

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 655	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis~~
284.285	
Dated 18. 4.	18 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th April 1864.*

No. 284. Read the following Memorial from C. J. BARTER, Esq., of Tuticorin, Merchant, to His Excellency the Governor of Fort Saint George in Council, dated Madras, 16th April 1864:—

SHEWETH,

1. That for many years the Government have obtained a considerable revenue from the Chank fishery on the coast of Tinnevely.

2. That up to the year 1861 the revenue was collected by selling the exclusive right of fishing for five years at the highest yearly rent which could be obtained at public auction.

3. That the rent so obtained for the five years ending 30th June 1856 was Rupees 2,800 a year, and for the five years ending 30th June 1861 was Rupees 4,600 a year, giving an average for the ten years of Rupees 3,700 a year.

4. That the condition of the divers under that system was literally that of slaves, they being bound to their Choomatties or head men for life, and receiving no remuneration except what their owners chose to allow them for their maintenance.

5. That in June 1861 the Collector, Mr. Silver, and the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, Captain Phipps, being dissatisfied with the system of selling the right for a term of years on account of its effect upon the condition of the divers and also with reference to the re-establishment of the Pearl fisheries on that coast, obtained the sanction of the Board of Revenue to substitute for it a system of canoe licenses, under which any one might apply for and receive a license for one year on the payment of Rupees 400 for each canoe.

6. That thereupon your Memorialist applied for and obtained ten licenses, which he afterwards increased to twelve, and four licenses were taken out by other residents in Tinnevely, making a total of sixteen licenses, for which Government received Rupees 6,400, and in the following season your Memorialist took out sixteen licenses at the same rate.

7. That not only did Government thereby obtain a considerable increase of revenue, but a very great improvement was made in the condition of the divers, your Petitioner having paid them three times as much as they ever received before and established a fund for the widows of any of them dying in his service, besides employing a Dresser on monthly pay to attend to them when sick, and completely releasing them from their thralldom to their Choomatties, while they still remained on the spot available for the work of the Pearl fisheries when required.

8. That on the 13th day of October 1863 your Memorialist was prepared to take out 18 licenses for the ensuing season at the same rate of Rupees 400, which would have given a revenue to Government of Rupees 7,200, nearly double the average of the last ten years under the old system; but instead of licenses being issued as for the previous years the Collector advertised the exclusive right for that season for sale by public auction at an upset price of Rupees 10,500.

9. That such upset price was far beyond the value of the fishery and no bids were made for it.

10. That the Collector then attempted to carry on the fishery on account of Government, but was unable to do so.

11. That your Memorialist addressed the Board of Revenue on the subject on the 13th day of October 1863, and offered to take out eighteen licenses at Rupees 400 each.

12. That such offer was referred by the Board of Revenue to the Collector on the 20th October 1863, but no licenses could be obtained by your Memorialist till the 1st January 1864 when three months out of the seven and a half during which diving operations can be carried on, had expired.

13. That in the meantime many of the divers had left the place in consequence of being unable to obtain employment and three of them had died, so that your Memorialist was unable to take out more than 15 licenses.

14. That notwithstanding so much of the fishing season had passed the Collector still demanded Rupees 400 for each license, and rather than lose any more time your Memorialist acceded to his terms and preferred a claim to the Board of Revenue under date the 15th day of

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18th April 1864.*

January 1864 for the re-payment of Rupees 2,400, being at the rate of Rupees 160 per license as an adequate remission to be made under the circumstances.

15. That the Board of Revenue have declined to grant such remission, on the ground that the annual fee under which the licenses were proposed to be issued was Rupees 650.

16. That your Memorialist had never before been informed of there being any intention to increase the amount of the annual fee, and applied for the licenses upon the express understanding that the fee for the whole season was to be Rupees 400.

17. Your Memorialist therefore humbly prays your Excellency in Council that you will be pleased to grant him the remission of Rupees 2,400, for which he applied to the Board of Revenue under the circumstances abovementioned.

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

No. 285.

ORDER THEREON, 18th April 1864, No. 655.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for early report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Memorialist acceded to his terms and preferred
a claim to the Board of Revenue under date
the 15th day of January 1864 for the repayment
of Rupees 2,400 being at the rate of Rupees 160 per
license as an adequate remission to be made
under the circumstances.*

*That the Board of Revenue have declined
to grant such remission on the ground that the
annual fee under which the licenses were
proposed to be issued was Rupees 650 - before*

*That your Memorialist had never been
informed of there being any intention to
increase the amount of the annual fee and
applied for the licenses upon the express
understanding that the fee for the whole
season was to be Rupees 400 -*

*Your Memorialist therefore humbly
prays your Excellency in Council that you
will be pleased to grant him the remission
of Rupees 2,400 for which he applied to the
Board of Revenue under the circumstances
above mentioned -*

*And your Memorialist will ever
pray*

Refers 400-

And your Memorialist will ever pray.

Madras
April 16th
1864

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

Nov 15th 1864.

I am
C. D. Carter of
Salem, Merchant,
dates ^{himself} June 1864
As - Y.
States that in August
when no bird was seen
to catch the Great
Turkey at an early
price of 105 or 110 according
to the advertisement the
collar attempt to buy
on the Turkey on account
of Government, but failing
in this he was obliged
to let the Turkey under
license as in previous
years; that he obtained
15 licenses after three
months had expired out of
7 months during which the

No 655-

Referred to the
Board of A.C.
new for early
report -

J. A. Lee

Dec 14 to Govt
of the
18 April 1863

to the Board of A.C. Revenue

~~to the Board of A.C. Revenue~~

~~to the Board of A.C. Revenue~~

~~to the Board of A.C. Revenue~~

~~to the Board of A.C. Revenue~~

Rev. 1864. Q1 1864
also of Govt for 1864

From G. S. Stanton.
Capt.

Dated 16th 3rd 1864.
Received 18th 3rd 1864

Transit for 100 April 1864
C 18th 1864

Soliciting a number
of \$2400 - being the amount
he overpaid for the 1864
to obtain the same
of Government for 1864
Secretary

No 655 - 1864
with an order

I am in receipt of the letter from the Board of A.C. Revenue
to which I have been referred by the Board of A.C. Revenue
and I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the same
and to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the
proper authorities for their consideration.

no more had copied out
of the records during the
month of April 1864