M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1209 Press

184-185

Dated 11—7—1884

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th July 1864.

N. 184. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st June 1864, No. 3,804.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tenkasy, 11th June 1864, No. 223:—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government dated 21st ultimo, forwarded to me by the Board under date the 26th idem, I have now the honor to forward for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a letter to my address from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, dated the 9th instant, conveying his opinion on certain points noticed by Government, and which I requested him to state.

2. There is nothing that occurs to me to add to Captain Phipps's letter; he writes from practical experience, and what he says in paragraph 3 of his letter regarding the chank, is in accordance with my report to the Board and Government conveyed in my letter of the 20th ultimo, No. 197. I shall be glad to hear the reply of the Ceylon Government on this point.

3. I have requested Captain Phipps to watch the habits of the "Soorum" in relation to the Pearl Oyster.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 9th June 1864, No. 21.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 618, dated 31st ultimo, covering copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 871, dated 21st ultimo, with the Order thereon, and with reference to paragraph 2 of your letter beg to inform you, that after consulting with the Jady Talavan we are of opinion that the Pearl Oyster lives from six to seven years, about which time it should be fished; a bank left after that, would doubtless disappear suddenly.

2. The Soorum shells sent to Government were the usual size, though I have some times found them a little larger.

3. Regarding the concluding sentence of the Government Order, I do not think that the chanks are very injurious to the Pearl Oysters; they are seldom found on the Pearl banks and never in any great number; the chank, judging from its appearance, lives for many years; their dead shells are not often found; therefore they could not injure the Pearl Oysters by dying and putrifying like the Soorum; in this the Jady Talavan also concurs.

4. That the Pearl Oyster is very tenacious of life is certain, but though possessed of locomotive powers they are limited, and I am doubtful about their being able to move for any considerable distance. It must be remembered that some of the Pearl banks are a mile or more in circumference, and often three or four distant from any other bank; it is therefore hardly probable that they could move this great distance over a *sandy bottom*, and still more improbable that they would succeed in reaching another bank. I have often found banks containing both Soorum and young oysters, some alive and others dead; on my next visiting the bank, all had disappeared.

5. With reference to Captain Mitchell's remark regarding the coral nutts, I would observe, that no doubt the Oyster, when inconvenienced by the rolling of the stone, can immediately quit it; but it is doubtful if it would do so, it being natural for it to adhere to some thing. As to attaching itself to a more suitable anchorage, if once off the bank that might be difficult to find.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, *Collector.*

Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th July 1864.

No. 185. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1864, No. 1,209.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be communicated to the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum with reference to his letter dated 11th May 1864, No. 54.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintendent Government Central Museum.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,804.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st June 1864.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

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2. The Soorum shells sent to Government were the usual size, though I have some times found them a little larger.

3. Regarding the concluding sentence of the Government Order, I do not think that the chanks are very injurious to the pearl oysters; they are seldom found [illegible] pearl banks and never in any great number; the chank, judging from its appearance, lives for many years; their dead shells are not often found; therefore they could not injure the pearl oysters by dying and putrifying like the Soorum; in this the Jady Talavan also concurs.

4. That the pearl oyster is very tenacious of life is certain, but though possessed of locomotive powers they are limited, and I am doubtful about their being able to move for any considerable distance. It must be remembered that some of the pearl banks are a mile or more in circumference, and often three or four distant from any other bank; it is therefore hardly probable that they could move this great distance over a *sandy bottom*, and still more improbable that they would succeed in reaching another bank. I have often found banks containing both Soorum and young oysters, some alive and others dead; on my next visiting the bank, all had disappeared.

5. With reference to Captain Mitchell's remark regarding the coral rutta, I would observe, that no doubt the oyster, when inconvenienced by the rolling of the stone, can immediately quit it; but it is doubtful if it would do so, it being natural for it to adhere to some thing. As to attaching itself to a more suitable anchorage, if once off the bank that might be difficult to find.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

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

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

Exd. J. Wright.

For 21 May 1864.
241 to 243

Rev = 1864. Department
Proc. of Govt for July.

No. 1644.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21st June 1864.

[redacted]
24 —

No. 3,804.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly forwarding letter from the Superintendent Pearl Banks giving his opinion on certain points noticed by Government.

No. 184 & 185.

5 July 1864 RC

P 1209 - 11 July
Written Order

P 1209

Ordered, to be communicated to the Superintendent of the Govt. Concerns in the Chuvenum and the reference to this letter

11 July 1864 J. S.

Ord. S. Govt
11 July 1864
Supt Govt Concerns Chuvenum Acct. 8 July
Records of Pearl Banks