M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1193 Press ~~Mis.~~

852-153

Dated 8-7- ~~18~~ 1865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th July 1864.

No. 152. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1864, No. 3,653.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 28th May 1864, No. 206 :—

With reference to the Proceedings of Government on the report of the Port of Paumben, dated 12th May 1864, No. 817, forwarded to me by the Board on the 14th idem, I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a letter addressed to me by Captain Phipps, dated the 26th instant, with copy of its enclosure, a letter to Major Syme at Paumben.

ENCLOSURE. No. 1.

From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 26th May 1864, No. 19.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, No. 133, dated 12th instant.

2. With reference to the fact of pearl oysters having been found attached to the buoys in the neighbourhood of the Paumben channel, I would beg to remark, that such has been the case before. Captain Daviot, the Government Head Pilot, mentioned a similar occurrence to me when employed as Beach Master at the Tuticorin Pearl Fishery of 1861, and on my visiting Paumben in November 1862, I was shown specimens of Pearl shells procured from the same source.

3. The circumstance of pearl oysters being found attached to the buoys in the channel, is to me by no means remarkable ; it is well known that the spawn or spat of the pearl oyster floats in the sea, and on attaining a certain age attaches itself to rock or any other substance in which it may come in contact ; it is therefore possible that the spawn of these oysters was carried by the current into the position in which they were found, and in a place like the Paumben channel where a strong current is always running, and which must have passed over parts of the sea containing rocky ground and on which pearl oysters exist, one of which is known to yield from eight to twelve millions of eggs, it is, I think, extremely probable that this may be sufficient to account for their appearance on the Paumben buoys. I have no doubt but that if search was made, young pearl oysters might be found attached to the rocks in the channel also.

4. The intelligence of the finding of pearl oysters on the buoys in the Keelakaray channel, was kindly furnished to me by Major Syme, Superintendent of Operations at Paumben, in April last ; a copy of my reply to him on the subject I beg to enclose. I would mention that Major Syme informed me that some of the shells had been lost, which will account for his having sent me so few.

From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Superintendent of Pearl Banks, Tuticorin, to Major W. SYME, Superintendent of Operations, Paumben, dated 18th April 1864, No. 7.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 19, dated 11th instant, with enclosures, forwarding two packages of pearl oyster shells, for which please accept my best thanks.

2. The *oyster* found on the beach at Keelakary, is a very good specimen, being of full age ; if it were possible to find a bank stocked with similar ones, it would be very valuable indeed. The other package contained the shells of a pearl oyster about four years old, the remainder being two edible oysters and one barnacle ; I note that these with some others were found on one of the buoys in the Keelakaray channel. Pearl oysters have been procured in small quantities in the Paumben channel also, on the reefs near the islands, and returning to Tuticorin I found some on a bank off Keelakaray and Annapar Island, but these are of little use, except so far as they are good for stocking other banks with their spawn ; for a successful pearl fishery we require single banks that will yield oysters in very large quantities.

3. Should you again hear of pearl shells being washed on shore in your neighbourhoo shall be obliged by your sending me early intelligence.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, *Collecto*

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 153.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1864, No. 1,193.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,653.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th June 1864.

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3. Should you again hear of pearl shells being washed on shore in your neighbourhood, I shall be obliged by your sending me early intelligence.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

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

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

Exd. J. Wright.

Rec'd 12 March 1864.

Read 1864. Department

Pro: Proceedings for the day

No. 1583.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 15th June 1864.

No. 3,653.

Submitting for information letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly forwarding copy of Captain Phipps' observations on the report of the Port of Paumben for the year ending 30th April 1864.

Recorded

Read 15th March 1864.

Ans. 22nd March

Capt. Phipps Letter to Sec. Govt. Madras 11th July