

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 715	Press
403.404	Mis.
Dated	25-4-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1864.*

No. 403. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April 1864.
Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to W. HUDLESTON,
Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevely, 8th April 1864, No. 139 :—
SIR,

Referring to the Board's Proceedings dated the 12th March 1864, No. 1,550, I have the
honor to forward copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, dated the 6th instant,
reporting the result of the examination made by him of the banks near Paumben.

Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government. Captain Phipps will periodically
examine all the banks with which he is acquainted. The Board presumes that he records
their position in a Chart forming part of the official records of his Department.

No. 404. ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1864, No. 715.

Ordered to be recorded.
(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, dated 8th April 1864, No. 139 :—

Referring to the Board's Proceedings, dated the 12th March 1864, No. 1,550, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, dated the 6th instant, reporting the result of the examination made by him of the Banks near Paumben.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 6th April 1864, No. 6.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,550, dated 12th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I left Tuticorin on the morning of the 28th ultimo with two canoes and crew and three divers; the wind being unfavorable, I did not reach Paumben until the afternoon of the 30th; the next morning I proceeded to the Pearl Banks off that place, having Major Syme, Superintendent of Operations, and also the head native pilot on Board; during the morning I carefully examined the three banks, and also a patch of rock which was found by the lead; I regret to say that I saw no appearance of pearl oysters being there in any quantity; the divers brought up only two, one of them five and the other of two years age; had any quantity been there, we could not have avoided finding them; but judging from the appearance of the banks, I do not think they are suitable for the pearl oyster, the small round pieces of coral being found in large quantities; upon inquiry of the native pilot if he knew of any other banks, he replied no; and after satisfying ourselves that there were really no pearl oysters in any quantity on the bank, we returned to Paumben; the next morning I again endeavoured to reach the banks, but the wind and current proved unfavorable; during the previous day Major Syme had tried to find some of the parties who had made the report to him upon which this examination was undertaken, but they did not come forward, and a Peon, who was despatched towards Rameswaram for some of the identical shells, returned bringing some old pieces of broken pearl shells that had been dead for many years. Major Syme has, however, promised to procure some and send for my inspection.

2. As no good could result by my remaining longer at Paumben, I left on Saturday morning for Keelakaray, where I arrived the same afternoon; my object in staying at this place was to endeavour to find out by inquiry of the Marakayer merchants and divers if anything was known of Pearl Banks being in their neighbourhood; from these I could get little reliable information; it seemed that the divers seldom went far from the land; four men pretended to know the position of a new bank and with these I left early on Monday morning; upon reaching the place we found it was already known and had been examined by me when last on this coast, from it the diver now brought up in one cluster four pearl oysters; but although we remained on the bank for some time, they failed to find any more.

3. We now proceeded to the banks off Amparteevoo, these were found covered with coarse sponge and sea weed; attached to a piece of the latter was found one pearl oyster; on the evening of this day we anchored for the night under Nulla Thunee Theevoo, and landed the Keelakary divers.

4. At daylight on the 5th, we again got under weigh; the canoes were employed examining the banks off the Island which were blank, while in consequence of some information given me at Keelakaray of a large patch of rock said to bear due south of Nulla Thunee Theevoo, and outside of 14 fathoms upon which I should find the water shoal to 7 fathoms, I proceeded in that direction: after reaching 17 fathoms and no appearance of the bank, I again stood towards the shore; on my way I found a large bed of rock to the S. S. E. of Ooppoo Thunnee Thevoo in 9 fathoms; from off this, the divers brought up a few young oysters mixed with a very large quantity of Keelakoy and Soorum; from this I went to the banks off Mookoor, on which I also found Keelakoy and Soorum, but no young oysters.

5. - I next examined the Vambar banks, these were found to have nothing upon them but sponge and sea weed; having now completed the examination of all the known banks off the Coast of Madura, we set sail for Tuticorin and arrived last night.

6. From what I have seen of the banks on the Coast of Madura, and though having found more pearl oysters than ever previously, I fear there are no hopes of a fishery. The bank off Keelakaray upon which I found some young oysters cannot be looked forward to, as the quantity is very small; nearly all Pearl Banks have a few oysters upon them; but these are only useful so far as they are good for stocking other banks with their spawn; it will be remembered that for a successful fishery we require single banks that will yield by the million.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government. Captain Phipps will periodically examine all the Banks with which he is acquainted. The Board presume that he records their position in a chart forming part of the official records of his department.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

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

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

Rd. R. H. Lee.

1864.

Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 15th April 1864.

Despatched

Received

No. 2,295.

Submitting with remarks letter from the Col.lector of Tinnevely, forwarding copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, reporting the result of the examination made by him of the Banks near Paumben.

