters from the Velango Karooval Par to the Vyppar Kariapar. This I regret to say it was found impossible to do properly, Mr. Farmer, the European Diver, being unable to work, and having only one Native Diver with me, I was therefore only able to remove 12,000

young Oysters. This quantity is very small; but as the Karia Par, on which they were placed, was before perfectly blank, I hope to have no difficulty in finding them again. Should they however disappear, I would not consider the experiment to have been fairly tried; the proper quantity should have been fully a lac or more. I have found young Oysters when torn from a rock, and placed in a finger glass, quickly to re-form a fresh Byssus, and when again roughly torn off fix themselves to the side of the glass within a few hours. This I consider sufficient to warrant the trial of stocking the banks artificially on a large scale.

(Signed) G. A. PHIPPS,

Superintendent of Pearl Banks.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government. The Collector will as proposed lay up the guard boats till after the south-west monsoon.
2. Captain Phipps' examination appears to have been conducted very thoroughly and satisfactorily although the find of Oysters was small.
3. The Board will look with interest for the reports of his further experiment in artificially stocking the Banks.

(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]

Secretary.

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

Copy to J. Silver, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. J. Wright.

*Copy in a letter to Govt.
of 16th May 1863*

18190 491

27 May 1863

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 955-

1863. Department

Sho. of Govt for May

Dated 24th April 1863.

Despatched 29th

Received 30th

No. 2,379.

Submitting for information a letter from the Collector of Tinnevely forwarding copy of a report from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks showing the result of his examination of the Oyster Banks.

RECORDED.

150-2nd J. R. 1863

11 Copies to the Dep. Secy to Govt.