M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

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| G.O. No. 75 - 75A | Press ~~M.I.S.~~ |
| 165 - 167 | |
| Dated 14 - 1 - ~~19~~ 1864 | |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th January* 1864.

No. 145 Read the following letter from the Honorable W. T. GIBSON, Colonial Secretary at Colombo, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Colombo, 19th December 1863, No. 49 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to your letters as per margin, applying for certain information in respect to the Pearl Fisheries of Ceylon, I am directed to express the regret of His Honor the Officer administering the Government, at the delay which has occurred in furnishing the required information. This delay was occasioned partly as will be seen from the enclosed letter from the Government Agent for the Northern Province by his inability to afford the information for want of certain particulars indicated by him, and also by the necessity of having some of the documents printed.

No. 232, February 3rd 1863.
„ 1,407, October 15th 1863.
„ 942, September 23th 1857.
„ 2,059, „ 22nd 1863.

2. I am now directed to forward for the information of the Honorable the President in Council the documents specified in the annexed Memorandum, which it is believed contain much, if not all, of the information desired by the Madras Government.

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From REGINALD C. POLE, Esq., for Government Agent, to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, dated Katkadendacolom, 6th Octobor 1863, No. 299.

SIR,

1. Adverting to your letter of the 17th ultimo, No. 282, on the subject of the Madras Pearl Fishery, I have the honor to submit that in mine of the 8th October 1862, I applied for certain papers and also for a copy of the chart of the banks referred to in the letters from Madras, and that in your letter of the 17th February last, it was stated that the documents applied for by me were forwarded. The chart, however, has not been supplied to me, and without such information of the position and extent of the banks and the depth of water upon them which the chart would afford, it is not possible for me to express an opinion upon the points on which my opinion has been requested.

2. It is also necessary to the proper understanding of the subject that the limits of the Chank rent, which is referred to in the paper sent me, should be shown, and that information should be afforded of the condition of the rents and of the nature of those restrictions on the divers, which as referred to in the papers were at one time imposed.

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*Memorandum referred to.*

Report by Mr. Vane, the late Superintendent on the Pearl Banks of Ceylon and the Fisheries from 1855 to 1860.

Report by Mr. Twynam, the present Superintendent. Papers on Pearl Fishery matters with copies of Regulations, Notices, &c., connected therewith.

Dr. Kelaart's Introductory Report on the Natural History of the Pearl Oysters of Ceylon.

Do. Report on the Tamblegam Pearl Oyster Fishery.

Do. Report on the Pearl Banks of Arripo for season 1858.

Do. Report on the Natural History of the Pearl Oyster for season 1858-59.

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No. 146. ORDER THEREON, 14th January 1864, No. 75.

1. Ordered that the papers received with the foregoing letter be forwarded through the Collector of Tinnevelly to Captain Phipps for his information.

2. Dr. Kelaart's reports will be returned by Captain Phipps after perusal.

Ordered that the following letter be addressed :—

To the Colonial Secretary Colombo. | (Here enter 14th January 1864, No. 75A.)

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Collector of Tinnevelly, with seven original enclosures.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
FORT SAINT GEORGE.
*14th January* 1864.

No. 75A.

No. 147.
From

J. D. SIM, Esq.,
*Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,*

To

*The Colonial Secretary, Colombo.*

SIR,

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 19th December 1863, No. 49, and to request that you will convey the acknowledgments of this Government to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon for the valuable Reports which accompanied it.

2. I am instructed to request His Excellency's permission to re-print Dr. Kelaart's Reports for distribution in this Presidency.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) J. D. SIM,
*Secretary to Government.*

Ext. S. T. Augustin.

Memorandum referred to

Report by Mr Vane. The late Superintendent on the Pearl Banks of Ceylon and the Fisheries from 1855 to 1860.

—"— Mr Ivynam the present Supt Dt. Papers on Pearl Fishery matters with copies of Regulations Notices &c connected therewith.

Dr Kelaarts Introductory Report on the natural History of the Pearl oysters of Ceylon.

— Do — Report on the Tamblegam Pearl Oyster Fishery

— Do — Report on the Pearl Banks of Arripo for season 1858.

— Do — Report on the Natural History of the Pearl Oyster for season 1858-59.

XVIII.

# REPORT

ON

# THE PEARL BANKS OF CEYLON

AND

# THE FISHERIES,

FROM

1855 to 1860.

BY

THE HON'BLE GEORGE VANE,

ACTING TREASURER, AND LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PEARL FISHERIES.

**Ordered by the Governor to be Printed.**

COLOMBO:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM SKEEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.
CEYLON.

1863.

# CEYLON

# PEARL FISHERIES.

1855—1860.

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# CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES,

## 1855 TO 1860.

General Treasury,
Colombo, February 28, 1863.

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES, 1855 to 1860.

SIR,

My appointment in July last to the Office of Acting Treasurer having relieved me from the charge of the Pearl Fisheries, I have the honor to submit a Report on the series of Fisheries which have taken place between 1855 and 1860; and as, owing to the long lapse of them, between 1837 and 1855, little is known or recollected on a subject so generally interesting, and particularly so in the interests of the Colony, I purpose giving a short account of the Pearl Banks, the usages and customs governing the Divers and Boat people, the proceedings at Inspections, the general regulations and operations under which the Ceylon Fisheries are conducted, and to note the main incidents and results of each year's Fishery from 1855 to 1860.

The Pearl Banks.

Pearl Banks are believed to extend all along the N. W. Coast from Negombo to Manaar, and the charts and records contain the names and positions of 19 Banks, but the larger portion of them have never yielded Fisheries either to the Dutch or English Governments. The Condatchy Paar having only been fished in 1801
The Chilaw Paars in ... ... 1803 & 1815
The Karateevo in ... ... 1832
and the Peri Paar Karrai in 1833, 1835, 1836
so that the Cheval and Modrigam have been heretofore, as now, the sources from whence the large, although precarious, Pearl Revenues have been derived; and, judging from the results of the Inspections I made in March 1862 of the entire Coast and known Banks between Negombo and Jaffna, the particulars of which are summarised in the Tabular Statement annexed, No. 1, I believe the general productiveness of the Cheval, and Modrigam is mainly attributable to their position being within the Karitcevo shoal, a means, especially to the Modrigam, of protection from the influences of weather and currents,—causes, to which are attributed the frequent disappearance, before arriving at maturity, of beds of young Oysters formed in other Banks. But there may also be other causes to account for these two Banks alone rearing Oysters to maturity: possibly the ground is favorable for the settling of the spawn, or affords good feeding; if so, and I believe this to be another essential of these Banks: then, the young Oysters formed on other Banks may find their way to the Cheval or Modrigam, and in this manner I believe the latter Banks to have been recently supplied with a portion of the Oysters now thereon, from the Karitcevo Paar, which, in October 1860, was well filled with young Oysters that could not be found at the Inspection of March 1862.

Series of Fisheries.

Notwithstanding that many long lapses have occurred between each series of Fisheries, the Arippo Banks have yielded very large Revenues to the Dutch and English Governments; they were fished by the Dutch so far back as 1667, and with intervals gave fisheries up to 1768. This was the last under the Dutch, as a period of 28 years then passed without a Fishery.

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES, 1855 to 1860.

In 1796, the first year of English Government, a series of Fisheries commenced, and continuing with intervals of one to two years, to 1809, yielded the large sum of £517,481 4*s.* 1*d.*

The second series, from 1814 to 1816 and 1820, yielded £89,908 16*s.* 7*d.*

The third series, from 1828, continued with only one year's (1834) interval to 1837, and yielded £227,131 13*s.* 3*d.*, and after a lapse of 18 years the present series commenced, giving in 1855, 1857, 1858, 1859 and 1860, receipts to the amount of £117,453 10*s.* 10*d.*; and having been personally concerned in the conduct of these fisheries, I am enabled to afford fuller details of the particulars of the Revenues thereof, than the records of former Fisheries have allowed.

The Tabular Statement, Annexure No. 2, prepared by the Cutcherry Clerk Mr. B. E. Alvis, affords information upon all the essential points, viz., the estimated and actual number of days' fishing, the boats employed, the oysters fished, their sample and sale prices, the earnings of the divers, the expenses and gains of Government, and the number of persons employed at each fishery,—information which I think will be considered useful and interesting.

Revenue derived.

Seeing then, that Ceylon has during the last sixty years derived from her Pearl Fisheries nearly a million of money, viz.

| | | | £ | *s.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | Series | 1796—1809 | 517,481 | 4 | 1 |
| 2nd | „ | 1814—1816 and 1820, | 89,908 | 16 | 7 |
| 3rd | „ | 1828—1837 | 227,131 | 13 | 3 |
| 4th | „ | 1855—1860 | 117,453 | 10 | 10 |
| | | | £951,975 | 4 | 9 |

the question naturally arises,—Is there the prospect of her continuing to derive large Revenues from this precarious but yet productive source?—I believe so.

Future prospects.

The Cheval Paar and Modrigam are (as detailed in my Inspection Reports of November 1861 and April 1862, and as noted in Annexure No. 1.) abundantly, I may say, enormously stocked with oysters of an age that give the almost certain prospect of arriving at maturity. The Cheval Paar yielded during 1855, 1857, 1858, and 1859, 60,000,000 Oysters, the fishing for many days in 1857 being from one million to one and a half million. The extent of ground then covered was very much less than the present, and consisted of three separate patches or beds; now, an extent of ground over four miles long and one and a half broad, is all fairly covered, excepting one small intervening space, and should yield, at the lowest estimate, one hundred and fifty million oysters.

The Modrigam yielded, 12,000,000 of Oysters at the Fisheries of 1859 and 1860. The ground now covered is much larger, being over a mile square, and more abundantly stocked, and should therefore now fish some twenty millions. Thus, my estimate of the present condition of these two Banks is one hundred and seventy millions of oysters. Of course, before they can be fished, natural decay will materially reduce this quantity; but comparing their extent and stock with 1855 and 1860, I see every ground for believing, unless circumstances not now fairly to be anticipated should prevent it, that the Cheval and Modrigam will yield within the next five years one hundred millions of oysters, and at least £200,000; and I entertain the opinion that if these Banks are judiciously fished, they will be yearly replenished by the mature oysters, and the present series may be continued (with intervals of one and two years only) without the long lapses which have hitherto occurred.

Presumed source of present beds.

The present brood of oysters are no doubt the produce of the mature oysters of 1855 and 1857, as at the fishery of 1857, the coir cable of the Guard vessel at anchor outside the then fishing ground was found to be covered with very young oysters. Seeing this future promise, I required the boats to be strictly kept to the actual fishing ground, to be most careful in their proceedings, taking only mature oysters, and throwing back all young ones, and subjected boats disobeying orders, and bringing on shore young oysters, to loss of their day's fish and future employment; and in 1859, I only used 50 boats per day and occupied 11 days in fishing the remnant left on the Bank. 100 or 150 boats would have swept the ground clear in four or five days; but such a number of boats being less under control would necessarily have trespassed beyond the narrow limits of the real fishing ground, and disturbed, perhaps destroyed, young oysters.

Causes of destruction and failure of Oyster beds.

Fish, snakes, and chanks, destroy an enormous number of young oysters. Current and drifts of sand carry away into deep water or cover beds of oysters, but in my opinion the frequent lapse of fisheries may be mainly attributed to the system under which, years ago, the Banks were fished, namely the *Renting* to one or two persons the right of fishing with from 100 to 300 boats daily, with no control over the proceedings of the renter and divers, but that of restriction to certain limits and the hours of fishery. So large a number of boats were of course beyond control, and not only may they have fished beyond the proper limits of the Bank, but there was no means of knowing either the quantity or quality of the oysters fished, matters that should be carefully watched and recorded as a possible means of regulating and ensuring more continuous fisheries. 100 boats a day should, in my opinion, be the maximum of any fishery, as the control of all





proceedings connected with this number can be maintained. Of course, circumstances may arise in connection with a special Bank that might necessitate the occasional increase of this number; but as a general rule, I consider the fishing with any larger number of boats unadvisable.

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES. 1855 to 1860.

Renting system.

The renting of Fisheries had, besides the special one to which I have alluded, many other disadvantages, in the character of its monopoly, its interference with the fair legitimate earnings of the divers and boatmen, the constant disputes with the officers, the assertion of losses, the claims for remission, and the impossibility of ever satisfactorily determining them. These, and the inability of ascertaining correct, I may say, any data of the results of Fisheries so conducted, induce me to express the hope, that however large a sum may be offered for the renting of a Fishery, Government will not accept it. The sum offered may exceed all expectations, and possibly what may be actually realized by two or three fisheries; but I am certain the results would be detrimental to future fisheries. I may also quote the opinion expressed in 1854 by Mr. Dyke, in reporting upon an offer to rent the Fishery of 1855.

"My opinion remains unchanged. It seems to me that Government could not ever derive any peculiar advantage from the plan of renting; that it must frequently lose much by it; that the proceedings of 1835, 1836, and 1837, [1855 to 1860 may now be added] have established that fisheries can be successfully conducted without having recourse to renting, and that by the sale of the oyster the fair value of a fishery is realized in a straightforward manner, devoid of all mystery, deception, and concealment, as purchasers have to a great extent the means of ascertaining the real value."

The renting system is the much desired object of the rich Chetties, who, I believe, would now make a large pecuniary sacrifice for its re-introduction; and this was the real purport of their combinations and proceedings at the Fisheries of 1857 and 1858.

Removal and transplanting of young Oysters.

There is one special subject in connection with the Pearl Banks, which I think deserves consideration and trial, and which, had the opportunity offered during my term of office, I should have given, viz.; the removal or transplanting of beds of young oysters to the evidently more protected and favored grounds of the Cheval and Modrigam Paars. That this may be done without injury to the Pearl Oyster, I am satisfied, from the proof I have had of its tenacity of life. The practice of transplanting the edible oysters to more favored localities is very common in England, and has of late years been most extensively and successfully carried out by the French Government, in the formation of Oyster grounds along different parts of the French Coasts. As an experiment, and as the most likely means of saving the oysters from the causes which have hitherto so generally befallen all other broods but those found in the Cheval and Modrigam, it is worth the trial, and should be attempted on the first favorable occasion that offers, of a healthy bed, say of one or two years old, sufficiently near to the Cheval or Modrigam, to allow of their being taken up and re-deposited the same day in water. A sufficient quantity should be left on the original ground to test their progress with those removed.

Robbery and Guarding of the Banks.

"I do not entertain the opinion generally expressed as to the Pearl Banks being robbed, and the necessity for a Steamer constantly to guard them. The majority of the Banks are distant from 8 to 12 miles from the shore, and the land-marks by which their positions are ascertained cannot be seen from small boats; and if robberies had really been effected either by parties of Ceylon or the Coast of India, rumour would certainly have afforded actual proof, as oysters can neither be removed nor opened in a concealed manner, and the display for sale of quantities of Pearls by the class of persons thus having them would have led to detection. No proof of robbery has ever been asserted or afforded; but because it is supposed to be easy of accomplishment, which I do not admit, the supposition has been received as a fact. I believe the fishermen who fish along the N. W. Coast during the N. E. Monsoon do much harm to some of the Banks by the use of large drag nets. This sort of fishery within the precincts of the Pearl Banks is illegal, and a party lately arrested whilst so fishing, by Mr. Worsley the Supervisor, having been punished, will, with frequent inspection of their boats and nets by the Supervisor, check such proceedings; but an amendment of the law is necessary, and also an efficient guard during the N. E. Monsoon: and I consider this service can be well performed by the Schooner "Ceylon" lately obtained from England, and the former Guard boat. During the S. W. Monsoon the Arippo Coast is a dangerous Lee-shore, near to which no vessel will venture, and nature is thus a most effectual guardian of the Pearl Banks during many months of the year. A Steamer's movements might be quicker, but she cannot, as the two Guard boats may, keep watch upon two points of the Coast at the same time, nor could she overtake a fishing canoe; she could bring her to, with a gun, or run her ashore, both of which the boats can do, and the latter more effectually. I therefore consider no sufficient advantages are offered to compensate for the very much larger expenditure to be incurred in the upkeep of a Steamer for about five months' service in the year, particularly if consideration is given to the contingencies generally connected with Steam vessels of however small a class, viz:—Machinery, Engineers and repairs,—matters which if the means of remedying are not at once at hand, would probably frequently incapacitate her from service when most needed. Such are not the usual contingencies of vessels, and were considerations which induced

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES, 1853 to 1860.

me to abandon the auxiliary steam power with which I originally intended, and recommended the Schooner should have been furnished. I think another such a class of vessel as the "Ceylon," in lieu of the barge, advisable, say, to be built in England of iron, and sent out in two or three pieces to be fitted up out here; one of these vessels should be kept in employ all the year round so as to cruise about during any fine weather periods of the S. W. Monsoon; the other need only be employed from the middle of October to end of April. This Guard, under the charge of Mr. Worsley, who has, on my recommendation been employed since last year as Resident Supervisor at Arippo, will, I believe, be sufficient to protect the Banks; and the English and the Native Diving establishments which His Excellency has been pleased to sanction, will enable that officer occasionally to inspect the condition of known Banks, to look out for the formation of new beds, and by the observations Mr. Worsley is so well capable of making, obtain that certain information so much needed in respect to the breeding, spawning, growth and age of the Pearl Oyster. And I am satisfied from the zeal and interest Mr. Worsley has already shewn in all connected with the Pearl Fisheries, that he will, if so directed and encouraged, give his best attention to those important subjects.

Inspection proceedings.

The favorable season for this work is the N. E. Monsoon, more particularly the month of March, and whenever there is no Pearl Fishery, the whole coast between Negombo and Manaar should again, as in 1862, be examined to see if the small bed of young oysters then found off Negombo is alive and increasing, or if the Banks off Chilaw, Calpentyn, and Karitcevo give any promise. This service might be done in the fine weather of January and February by Mr. Worsley with the Schooner and the English and Native Divers. Owing to the Fisheries of the last five years occupying the fine weather of February to April, Inspections have of necessity taken place between the end of October and middle of November in the lull of weather between the monsoons; but the period is too short and too precarious for any proper Inspection, and only fitted for the examination of a known bed of oysters, and the taking of a sample to test their condition, and determine when they should be fished. In 1857 I was kept by strong S. W. winds at anchor off Sillawatorre for 12 days, and during some 25 days of absence on this duty, there were only five workable, whilst in 1858 there were 18 days of such fine weather as to allow of the examination of the Coast from Arippo to Tallamanaar; but in 1861 there was only time to take up a sample from the Cheval Paar, a gale of wind nearly wrecking the "Pearl," indeed, but for steam power allowing her to get off the land and out to sea, such would have been the case.

It is in the work of Inspections that a Steamer is so necessary and useful, affording as this power does quickness and precision of movement in placing vessel and boats in the exact positions needed,—a matter often unattainable by sailing craft,—and now that in lieu of the heavy unmanageable native boats, the Fishery Establishment has boats of English build, easily pulled and towed, the work is capable of being done with greater celerity and correctness. With a steamer the Superintendent has the means of satisfying *himself* of the extent and condition of all parts of a bed of oysters, by running all over the ground buoyed off, upon which the Inspector and Inspection Boats may be at work, and sending down the English and Native Divers. With the former he can, in light weather, by letting the vessel only drift, have the ground thoroughly examined. In March 1862 I had the Diver down for above an hour at a stretch, and walking over from one to two miles of ground, thus checking entirely the reports and proceedings of the Inspection party.

The proceedings of Inspections are thus conducted:—The Inspector with 6 boats, each having two Divers and Buoys in charge of a Coxswain, leave the vessel at daylight, when the sea is always calm in the N. E. Monsoon, spreading themselves to the four points of the Compass, and diving continually in any depth of water not exceeding 8 to 9 fathoms. If rock is found one flag is hoisted. This attracts attention, as oysters are more generally found on such ground. If oysters are found, two flags are hoisted, and a buoy is at once laid down; the other Boats then work their way to this point, noting if the ground be rocky, taking down such flags when getting only on sand and placing buoys if oysters are found. The limits N. S. E. and W. are then ascertained, the Superintendent in the Steamer re-examining and going all round and beyond the buoys. The age, condition, and quantity of the oysters being satisfactorily ascertained; the Inspector then lays down the exact position of the Bed by the bearings of the land-marks, the most prominent on the Arippo Coast being Kodremalle Hill, Kallar Beacon, Modrigam trees, and the Doric; the two former being the most generally seen and to be relied on. Taking also the bearings of each buoy, he ascertains the extent of the bed, and lays it down on the Chart; according to the number of Oysters a diver is able to bring up at a time (and the Coxswains keep these particulars for the portion of the bed they work upon) the calculation is made of how many five divers with relief, constantly at work for 6 hours a day, could bring up; and the probable quantity of oysters on the bed, and its out-turn, is thus assumed. Of course, this estimate is always very much below the actual out-turn at a fishery, but the aid which the English Diving system, employed since 1859, affords in inspections, by the ability of remaining longer under water exploring the bed of the ocean, and giving more precise and explanatory account of the extent, quantity and condition of beds, not only tends to allow of more correct estimates on these points, but is a great and needed check upon the native divers, whose information could not always be dependend upon, because, from the short time they remain under water (at most a minute a spell) their observation was very cursory, and it was believed they had reasons for not telling all they did ascertain.





CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES. 1853 to 1860.

The Tabular Statement annexed, No. 1, of the Inspection of March 1862, will give a general view of Inspection proceedings, but not of the details of all the work done.

Sample.

When a bed of oysters is of an age to be fished, a sample of 10- or 12,000 is taken up, landed at once, and being most carefully counted, are placed in a large Ballam or Boat. The place of deposit is then secured and guarded: after 10 or 12 days, when the oyster flesh has become a mass of putrid matter, the washing takes place; sea water is then put into the Ballam, and a number of coolies divested of all clothing that would allow of concealment, are ranged on each side of the Ballam, watched by the peons to see that they keep their hands under water when separating and washing the oyster shell, and do not take and conceal any of the Pearls they may see or feel. The shells are well rubbed together, those having Pearls adhering thereto are set apart for the Pearl to be cut away, and the other shells are placed in heaps alongside each man, and when all is completed are counted, to see that none have been taken, and to ensure the correctness of the quantity upon which the estimated value of the fishery is thus based. After all the shells are removed, the water is baled out and passed through sieves and cloth to arrest any Pearls that might be so taken up, and then a disgusting mass of filthy putrid matter and mud remains, amongst which you see the Pearl glistening, and the excitement of looking for and collecting the large ones begins. The Superintendent's eyes must be everywhere to prevent any hands but his own picking them out, for the Natives are most quick-sighted and equally quick-fingered. The mass of mud, sand, shells and putrid flesh is then collected in a heap at one end of the Ballam, and after being cleansed by repeated washings, is laid upon cloths exposed to the sun to dry; when thoroughly dry the large pearls are picked out by hand, and the smaller ones sifted by women. During this process, every precaution is taken that no Pearls are lost; every article used is washed, and the water passed through sieves of the smallest size, and a vigilant watch kept over all the people employed, as they are adepts at seeing and concealing Pearls.

Sorting and valuation.

When all the Pearls are collected, three or four intelligent, respectable Pearl dealers, who are mostly of the Moorman class, are called in to estimate their value, which is done by sizing, classing, weighing; and according to these results the valuation is assigned to each class of Pearls by the market rates then ruling. I shall briefly describe these operations which occupy a long time, and needing great judgment, are causes of much discussion and frequent difference of opinion; to settle which, the dumb alphabet is frequently used under a cloth to let the Senior or Accountant of the party know and decide by such individual opinion. Each of the four has his duties, one sifts, another classes, the third weighs, and the other records these results in manner shewn in the valuation paper, Annexure No. 3.

Sizing of the Pearls.

Sizing or arranging the Pearls into 10 different sizes from the largest to the smallest, is done by passing them successively through what are called Baskets, i. e., small brass sieves, said to be of 20, 30, 50, 80, 100, 200, 400, 600, 800, 1000 holes each, though there is no certainty that all baskets really contain these exact numbers except the larger ones. All Pearls are first sifted in the 20 basket, and those retained by it are of the largest or 1st size, then those retained by the 30 are of the 2nd size, and so on, through the whole 10, and those that pass through the last size are what is called "Massie Thool" small like powder or dust. There are also shell Pearls, excrescences cut from the oyster shell which are of various sizes and shapes, and not generally passed through the sieves; in fact they are mainly included in the sample, to show that all its out-turn of character, bad as well as good, is fairly exhibited for the information and consideration of the dealers and speculators.

Classing.

It will be understood that each of the 10 sizes may include those of nearly every class; the 20 to 80 basket may each have Anie, Anatharie, Kallippoo, Korowel; and this necessitates the second operation of classing,—one that requires the greatest skill and judgment, and which hardly any two persons will do alike. The perfections in Pearls are shape and lustre, viz., sphericity, and a silvery brightness free from any discoloration whatever; and, as the Pearl has these two essentials, so do the valuers assign them to their appropriate class, namely

*Anie*—perfect in sphericity and lustre.
*Anatharie*—follower or companion, but failing somewhat in one point, either sphericity or lustre.
*Masengoe*—confused, imperfect, failing in both points, especially in brilliancy of color.
*Kallippo*—rejected or outcast, as failing still more in both points.
*Korowel*—nearer or shorter a double Pearl.
*Peesal*—mis-shapen and clustered more than two to each other.
*Oodiroe*—beauty.
*Mandangoe*—folded or bent Pearls.
*Kural*—very mis-shapen, small.
*Thool*—small grains.

The Pearls having been sized and classed, each class is then weighed and recorded (see Annexure No. 3) in Kalanjie and Manjadie. The former is a brass weight, equal, it is said, to 67 grains; the manjadie is a small red berry, having the property when full sized of being all exactly of the same weight, and are reckoned as 20 to the kalanjie.

The weights being ascertained, the valuation is then fixed to each Pearl or set of Pearls, according to their respective sizes and classes, the inferior classes solely according to weight

at market value of such Pearls at so many star pagodas, i e. 3½ Rs. each per kaiaanje; but the superior classes, i.e. Anie, Anatharie, and the Vadivoe, if good, are not valued only by weight, but at so much per chew of their weight, the native Pearl dealers' method of assigning the proper value by weight to a valuable article of small weight; and is, I apprehend, akin to the practice of dealers in precious stones who multiply the value per carat by the square of the weight of the article: this is rather a meagre explanation of the chew, but a fuller one would need illustration by figures.

Pearl Fishery proceedings.

When a Fishery is to take place, notice is issued in the Government Gazette according to the Form, Annexure No. 3, and about the middle of February the Bank to be fished is buoyed off, and a Sample taken up and valued, so that its out-turn may be compared with that of November, and the latest condition and prospects exhibited; it is this sample, always very much superior in weight and quality, by which the speculators are (until they have washed the purchases) guided. By the end of Feburary, Sillawatorre,—an arid, desolate sea-coast village scarcely inhabited, but so situated as to be the exact position from which the Fishery Boats can daily go to and from the Banks, and containing space sufficient to accommodate without interference with private rights all the needs of a fishery, and too far distant from any place for its results to be the cause of annoyance to any but those whose duties or inclinations bring them there,—is densely thronged with thousands of natives of all classes, Traders, Pearl merchants, Divers, Boat-owners, Boatmen, and coolies, besides visitors, English and Native, whom curiosity may bring to see what may be fairly called a most interesting sight and a wonderful Eastern fair. Then there are the Government Establishments, a few troops to guard the Treasure and prevent any raid that might be attempted upon the thousands of money and property brought to the Fishery; a Medical Establishment, and a body of Police to keep order, and, if possible, health amongst this motley assemblage of European, Tamul, Singhalese, Moormen, and the still more varied tribe of the Chetty class and caste, that flock from all parts of Ceylon and India. The largest number of arrivals take place from the 25th February, and I have noted as many as 30 to 50 boats a day coming in with the sea-breeze, in companies of 5 or 6, all fully laden with men, women, and children, and the materials for their huts; and as they passed the Doric, the Superintendent's residence, they would give a Yo, Ho! cheer of gratification and satisfaction at the termination of the voyage, and perhaps of recognition of their Dorie for the time being. It is wonderful, considering the long distance they come from the Continent of India in open boats and laden as they are, that no loss of life occur, or at least is heard of. By the end of February the barren sandy beach of Sillawatorre is filled with some 5,000 or 6,000 persons who have housed themselves in temporary Cadjan buildings of all sorts of character, according to the means or caste of the residents. Koottos sites for the deposit and decomposition of the oysters bought at the public sales, are marked out and awarded to intending speculators; these places are placed far to the South and beyond the inhabited ground, which is to the Northward; and as the prevailing winds are from the Northward and Eastward, the stench of the decaying oysters is carried away from all but the parties employed at the Koottos, guarding, receiving and washing; but an occasional burst of strong southerly wind of course disperses the aroma over every part of the inhabited quarter. With this come flies innumerable (indeed these are incessant and trying plagues, though worse with the southerly winds), every thing, especially of eating and drinking, is covered with a black mass,—a glass of wine or water must be instantly drunk, or it is filled with them, and during this time the "Nova Scotian" perfumes were slight in comparison to those of the Fishery; but this does not last long; and indeed it seems providentially so arranged, that the prevailing winds should aid the needs and purposes of the Fishery: the land wind is fair and gentle to carry the fishing boats out to the Banks, also the effluvia from the oysters from the land out to sea, thus giving to the inhabitants a somewhat sweetened period for rest; then, as the sea-breeze is from the Northward it brings the Boats quickly from the Banks to the shore, and carries the oyster smell away from Sillawatorre.

As the Boats arrive they are registered, and after the day fixed for closing the list they are examined as to size, condition, and fittings. Some are rejected as too small or badly found, but as the residue is always double the number needed, the fortunate privilege of being engaged in a Fishery is determined by lottery. Selection would be difficult, certainly unlikely to give satisfaction, and would lead to other consequences, whilst the result of the lottery is borne as the consequence of fate or ill-luck. As this lottery is the first great, I may say, momentous event of the Fishery, as the interests of 1,500 to 2,000 persons are concerned, the Divers as well as the Boat-owners and Boatmen, being generally interested in particular boats, I will briefly describe the proceedings. Say that 50 Boats are required, and that there are 75 from various places on the Continent of India and Ceylon, the prizes would be regulated and calculated as near as possible to the proportion, and with the desire that Boats from each place shall have employment; then, say there were

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Killecarre Boats | 14, | about equal to | 1-5th | of the 75, the prize would be | | 9 |
| Talla manaar | „ 13, | do. | 1-6th | do. | | 9 |
| Navantorre | „ 14, | do. | 1-5th | do. | | 9 |
| Calpentyn | „ 6, | do. | 1-12th | do. | | 4 |
| Paumben | „ 5, | do | 1-25th | do. | | 2 |
| Manaar | „ 1, | do. | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

and so on. On the day of the lottery, the Kutcherry grounds are crowded with many







hundreds of persons to witness the proceedings, to wish good luck to their friends, and laugh at those who are unfortunate. The Superintendent calling any set of Boatmen, counts the number of blank and prize tickets into a bowl, and the Tindals, shewing their register tickets, come forward to draw. The agitation, anxiety and eagerness of all are depicted in the countenance; most utter an apparent prayer or invocation, the Catholics cross themselves, and many are almost too nervous to pick up the paper; when done, it is handed to the Superintendent, who opens and declares blank or prize; and so eagerly do they watch the glance of the Superintendent at the paper, and so quick-sighted are they, that I have recognized the disappointment or joy before I gave utterance to the result. If successful, they run off dancing, and are greeted by their friends; if not, they move away slowly amidst the jeers and laughter of the by-standers. The unsuccessful are however frequently afterwards employed; some get the places of boats misbehaving, and if the extra number of boats is large, two divisions of boats are employed. Indeed, as they come from very long distances, and embark all their means in this speculation, I have always made the effort to find employment for all before the Fishery closes; but those successful at the lottery have, of course, the first claim, and the good fortune of longer employ.

The crew of a boat consists of 23 persons, and is required and allowed only to have

5 Diving stones
1 Tindal or Steersman.
1 Sanian Onttee who has charge of the boat.
1 Thody who bales out water, and cleans the boat.
10 Divers, 2 for each stone.
10 Munducks or Divers' attendants to pull up the stone and oysters, and aid Diver.

Their remuneration for fishing up the oysters is one-fourth of the quantity daily fished; this system and compact ensures to the Government the certainty of every possible exertion on the part of each boat, such being to their own advantage, and avoids all the consequences that might arise, if the boats were remunerated by daily pay. Indeed it is the speculative character of each day's work that induces the great exertions, and gives to all concerned the personal interest so necessary to carry on the hard, and anxious work of a Pearl Fishery. Each Boat's share is divided amongst themselves, according to old established customs, in the proportions noted in Annexures Nos. 4 and 5, which papers give the general regulations enforced at the Fisheries.

The Fishery is actually commenced on the first night of the Boats going out to the Banks, and of course creates great interest and excitement. If the night be moonlight, and if possible I have always selected such, thousands of people assemble on the beach to see the start, and give their good wishes. At about 10 o'clock, the Tindals who carry on their right arm a Ticket No. corresponding with that painted on the bows of each boat, assemble with crews around them, and as the Beach Master has checked each crew, they go to their boat, and make the preparations of getting under weigh and into position, ready to hoist the sails and start directly the signal is given. At 12 o'clock the gun is fired, the Adappenar, the Senior Headman, hoists a light at the masthead and leads off. In a few minutes all the boats (on occasions above 100) are under press of sail, and the sight is indeed a very interesting and exciting one: the crews of the boats cheer, and the people on beach echo them; and the white sails following the signal light of the Adappenar's boat may be distinguished for miles out at sea. The Inspector's guard vessel anchored close to the Fishery ground has a light at the main-topmast head, and in dark nights blue lights are occasionally burned to shew her position. The Boats reach the Bank, distant, the Cheval Paar about 12 and the Modrigam about 9 miles, generally about 3 or 4 in the morning and anchor; at 6 a. m. a gun is fired by the Inspector, as the signal for the Boats to get under weigh and follow the Inspector and Headmen to the fishery ground allotted for each day's work. When in position, and as the sun rises and the day gets calmer and hotter, the busy hum of 2000 to 3000 persons hard at work is heard. As I have before noted, each boat is furnished with 5 diving stones, 3 are worked on one side, 2 on the other, suspended by a thick rope over sticks or outriggers projecting from the boat's sides in such a convenient position as to allow the Diver, whilst at the surface of the water, to adjust the stone by lowering or raising it, when he rests his foot upon, or rather within a loop affixed to it; these stones are generally about 14 lbs. weight, and are used to accelerate the descent; and I have seen a very celebrated but corpulent and therefore buoyant diver carrying an additional stone affixed to his waist. He then places the loop of his diving net around his neck, and being thus ready gives notice to the two munducks, the attendants in charge of the rope and line of stone and net, draws in his breath, closes his nostrils with one hand, raises his body to give force to the descent, slips his hold of the bight of the diving cord, and is rapidly carried to the bottom; reaching the bottom he leaves the stone (which the munducks instantly haul up and make fast), throws himself on the ground, along which he creeps filling his net as quickly as possible; when obliged to ascend, he jerks the *net* cord, which is instantly hauled up by the munducks, by which time the diver is also at the surface, and again holding on by the diving stone; the diving is then repeated by the first set until their number of turns is over, when they take rest and the second five divers and munducks do the work; thus, under the excitement of expected gain, these men continue for 6 hours without flagging at this most trying and laborious exertion. When regularly at work they remain under water from 60 to 70 seconds. I have timed them 75, 80, 85 and one man 95 seconds; but I believe this to be a special, as it

was the only instance I ever witnessed of a diver remaining so long under water, and that the working period is about a minute. Of course the number of oysters brought up at each dive depends upon the quantities on the ground. I have known as many as 80, but 40 to 50 is a good average; and this would give from 20,000 to 30,000 as a boat load. At the fishery of 1857, when the daily fish was from 1 to 1½ million oysters, many boats brought 30,0 0, a few 40,000 a day, and some boats not half the former quantity, and if this is shewn to be the consequence of bad divers they are discontinued. At 12 or 1 o'clock, according as the sea breeze sets in and to the work done, the Inspector fires the gun to leave off diving and set sail for Sillawatorre. Soon every boat is under sail, all racing to be first in, to which is attached not only a recorded distinction which gives consideration for employment during extra days, but those also first in get sooner possession of their share of their oysters and obtain the best prices. Between 3 and 4 the boats reach the shore and discharge their load of oysters into the Government Kootto, a large enclosed place within which is marked spaces bearing each boat's number. Each boat's fish is arranged into 6 separate lots, and each lot divided into 4 smaller lots, the Government officers giving over to the boatmen one of each 4 divisions, in all, 6 parcels; and as the people do not know which of the 4 is likely to be assigned to them, they very carefully and fairly divide them; the other 3 of each of the 6 lots are then thrown together, counted, and removed to the sale and delivering portion of the Kootto, and the boat's number affixed to each heap. By the next morning a return is furnished to the Superintendent of the separate out-turn of each boat, and the total of the preceding day's fishing. A sale is held at the Cutcherry about 12 o'clock, when the oysters are put up in lots of 1000 with the right of taking at the price knocked down, from 1000 to 20,000 or 30,000. According to the total quantity for sale, (which is always declared at the commencement), and when there is no combination, purchases are eagerly made at the larger quantities; but when there is either a combination to lower prices, or opposition between the Chetties and Moormen, the sales are prolonged by lots of 1000 to 2000, and all the ingenuity of each party exercised to effect the object in view. As soon as the purchasers pay for their lots, delivery orders are issued to the officers in charge of the Kootto, and until the fishery boats arrive the oysters are delivered. This goes on daily, and from the first day of fishery until the conclusion the work is incessant. A break occasionally occurs from a southerly gale or combination practices; sometimes the sea breeze coming in strong and not fair, drives the boats to leeward of Sillawatorre, and obliges them to pole for miles along shore; and they do not get in till late at night, perhaps are dropping in all night until morning. On such occasions the shore is lighted up for miles with chools to guide the boats, and guards are set to prevent the crews landing the oysters, and all the establishments are of course obliged to be in attendance. In 1857, the large quantities daily fished, and the combination on the part of the buyers, so retarded the sales, that I have been frequently kept at this work until 10 at night; indeed there are no regular hours of work, all must attend as the need requires; the occupation is incessant and laborious, and only kept up by the excitement of each day's proceedings.

Having briefly described the general operations of a Fishery, I shall now note the main incidents connected with them from 1855 to 1860.

Fishery of 1855

Mr. Dyke, the Government Agent of Jaffna, had the charge of this fishery; I acted as his Assistant, and Captain Stewart, the Master Attendant of Colombo, was the Inspector in charge of the Fishery ground. A lapse of 18 years makes such great changes, that these two gentlemen and Don M. Patchico, the Adigar of Manaar, were the only officials left who had been engaged in former fisheries, and they alone were cognizant of the proceedings for the conduct of the business; but Mr. Dyke, with his usual ability, put matters in train, and the interest and excitement naturally felt in an occupation so novel as a Pearl Fishery, made all concerned willing pupils, and in a few days, zealous workers.

The bed of Oysters fished was on the S. W. part of the Cheval Paar, and, as will be seen by reference to the Tabular Statement, Annexure No. 2, whilst the estimate was for 10 days' fishing with a yield of 5 millions of oysters, 20 days were occupied, and the yield was for Government 5 millions, and including divers' shares, 6¾ millions; the oysters were so scattered over a large extent of ground, that the daily boat loads for Government were frequently under 200,000 and never exceeded 350,000. The attendance of persons was not large, and mainly confined to the Colombo Chetties, small speculators from Jaffna, a few Coast Moormen, and one or two Comattee Chetties from India, speculators at fisheries of 1833 to 1837; there was also one Don Gabriel Appoo, a Singhalese speculator, who thought to buy up all oysters and so to make a fortune! For the first 10 days the Chetties encouraged this idea of the Don, bidding him up, but only taking lots of 1000 each, whilst the Don, when he got the chance, took the highest number allowed, naming his lots, as he said for luck, to all the members of the Royal Family; but having spent some £3000, which it afterwards appeared was not his own to spend, but money advanced upon Coffee Contract, not of course completed, a Fiscal's warrant took charge of the Don, and of an immense pile of stinking oysters. Gabriel had then to apply to the Chetties, who aided his release from arrest on terms no doubt much to their satisfaction, and having got rid of this opposition, they commenced to buy in concert with each other, and soon reduced the average of 25 Rupees per 1000, to about 17 Rupees; and but for







the limited quantity daily fished, I have no doubt they would have tried for even lower prices.

The out-turn of Pearls of this Fishery was limited in quantity and variety; there were but few of the Vadivoe quality, but there were many large Pearls of the Anie and Anatharie class. I saw several that realized at Sillawatorre from £15 to over £20 each, and were said to be worth in India considerably larger sums; but from all I have heard, I believe the speculators made more losses than gains. Don Gabriel took his out-turn (at least what the Chetties left him) to India, and I met him the following year at Panture, where he had just landed on his return; he had not been successful, and his ambition to be a monopolizer and make a rapid fortune resulted in much more rapid ruin.

Fortunately sickness did not visit this fishery. Small Pox had been very bad in Jaffna, and great fears were entertained of an outbreak at Arippo; but the stringent and judicious quarantine regulations adopted by Mr. Dyke with the few cases that did occur, were effectual in preventing the spread of this dire illness. One sad occurrence alone damped the otherwise successful fishery of 1855, and that was the inhuman murder of two Jaffna dobies, father and son, both in Mr. Dyke's service, the former for a period of some 20 years. The murder was committed the day after the fishery ceased, and many circumstances led to the suspicion that the Malays had done the deed; the wounds were frightful gashes just such as a creese would inflict; the bodies were found between the Barracks and the Doric; the poor men were last seen at the Officers' quarters, where they had been to receive money due for washing done; and it is believed that expectation of this booty induced the deed. Every effort to discover the murderers was made; two men were arrested on fair suspicion of being some of the concerned, but were ultimately discharged for want of evidence likely to have convicted them.

My attendance at this fishery, whilst it afforded me the means of becoming acquainted with all the business connected with Fisheries, gave me an insight and experience of the anxious responsibilities attached to the office of Superintendent, in the directing and controlling the large establishment needed for the varied business of a Fishery, and still more so in matters connected with the assemblage of thousands of natives of all classes. A trifle, over which the Superintendent may have no control, and be in no regard to blame, might cause ill-feeling, confusion, panic, and thus losses and stoppage of the fishery. Too far distant to be aided by the opinions and decisions of Government, and engaged upon a business that allows of no delay, the Superintendent must in all matters act promptly upon his own judgment and responsibility; and should therefore possess the entire confidence of the Government and also the respect and confidence of the natives. These considerations made me hesitate to accept the office; but on Sir Henry Ward's assurance of support, I undertook the charge of the Fishery of 1857.

Fishery of 185

My colleague as Inspector in charge of the Fishery ground was Capt. Higgs, the late respected Master Attendant of Colombo; and, as shewing the unaccountable manner in which men are thrown together, after years of separation and in places and positions never anticipated, I may mention that more than 20 years before we had been shipmates, I as a youngster for the first time at sea, Capt. Higgs as the Master of H. M. Ship "Melville," I had therefore the aid of an experienced zealous Officer and of an old earnest friend.

Owing to the late arrival of boats and people, which delayed the commencement of the Fishery until the 9th March; enormous and unexpected daily yield of oysters; and the tactics and combination of the Chetties to spoil the Fishery in the hope that such would induce Government hereafter to resort to the old renting system in lieu of fishing and selling the the Oysters daily by public auction; this Fishery was protracted to the 24th April. Fortunately the season of the N. E. Monsoon was unusually long and fine, and mercifully there was no sickness,—causes which materially aided the ultimate success of the Fishery and the partial defeat of the Chetties.

The estimate made by the Inspector and Fisher headmen in November 1856, was 75 boats per day for 15 days at loads of 10,000 each, equal to 11¼ millions of oysters, giving a probable revenue of £15,000. The out-turn was 23 days; a total of 1624 boats with average daily loads of 19,983, giving for Government over 24½ millions, and including Divers' shares, 32½ millions of oysters, and a Revenue, as per Annexure No. 2, of £20,363.

It will be understood how much this unexpected enormous daily yield of one to one and a half million, and on several occasions, including Divers' shares, over two millions of oysters, interfered with my efforts to get a fair and legitimate rate; and how materially it aided the operation of the combination party to carry out their avowed intention of bringing prices down to *one* Rupee per 1000. I refused the low prices daily; tried and delayed the fishing as much as possible; but this could only be partially carried out, as the divers and boatmen's existence depended upon work; and although prices were low, the large quantities they daily shared gave them fair earnings.

For the 6th day's fishing, 5 Rupees per 1000 were only offered; but as the estimated value of the November and March samples was 11 and 14 Rupees, and so large a reduction was not justified even by the excess of quantity, I refused to sell; and in consequence the Chetties and large buyers ceased purchasing, and the fishery was stayed. At this crisis, I had over two millions of unsold oysters in the Government Kootto. A few days afterwards an express arrived from Sir H. Ward, giving me full powers to close the fishery at once, or to act in any manner I thought best. As regards the immediate closing of the Fishery, I

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felt that, whilst the Divers and Boatmen were willing to work, they had a fair right, and according to the Proclamation, a legal claim to 15 days' fishing; and therefore I could not, until the expiration of this term, close the Fishery; but the announcement of the Governor's intention had the desired effect, and enabled me to sell the residue oysters at 7½ Rupees; the opportune arrival of a rather large and influential batch of Moormen speculators from Killacarre, allowed also of my going on with the Fishery, and for several days the prices realized were from 9 to 11 Rupees; but the daily loads having increased, and the Moormen having filled their Kootto and emptied their money bags, the combination party were again enabled to reduce prices; and finding on the 15th day of fishing (only completed on the 9th April) that whilst the quantity of oysters fished for Government was over 15 millions, the receipts had not reached the estimated £15,000 by £1,700, and abundance of oysters were still remaining to be fished, I thought it advisable to accept the offer of the Chetties and large speculators, of 7½ Rupees per 1000 for the daily contents of 60 boats to the end of the Fishery, and thus obtained a certainty of this price for the contents of the remaining 15 boats; and indeed they actually realized more. The absence of all sickness, and the unusual spell of fine weather at this late season, now aided and enabled me in a measure to pay off the Chetties; for as the quantities daily fished continued large, they ultimately asked me to close the Fishery. This I refused, telling them that as long as weather permitted and the boat people would work, I should fish; and according to the terms of their agreement, require them to take the loads of the 60 boats, and at the same rates all the oysters I could not sell at auction. The weather now became precarious; on several occasions many boats could not reach the Banks, and these people now desired to leave off; but as I had not got the £20,000 I was determined to realize, I would not allow a single boat to leave Sillawatorre, and made them now work for my purpose. The 24th April was the last and 23rd day's fishing. I had then oysters sufficient to realize the £20,000, and the boats having suffered much from weather during the last two days, I declared the Fishery closed. The biddings at the last sale varied from 8 to 10½ Rupees, and 14 Rupees per 1000 was given for the contents of a missing boat driven away towards Kallar by the squall of the day before. She arrived all safe just as the sale was concluded. Thus ended the Fishery of 1857, memorable for its unprecedented yield of oysters, and the length of time, over 60 days, occupied with the business. The work had been most arduous for one and all of the officers; and most zealously and cordially did all the establishments work and aid me. The responsibilities, the anxieties, and the fear of failure through the Chetties' proceedings, caused me very great anxiety; but success achieved under unexpected difficulties is the best reward, and this was mine, when, after all, I obtained £5,000 above the estimated revenue, and secured the approbation of Government for all I had done.

Temple claims.

The representatives of several Indian Temples attended to claim the right of fishing on behalf thereof with a certain number of privilege boats, but having obtained the authority of Government to resist the claim, I did so, despite incessant solicitation and assertion of rights. Mr. Lee, in a very able Report on this subject, of 16th July 1858, proves that such claims had not really been admitted by the Dutch Government, and was in no regard recognized by the English Government. The rejection of 1857 appears to have been effective; no further claim has since then been made.

Fishery of 1858.

This was a continuance of last year's Fishery on the N. W. Cheval Paar, and for the quantity of oysters then left. I estimated 15 days' fishing with 60 boats at daily loads of 16,000 each, equal to over 14 millions of oysters, and a revenue of £20,000. A reference to the Tabular Statement, Annexure No. 2, shews the results to have been 18 days, 1084 boats, averaging daily loads of 15,000 each, giving over 12 and a quarter millions for Government, and with Divers' shares, nearly 16½ millions oysters, and a revenue of £24,000.

The attendance was much earlier and more numerous this year; of course all the speculators of 1857 having then made good profits, attending; and a knowledge of this and the natural expectation of a finer yield of Pearls from older oysters, brought a more general and monied class of dealers from India. All promised well for a successful Fishery, the sale rates for the first three days being 21 to 19 Rupees per 1000; but this was not the intention of the combination party of last year;—they, the Colombo Chetties, had, previous to arrival, bound themselves, under serious pecuniary obligations, not to oppose one another, but that one should buy for all and share the quantities. They thus hoped again to reduce prices to the lowest possible rate, prevent the estimated revenue being realized, and so carry out their much desired object of forcing Government into the Renting system; and now by threats of dishonoring the credits that many Coast Chetties (and Moormen) had upon them, and of excommunication from their Societies, they made these men join the league, which in a few days consisted of 180 Nattacotta Chetties, representing about 45 firms belonging to Ceylon and India. They also induced, by promises of loans of monies and of a fair daily share of oysters bought, the most influential Moormen to join them.

The agreement entered into was, that the oysters should be purchased only by one person at under 15 Rupees; this price to be daily reduced as circumstances admitted, the quantity purchased to be divided into 32 shares of which 26 were to go to the Nattacotta Chetties, and the other 6 amongst the Moormen and Jaffna speculators; the penalty for breach of the obligation on the part of the Nattacotta Chetties was the forfeiture of 1000 Rupees subscribed by each firm. Having organized this league, they allowed the small





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buyers to purchase their needs keeping them up to a certain price; and then when these parties had completed their purchases the Chetties offered 15 Rupees. This I refused: so they left the Cutcherry in a body, and the consequence was, the stopping of the Fishery and sales for three days.

The proceedings of last year's combination, by no means of so formidable and organized a character as the present, had shewn me the power and advantages the Chetties acquired by temporizing, and that every fine day not availed of, was a loss not to be regained. In 1857, I had an inexhaustible supply of oysters, and although this had hampered my proceedings, it was the ultimate means of making good the deficiency in price; but I was aware that on this occasion the yield of oysters was not likely much to exceed the estimated quantity; and if the Chetties carried their point of daily reduction of price, nothing like the expected Revenue would be obtained. I therefore determined, unless I could be certain of getting a fair fixed price for the oysters, to assume the serious responsibility of closing the Fishery, and accordingly issued notice to this effect, and engaged vessels for the removal of the establishments. This had the effect I had hoped for; the Chetties came forward with an offer of 16 Rupees per 1000 for all the Fishery. I knew this rate to be below the real value of the oysters, the November sample being valued at 16 Rupees, and the March one at 22 Rupees, but I felt that I was not justified with such an offer to act so unfairly towards the Divers and Boatmen as to close the Fishery. The Proclamation had implied, I may say promised them, 15 days' employment, and therefore, under the peculiar circumstances in which I was placed, and the necessity for prompt decision to save the fine weather, I accepted the offer for the contents of 40 boats for 12 days, with the right of requiring them to take all unsold at such rates, and taking a deposit of £2,000 for security of the contract. At the expiration of this period the combination was broken up, and I was enabled to obtain 22 and 23 Rupees per boat load; and but for an out-break of Cholera on the 1st April, and the 17th days' fishing, I should, with another week of the then fine weather, have fished the whole of the bed and realized possibly £50,000; but nothing would induce the Divers to go to sea after the 3rd April, the 18th day, and I was therefore compelled to close the Fishery with a receipt of £24,000, and a large residue of oysters on the bed.

The deaths by Cholera had been confined to the Divers' quarters, but ere the establishments left, several cases occurred amongst the Troops and Police, and during the voyage to Colombo of 24 hours by the Steamer "Manchester," 5 men died. Indeed I shall never forget the horrors of that night's passage, every sea-sick man believed he was attacked with cholera, and I believe another 24 hours' passage would have frightened many more to death. The commencement of this Fishery was all sunshine and hope,—its termination saddened by sickness and death.

Fishery of 1859.

The Banks advertized for this Fishery were the Modrigam and that portion of the N. W. Cheval Paar left unfished by the outbreak of cholera last year. The estimate for the former was 10 millions and of the residue on the Cheval Paar 2½ millions; the anticipated revenue £30,000.

Owing to the oysters on the Cheval Paar being much scattered, and my desire that the boats should be easy of control so as not to take up young oysters or get on the ground where such were known to be, only 50 boats a day were allowed to fish. The work occupied 11 days; the yield of oysters was over 3 millions for Government, and including Divers' share, nearly 4½ millions; the revenue for this small quantity being £19,448; the lowest rate of sale being £5 4*s.*; the highest, £8 8*s.*; and the average £6 3*s.* 9*d.* per 1000.

The Modrigam, from which, owing to an outbreak of Cholera, only 7 days' fishing was had, yielded, with 592 boats, for Government over 6½ millions, and with Divers' shares, 8½ millions of oysters, and receipts of £28,768; the lowest selling price being £3 10*s.*, the highest £6 16*s.*, and the average £4 10*s.* per 1000.

The high prices at which the Cheval oysters sold, resulted from the good out-turn of Pearls and profits they had yielded to the buyers of 1857 and 1858, more particularly last year; the limited quantities now daily fished, (i. e. from 200,000 to 300,000), and their age, which gave promise of a yield of fine large pearls:—that this was really the case, is shewn by the fact that the higher price of £8 8*s.* was given after the 7th day's fishing, when buyers had been able by washing to ascertain the actual out-turn of the oysters purchased on the first and second day; the Moormen were the principal purchasers of these oysters; the Chetties, still striving, still hoping, to effect a combination, made but few purchases, and those not singly, but for the body they represented. The Comatty Chetties had not joined them, and, with the Moormen, opposed and entirely defeated their proceedings; the consequence, as I heard, of the Chetties having last year failed to carry out fairly the promises and agreement which then induced the Comatty and Moormen to join them.

The Modrigam had not been fished for above 20 years, but its old reputation for yielding fine Pearls, particularly of the Anie kind, still held good; and although the valuation for the March sample was but 25 Rupees, the first day's fish with 100 boats, of one million and 116,000 oysters, sold at prices of 37 to 43 Rupees per 1000. This sale was most densely crowded; the Chetties, unable to carry out their tactics with the limited quantities from the Cheval, now hoped to be able to do so with the certain larger daily yields of the Modregam; and they all attended the sale with the avowed object and determination of keeping down the price, knowing, that if any number of buyers were

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES. 1855 to 1860.

*fixed* on the first day with large quantities, they would not be likely to allow others to buy at less rates at future sales. The Chetties commenced bidding in concert at 16 Rupees. but the Moormen opposed, and the first lot was sold, I believe, at 30 Rupees; again and continually the Chetties tried 16 to 20 Rupees. Seeing this dodge, and fearing that ere so large a quantity was sold they might succeed, I commenced taking down lots when the biddings were at 35 Rupees, for any quantities the Moormen and Comatty men named, taking no notice whatever of the Chetties. This they could not stand long; the excitement, for all were eager to get a share, in the fear that none would be left, of hearing lots of 20,000 to 50,000 booked at increasing rates, induced the leading man, Verappa Chetty, to offer 38½ Rupees for 50,000. This I accepted, knowing that, once in at such a price, they would allow none to go at less. The Chetty compact being thus broken, they all bid for themselves, opposing each other, and the Moormen. The biddings rose to 43 Rupees; and such was now the eagerness and excitement to get oysters, that in less than three hours I had sold over a million for £4,488, and could easily have disposed of double that quantity. The second day's fish was with 84 boats, yielding for Government 719,177 oysters, which sold at 40 to 43½ Rupees; and notwithstanding the Fishery was carried on with from 75 to 100 boats daily, and yields of 700,000 and over a million of oysters, prices continued to rise and range from 44 to 60 Rupees per 1000.

On the 2nd April the 15 days fishing advertized was completed, with a receipt of £33,195; and there was but one thing likely to interfere with continued success and the obtaining of double this amount,—that was, the general accompaniment of a fishery, sickness. Cholera had appeared, and in 12 cases had proved fatal; the prompt attention given to each case, and the efforts of prevention on the part of Dr. Charsley and his staff, prevented for the time the further spread of this dire disease. I was also very ill with Dysentry, and ought, by the Doctor's advice, to have kept my bed; but with daily sales of from £4,000 to £5000, and so deeply interested as I was in the success, and desire not to lose a single day, I could not remain away, and I was carried to my duties. On the evening of the 5th, a very violent gale of wind and heavy rain, which lasted through the night, committed great havoc amongst the Divers' quarters. This, and the reappearance of 13 cases of Cholera amongst them, caused the panic and flight of a large number of divers; and I only succeeded in getting another, the 18th day's fishing. Advice, and promise of medical assistance was of no avail; and the Fishery was closed on the 7th; the 101 boats of that day had brought 1,194,000 oysters for Government, which sold at rates of 43½ to 50 Rupees, realizing £5,322,—making the total receipts £48,215, and leaving a residue of oysters on the Modrigam.

Although my condition of health was then very precarious, and the stoppage of the fishery was most neccessary and fortunate for me, I was deeply disappointed at so abrupt and sad a termination: another week would have fished the remaining oysters; and as 6½ millions had realized £28,767, there were fair grounds for my expectation of a like quantity, and at least £20,000 more receipts.

By the 10th, the Military Establishments and Treasure were away, and the excitement being over, my overtaxed system gave way, and I was compelled to take to my bed. The Steamer returned on the 12th, and reached Colombo the next day. My condition was then so serious as to necessitate my taking leave to England. I returned to Ceylon in March 1861, far from recovered; and I feel that I shall never again be entirely free from the consequences of the illness of 1859.

With the dispersion of the divers the Cholera ceased; none of the establishment suffered, but one soldier was killed and two seriously injured, by lightning striking the roof of the barracks. An attempted robbery of oysters from the Government Kootto by the Malay soldier pensioners, with the connivance of the Malay soldiers on guard, was detected by Peons of the Kootoo, and punished by the whipping and imprisonment of the guard and thieves. I was able on this occasion to get rid of the Shark charmer; he thought fit to be absent for the first few days of the Fishery, and as the Divers went to work without objection, and no shark seizing occurred, I would not afterwards allow him further to exercise his humbug of charming away the sharks. I had long desired to get rid of this piece of charlatanism, because I knew the majority of the Divers had no faith in it, and that the fellow was not content with Government payment, but extorted oysters from some of the Divers. I therefore gladly seized the fair occasion he had given me, as even the Divers who believed in the superstition had no grounds for appeal.

His Excellency Sir H. Ward's visit to this Fishery of a week during the high tide of its success, afforded him the opportunity of seeing the interesting sight that a Fishery really affords, and of becoming conversant in all the business and questions relating thereto.

Fishery of 1860.

This Fishery was, in my absence from the Colony, conducted by Captain Pritchard, the Master Attendant of Colombo, and was, as he stated, achieved under very favorable circumstances, the weather being generally fine, the public health, in the absence of all sickness, all that could be desired, and the attendance of Pearl merchants and speculators most numerous, all the buyers of previous fisheries being present besides many others from various parts of India, with cash, including the Bank orders for £33,000, computed at £50,000; and as the average of the quantity of oysters daily fished for Government never exceeded 200,000, the total being 2¾ millions, and 3½ millions including Divers' shares, there was no opportunity of combination; in fact, the buyers exceeded the desired supply, and in consequence, as will be seen on reference to the Tabular Statement No. 2, the oysters sold as





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high as £18, and averaged £14 10*s.* per 1000, realizing a total receipt of £36,681. These prices are unprecedented and must be mainly attributed to the limited supply, and the determination of all the numerous buyers present to obtain a share; and this secured an amount of competition hitherto perhaps unequalled. No doubt the out-turn of the previous year's oysters had been good and supported the old established character of the Modrigam for Anie pearls of a large kind. The fishing commenced on the 12th March, ended on the 30th, continuing 14 days without a break from weather or other causes.

I had expressed the opinion in 1859, that the oysters on the S. E. of the Modrigam ought not to be fished until 1861, as I believed they were of an age to live, and if left they would have replenished the Bank, but it was hardly to be expected that any Superintendent could resist such a present large source of revenue for a probable hereafter profit.

Why Fisheries should not be rented.

The results which I have endeavoured to explain, and the particulars given in the Tabular Statement No. 2, shew that the Fisheries can be carried on by the Government without the renting system; and further, that as the Cheval and Modrigam Paars yielded in five years a total of 72 millions of oysters, for 54 of which Government received aggregate receipts of £140,302 and a net revenue of £117,453, so the Divers and Boat people have received as their one-fourth share, 28 millions of oysters, and therefore earned at least £46,700. Indeed, as they always sell on the day of landing before the Government sales take place, and mostly obtain higher prices, from 10 to 20 per cent., their actual earnings may be estimated at £53,700, a remuneration which, being the result of laborious work and special personal exertion, they deserve and are fairly entitled to.

The native Divers are in reality the bone and sinews of the Fisheries. The European system of diving with all the needed appliances of assistants, separate boats for the pumps and oysters, possible delays by accidents, &c., would not only be attended with very heavy expenditure, but the work daily done could not be half that by the present system.

Previous to the resumption of the Fisheries the number of native Divers was very limited; in fact, want of employment and profit had reduced the profession to a very low ebb; now they are a very numerous class, and should be encouraged and protected by Government from the oppression it is known was formerly exercised by the Renters.

But supposing the Fisheries of 1855 to 1860 had been rented, what would have been the likely results?—1st, the Modrigam would have been scraped up, young and old, at one Fishery; the Cheval in two at most, and the £140,000, as well as the lion's share of the Divers' £53,700, together with all the profits made by the numerous speculators, would have gone into the pockets of two or three Chetty firms. Ceylon would not have derived any of the benefits which by the present division amongst speculators belonging to the Island she must have. There would have been no encouragement for an increase of the Divers' class, and the present prospective series of Fisheries, the first of which is expected to yield *this year*, £55,000, and in the next four or five years some £200,000 to £300,000, would not, I believe, have existed. The results of 1855 to 1860 have shewn, that Fisheries so conducted are for the benefit of Government, the Divers, and the Public; and I do hope the same system will now be always continued. Offers have been made through me to rent the Fishery of this year, 1863, for a very much larger sum of money than the estimated receipts, and as past results prove that *quantity of necessity lessens prices*, and aids combinations for this object, it may be, if the Cheval yields the very large daily fishing I anticipate, that the expected revenue will not be realized this year; but if so, I shall still consider that His Excellency Sir C. Mac Carthy, has exercised great forbearance and sound discretion in refusing to be tempted, and that Ceylon, and his successors, will reap the benefit in a more continuous production of the Banks and Pearl Fisheries.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. VANE,
*Actg. Treasurer.*

The Honble
The Colonial Secretary.

## ANNEXURE No. 1.

TABULAR STATEMENT of the Inspection of the Coast and Pearl Banks from Negombo along the North-West Coast, thence on to the North-East Coast, in the Steamer "Pearl," under the superintendence of G. Vane, Esq., Superintendent of the Pearl Fisheries, between the 4th and 21st March, 1862.

| Date. | | Name of Coast and Bank. | Depth of water. | Nature of ground. | Bearings. | Results of examination. | Observations. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1862. | | | Fathoms. | Rocky & Sand | | | |
| March 4 | Off Negombo Coast. | | 7 | | North end of Keymel river W. 50 E. | A few oysters about 4 years old | Very healthy, but very few in quantity, not more than 20, or 30,000; the main quantity found close to a large rock but so scattered that some boats found none; there is no hope of a fishery for these few, but they may be the nucleus of future beds, and should be examined next year. |
| | | | | | Sandy point of Island Doewe . S. 38 E. | | |
| | | | | | South end Keymel river N 45 E. | | |
| | | | 8 | " | Doewe . S. 62 E. | Nil. | |
| | | | 5½ | Sand | Keymel river E. b N. ¼ N. | " | |
| | | | 5 | " | Extreme point of Doewe . S. ¾ E. | " | |
| | | | 5 | " | Keymel river N. 68 E. | " | |
| | | | | | Doewe Point S. 7 E. | " | |
| | | | 5 | " | Keymel river S. 67 E. | " | |
| | | | | | Point . S. 5 E. | " | |
| | | | 5 | " | do. . S. 6 W. | " | |
| | | | 5½ | " | do. . S. | " | |
| | | | 5 | " | do. . S. 2 E. | " | |
| | | | 6 | " | do. . S. 7 E. | " | |
| | | | 7½ | " | A single arreatree . E. ¼ S. | " | |
| | | | | | Opening of Negombo lake S. ¾ E. | " | |
| | | Ooloowatte Paar | 6 | " | Ooloowattee Village . S. E. ¼ E. | " | |
| March 5 | | Chilaw Paar | 6½ | " | Karkopanny Tope . E. ¼ N. ¼ N. | ... | No signs of oysters upon any of the Banks of Chilaw or Calpentyn. At the inspection of November 1860, found young oysters of 9 months old, upon the Chilaw and Mootobandy paars; these have all disappeared, and now that I have seen this coast, I am not surprised at this, and that these banks have never yielded regular fisheries; they are exposed to all the influences of the Gulf of Manaar, and the water all along is very various, going from 7 to 13 fathoms; and as the coast of Chilaw is a very exposed one, no doubt the oysters are carried away into deep water during heavy weather and strong currents. |
| | | | " | " | Judge's bungalow . S. E. ¼ E. | | |
| | | | 6½ | " | Karko . N. 78 E. | | |
| | | | 7 | " | do. . N. 87 E. | | |
| | | | 6½ | " | Moottobandy N. 22 E. | | |
| | | | 7 | " | do. . " | | |
| | | Karkopanny Paar | 7 | Rock | Karko . E. | | |
| | | | | | Moottobandy N. 22 E. | | |
| | | | | | J. Bungalow S. 25 E. | | |
| | | | 6¾ | " | Karko . S. 80 E. | | |
| | | | 7½ | " | do. . E. | | |
| | | Tackenpatty Paar | 9½ | Small sand | Bungalow . S. 40 E. | | |
| | | | | | Karko . E. ¼ S. | | |
| | | | | | Bungalow . S. E. ¼ E. | | |
| | | | 10½ | " | Karko . N. 60 E. | | |
| | | | | | Bungalow . S. 17 E. | | |
| | | | 9 | " | Karko . N. 65 E. | | |
| | | | | | Vessel . N. 83 E. | | |
| March 6 | | | 8½ | " | Karko . N. 65 E. | | |
| | | | | | Vessel . N. 80 E. | | |
| | | | 8 | " | Karko . N. 70 E. | | |
| | | | 7½ | Rock | do. . N. 60 E. | | |
| | | | 8 | " | do. . N. 78 E. | | |
| | | | 7½ | " | do. . N. 75 E. | | |
| | | | 9½ | Sand | Mottakaba-dy . N. 60 E. | | |
| March 7 | | Do. | 8 | " | do. . N. 53 E. | | |
| | | | 9 | " | do. . N. 65 E. | | |
| | | | 9½ | " | Karko . S. 68 E. | | |
| | | | " | " | do. . S. 75 E. | | |
| | | | | | Mootokalandy N. 65 E. | | |
| | | Naval Paar | 6½ | Sand & | do. . N. E. ¼ E. | | |
| | | Mootokalandy Paar | 6½ | Rock | Karko . S. E. ¼ S. | | |
| | | | " | " | Andapany . E. by N. | | |
| | | | 9 | " | do. . E. ¼ N. | | |
| | | | | | Odopakara . E. | | |
| March 8 | | Navakadu Paar | 7½ | Sand | Navakadu Tope . N. E. by E. | ... | |
| | | | | Rock | do. N. E. by E. ¼ E | ... | |
| | | | 4½ | " | do. E. by N. ¼ E. | ... | No sign of Oysters. |
| | | | " | " | do. . E. ¼ N. | ... | |
| | | | 5½ | " | do. . E. | ... | |
| | | | 8 | " | do. . E. ¼ S. | ... | |







| Date. | | Name of Coast and Bank. | Depth of water. | Nature of ground. | Bearings. | Result of examination. | Observations. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Off Calpentyn Coast. | Tallaville Paar | 7½ | Rock | Tallaville . E. | Nil. | |
| | | | | | St. Anna's Pt. . S. by E. | | |
| | | | | | do. . S. S. E. | | |
| | | | 9½ | " | Tallavilla . E. ¼ N. | | |
| | | | 9½ | " | St. Anna . S. | | |
| | | | 8½ | " | Tallavilla . S. 50 E. | | |
| | | | 7 | " | do. . N. 58 E. | | |
| | | | 8 | " | Peenyatorre. S. 45 E. | | |
| March 10 | | Allantura Paar | 5 | " | do. . S. 25 E. | ... | No sign of the oysters found by Captain Pritchard at the inspection of 1860 on the Karatevo paar; they have no doubt been drifted away by currents, and I think most likely so upon the Modregam; the set would take them in this direction, and the Coral shoal protecting that Bank, would preserve them. |
| | | | 5 | " | Koosalimun-del . . N. E. | | |
| | Off Karcetivo Coast. | Karkokody Paar | 5 | " | Kodramalee Pt. . N. 48 E. | | |
| | | | | | Peenytorre . S. 30 E. | | |
| | | | 5½ | " | Koosalimun-del . N. 42 E. | | |
| | | Karcetivo Paar | 8 | Coral rock | do. . N. 60 E. | | |
| | | | 6½ | " | Kodramalie beacon . — | | |
| | | | | | Koosalimun-del . N. 67 E. | | |
| | | | | | *North end of Bank.* | | |
| March 11 | | Modrigam Paar | 6 to 5½ | Rock and Sand, mainly, Sand and Shells. | Kallar Beacon . . East. | Oysters 3½ to 4 years old | The extent of this bed is from north to south 1900 yds., east to west 2600. There are also outside patches to the north and to the south; the whole extent of the bed may be called about a mile square; the Oysters are very healthy and should be fishable in 1865 |
| 12 | | | | | Kodramalie Beacon . S. 31 E. | | |
| | | | | | *S. E. end of Bed.* | | |
| | | | | | Kodramalie Beacon . S. 30 E. | | |
| | | | | | Kallar do. . N. 83 E. | | |
| | | | | | *N. W. edge.* | | |
| | | | | | Kallar do. . N. 88 E. | | |
| | | | | | Kodramalie Beacon . S 33 E. | | |
| | | | | Rock and Sand | *South-west edge of bed.* Kodramalie Beacon . S. 41 E. | | |
| | | | " | | Kallar do. . N. 84 E. | | |
| | | | | | Of a small patch a mile south of this bed . . — | | |
| | | | | | Kodramalie Beacon . S. 47 E. | do. - | |
| | | | | | Kallar do. . N. 72 E. | | |
| | | | | | *South end of bed, 7 fms.* | | |
| | | | | Rock and Sand, mainly Rock | Kodramalie Beacon . S. 37 E. | Healthy Oysters of | |
| March 13 | | 8. Cheval Paar | 6 to 9½ | | Kallar . S. 82 E. | 5 to 5½ yrs. | Not so very plentiful; a large proportion of dead shells of recent date. |
| 15 | | | | | *South east end, 6½ fms.* Kodramalie Beacon . S. 36 E. | do. - | Not so plentiful with dead shells. |
| | | | | | Kallar do. . S. 84 E. | | |
| | | | | | *Eastern edge, 6½ fms.* | do. - | Very plentiful and but few dead. |
| | | | | | Kodramalie . Beacon . S. 72 E. | | |
| | | | | | Kallar do. . S. 80 E. | do. - | On the edge not so plentiful. |
| | | | | | Kodra do. . S. 30 E. | | |
| | | | | | Kallar . S. 73 E. | | |
| | | | | | Kodra . S. 31 E. | do. - | Very plentiful, not many dead. |
| | | | | | Kallar . S. 75 E. | | |
| | | | | | *North-western edge, 9½ fathoms.* | | |
| | | | | | Kodra beacon S. 38 E. | do. - | Most abundant; somewhat smaller in size and apparently younger, this portion of the bed should be fished last. |
| | | | | | Kallar. . S. 74 E. | | |
| | | | | | *Western edge.* | | |
| | | | | | Kodra beacon S. 38 E. | do. - | do. |
| | | | | | Kallar . S. 72 E. | | |

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES. 1855 to 1860.

Annexure No. 1. (*Continued.*)

| Date. | Name of Bank or Coast. | Depth of water. | Nature of the ground. | Bearings. | Result of examination. | Observations. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Fathoms. | | | | |
| March 13 | S. Cheval Paar | 6 to 9½ | Rock and Sand, mainly, Rock. | *Northern end.* | | |
| 15 | | | | Kodra beacon S. 33 E.<br>Kallar . S. 69 E. | Healthy Oysters of 5 to 5½ yrs. | Most abundant; somewhat smaller in size and apparently younger; this portion of the bed should be fished last. |
| | | | | | | The south portion of the bed must be first fished in March 1863, and the condition of the Oysters then must determine the extent of that year's fishery. |
| March 17 | Condatchy Paar | 3½ to 5 | Sand & small Rock. | Doric . E. N. E.<br>Kallar beacon E. S. E. | Nil. | No sign of Oysters now. In 1857 this Bank had millions, and although they contained no Pearls, most likely because in shallow water, it was hoped they might hereafter supply other Banks. |
| | Kallaltidel Paar | 5½ to 6 | Sand & Rock | *North-east end.* | | |
| | | | | Kallar beacon S. E. by E. ½ E. | | |
| | | | | Kodramalie Beacon . S. by E. ½ E. | " | |
| | | | | *South-west end.* | | |
| | | | | Kallar beacon E. S. E. | " | |
| | | | | Doric . E. N. E. | " | |
| | Arippoo Paar | 6½ | Sand | Arippoo Tope E. ½ S. | " | |
| | | | | Doric . S. 77 E. | " | |
| March 18 | Bangali Paar | 6½ to 8 | All sand | *South end.* | | |
| | | | | Adjancolun Tope . N. 81 E. | Oysters of 4 to 6 months old. | These young Oysters are very plentiful, extending about 2½ miles from south to north-west; on the southern half they are in patches; the north-west part of the bed is well covered. The Adigar states, that young Oysters have before been found on this Bank, but they never yielded a fishery; but they never were so abundant before, and they may therefore for this reason hung together and remain; still the nature of the ground, sand, and the exposed position are against this, but they must be yearly looked to. |
| | | | | Arippoo tope S. 67 E. | | |
| March 19 | Amawolenden Paar | 5 to 6 | Coral Rock | Tallamanaar N. ½ E. | Nil. | These 2 Banks are in fact one. I examined them in 1858 without results; and the Adigar only knows by ancient report, or repute that they ever had Oysters. |
| | | | | do. N. 8 E. | | |
| March 20 | Naderkodo Paar | ... | ... | do. N. 18 E. | | |
| | | | | do. N. 17 E. | " | |





CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES. 1855 to 1860.

Annexure No. 1. (*Continued.*)

| Date. | Name of Bank or Coast. | Depth of water. | Nature of the ground. | Bearings. | Result of examination. | Observations. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Fathoms. | | | | |
| March 20 | South-east and Eastern Coast of Island of Delft, Island of Poongerective up to Mankerivo, and all the rocky ground noted in Franklin's chart | 6½ - All mud<br>6½ - Mud and Sand<br>5½ to 3 - do. | | ...<br>...<br>... | Nil.<br>"<br>... | 2 Oysters found, one of two years old off Poongerective, the other of 6 months old inside the Poongerective reef, in about 1 fathom. |
| March 21 | Off Paalative and Kakaativo | 5½ to 6 - Sand & little rock | | ... | ... | 1 Small Oyster of 4 months old found in shore of Paalativo. |

N. B.—The bearings given show only a small portion of the work daily done.

G. VANE,
Superintendent.

## ANNEXURE No. 2.

TABULAR STATEMENT shewing the date and duration of the Pearl Fisheries on the North-west Coast of Ceylon; the names of the Banks fished; the estimated Produce; the quantity and out-turn of the Samples taken; the actual Produce; the highest, lowest and average price per 1000 Oysters; the amount and percentage of the Expenditure; and the total number of persons employed on the Fishery Establishment from 1855 to 1860.

| Date and Duration of Fishery. | Name of Banks. | ESTIMATED PRODUCE. No. of Fishing days. | No. of Boats employed. | Quantity per Boat. | No. of Oysters. | Amount. | SAMPLE OYSTERS. When taken. | Quantity. | Total weight of Pearls extracted. Kalanjee. | Manjadie. | Total value. Rupees. | Anna. | Pice. | Average weight per Thousand. Kalanjee. | Manjadie. | Average value per Thousand. £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1837 to 1854 | *No Fisheries* | | | | | £ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1855 March 12 to April 12 | S. W. Cheval Paar | 10 | 50 | 7500 | 3750000 | 10000 | Nov. 1854 | 4016 | 0 | 18½ | 71 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 7/12 | 1 | 15 | 4 |
| | *Divers Share* | | | 2500 | 1250000 | — | Mar. 1855 | 4500 | 1 | 10¾ | 61 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 6 2/3 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| | | 10 | 50 | 10000 | 5000000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1856 | *No Fishery* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1857 March 9 to April 24 | N. W. Cheval Paar | 15 | 75 | 7500 | 8437500 | 15000 | Nov. 1856 | 10000 | 4 | 1 1/2 | 110 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 8 11/12 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | *Divers Share* | | | 2500 | 2812500 | — | Feb. 1857 | 10000 | 4 | 16 3/32 | 140 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 9 15/16 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| | | 15 | 75 | 10000 | 11250000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1858 March 5 to April 3 | Do. | 15 | 60 | 12000 | 10800000 | 20000 | Nov. 1857 | 12000 | 12 | 12 1/2 | 195 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 1 1/3 | 1 | 12 | 8 |
| | *Divers Share* | | | 4000 | 3600000 | — | Feb. 1858 | 12000 | 14 | 15 3/4 | 200 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 7/12 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| | | 15 | 60 | 16000 | 14400000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1859 March 8 to April 7 | N. W. Cheval Paar | 5 | 50 | 7500 | 1875000 | £30000 | Nov. 1858 | 10000 | 17 | 8 3/4 | 317 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 14 11/12 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| | *Divers Share* | | | 2500 | 625000 | | March 1859 | 10000 | 23 | 5 | 446 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 6/7 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| | | 5 | 50 | 10000 | 2500000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Modrigam Paar | 10 | 50 | 15000 | 7500000 | | Nov. 1858 | 12000 | 12 | 17 1/2 | 182 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 4/7 | 1 | 10 | 4 |
| | *Divers Share* | | | 5000 | 2500000 | | March 1859 | 12000 | 19 | 3 1/8 | 295 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 2/3 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| | | 10 | 50 | 20000 | 10000000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1860 March 12 to March 31 | N. & S. E. Modrigam | 5 | 50 | 7500 | 1875000 | £30000 | *N. Modrigam* Nov. 1859 | No sample taken | | | | | | | | | | |
| | *Divers Share* | | | 2502 | 625000 | | March 1860 | 6500 | 22 | 9 | 463 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 4 4/9 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | *S. E. Modrigam* Nov. 1859 | 1220 | — | — | 42 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | March 1860 | 10000 | 10 | 9 4/9 | 198 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 5/9 | 1 | 17 | 11 |
| | | 5 | 50 | 10000 | 2500000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |





## ANNEXURE No. 2, *continued.*

| ACTUAL PRODUCE. No. of Fishing days. | No. of Boats employed. | Average load per Boat. | No. of Oysters fished. | Sold for Government. | Total Revenue. £ | s. | d. | Highest rate per 1000. £ | s. | d. | Lowest rate per 1000. £ | s. | d. | Average rate per 1000. £ | s. | d. | EXPENDITURE. Amount. £ | s. | d. | Per centage on Revenue. | Per centage on Oysters. | Total number of persons employed on the Fishery Establishment. Civil. | Military. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1484 | | | On account of Inspection | | | | |
| 20 | 859 | 5267 | 5057822 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 1756 | 1685940 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20 | 559 | 7024 | ——— | 6745762 | 5031818 | 10922 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2632 | — | — | 24 | ·05 | 247 | 130 | 337 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 906 | | | On account of Inspection | | | | |
| 24 | 1624 | 14987 | 24339790 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 4996 | 8113263 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 23 | 1624 | 19983 | ——— | 32452305 | 24450308 | 20363 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 40 | 12 | 0 | 40 | 16 | 6 | 4128 | — | — | 21·7 | ·01 | 280 | 197 | 475 |
| 18 | 1084 | 11404 | 12762146 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 3801 | 4120715 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Govt. Boats | | — | 2080 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 18 | 1084 | 15205 | ——— | 16882861 | 12353049 | 24120 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 12 | 0 | 41 | 19 | 0 | 4741 | — | — | 19·6 | ·04 | 271 | 195 | 466 |
| 11 | 760 | 4147 | 3141933 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 1382 | 1047311 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Govt. Boats | | | 2221 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 11 | 760 | 5529 | ——— | 4191465 | 3143402 | 19448 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 4 | 0 | 43 | 5 | 0 | 43 | 9 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 7 | 592 | 10777 | 6380247 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 3592 | 2126749 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 7 | 592 | 14369 | ——— | 8506996 | 6381549 | 28767 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 46 | 16 | 0 | 44 | 10 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | | | 12698461 | 9524351 | 48215 | 18 | 10 | | | | | | | | | 4830 | — | — | 10 | ·05 | 284 | 171 | 455 |
| 5 | 301 | 1933 | 580642 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 652 | 196214 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fished by E. divers | | | 772 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | 301 | 2607 | | 783628 | 595822 | 8726 | 18 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 0 | 43 | 18 | 0 | 44 | 10 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9 | 617 | 3475 | 2144478 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| D. Share | | 1158 | 714826 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Fished by E. divers | | | 62 | — | — | | | | | | | | | | | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9 | 617 | 4633 | ——— | 2859066 | 2144845 | 27954 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 4 | 0 | 42 | 17 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | | | 3644894 | 2733667 | 36681 | 12 | 4 | | | | | | | | | 3928 | — | — | 10·4 | ·14 | 233 | 27 | 206 |
| Total Pearl Fisheries, 1855 to 1860 | | | | 72025131 | 54063593 | 140302 | 18 | 10 | | | | | | | | | 22849 | 0 | 0 | Earnings of Divers, Boat-owners, & Boatmen, between 1855 to 1860 on their share of 18005018 Oysters, 453781. | | | | | | |
| | | | | Expenditure.... | | 22849 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Net proceeds £ | | 117453 | 18 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G. VANE.

## ANNEXURE No. 3.

## GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a Pearl Fishery will take place at Aripo, in the Island of Ceylon, on or about the 2nd of March next 1863; and that the Bank to be fished is the South-East Cheval Paar Bank, estimated to contain Oysters sufficient to employ One hundred Boats for Twelvedays.

It is therefore recommended, that such Boat-owners and Divers as may wish to be employed at the said Fishery, should be at Aripo on or before the 20th February next. And it is particularly notified, that the first day's fishing will positively take place on the first day in March that the weather may permit the Boats to fish.

The Fishery will be conducted on account of Government, and the Oysters put up to sale in such lots as may be deemed expedient.

The arrangements of the Fishery will be the same as have been usual on similar occasions.

All payments to be made in ready money in Ceylon Currency, or in East India Company's Rupees.

Drafts on the Banks in Colombo, or Bills on the Agents of this Government in India, at Ten days' sight, will be taken, on Letters of Credit being produced to warrant the drawing of such Drafts or Bills.

For the convenience of purchasers, the Treasurer at Colombo and the different Government Agents of Provinces, will be authorized to receive Cash Deposits from parties intending to become purchasers, and Receipts of these Officers will be taken in payment of any sums due on account of the Fishery.

No deposit will be received for a less sum than Fifty pounds.

By His Excellency's Command,

W. C. GIBSON,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 12th December, 1862.

*Statement of the Produce and Valuation of* 12,000 *Oysters taken from the South-East part of the Cheval Paar, in November*, 1862.

| Description, Size, Number and Quality. | | | | | Weight. | | | | Value. | Total value. | Rate of valuation in Pagodas. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Total. | | | | | |
| No. | Description. | Size in Basket. | Number. | Quality in Chew. | Kalengies | Manjalies. | K. | M. | R. A. P. | R. A. P. | Per Chew. | Per Kalengy. |
| 1 | Aney | 20 | 1 | 1 3/8 | — | 13 | — | — | 28 7 0 | — | 17 Star Pagodas. | |
| 2 | Aney | — | 3 | 1 1/8 | — | 1 5/8 | — | — | 17 10 0 | — | 13 do. | |
| 3 | Masegoe | — | 2 | — | — | 2/8 | — | — | 2 10 0 | — | — | |
| 4 | Kalippo | — | 11 | — | — | 4 1/2 | — | — | 25 9 1 | — | — | 30 Star Pagodas. |
| 5 | Korowell | — | 14 | — | — | 3 5/16 | — | — | 8 1 2 | — | — | 14 do. |
| 6 | Peesel | — | 19 | — | — | 9 | — | — | 6 4 2 | — | — | 4 do. |
| | | | | | | | 1 | 0 1/2 | | 88 10 1 | | |
| 7 | Kalippo | 30 | 5 | — | — | 1 1/2 | — | — | 7 10 0 | — | — | 25 do. |
| 8 | Korowell | — | 4 | — | — | 2 1/2 | — | — | 5 12 0 | — | — | 12 do. |
| 9 | Peesel | — | 13 | — | — | 4 1/2 | — | — | 1 9 1 | — | — | 2 do. |
| | | | | | | | 0 | 9 | | 14 13 1 | | |
| 10 | Anoothary | 50 | 14 | 1 1/10 | — | 3 | — | — | 21 10 2 | — | 14 Star Pagodas. | |
| 11 | Kalippe | — | 20 | — | — | 4 1/2 | — | — | 12 9 1 | — | — | 16 do. |
| 12 | Korowell | — | 6 | — | — | 4 1/2 | — | — | 7 1 1 | — | — | 9 do. |
| 13 | Peesel | — | 53 | — | — | 14 | — | — | 8 12 1 | — | — | 3 1/2 do. |
| | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | | 50 1 1 | | |
| 14 | Aney | 80 | 20 | 1 1/10 | — | 3 1/2 | — | — | 16 12 2 | — | 12 Star Pagodas. | |
| 15 | Masegoe | — | 3 | — | — | 7/8 | — | — | 0 8 0 | — | — | |
| 16 | Kalippo | — | 14 | — | — | 7 1/2 | — | — | 15 15 2 | — | — | 13 do. |
| 17 | Korowell | — | 19 | — | — | 6 1/2 | — | — | 7 15 1 | — | — | 7 do. |
| 18 | Peesel | — | 78 | — | — | 13 1/2 | — | — | 5 5 2 | — | — | 2 1/2 do. |
| | | | | | | | 1 | 13 1/2 | | 46 8 3 | | |
| 19 | Vadivoe | 100 | — | 5 1/10 | 2 | 18 1/2 | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 20 | excluding | 200 | — | 3 1/10 | 3 | 16 1/2 | — | — | 200 6 0 | 200 6 0 | 7 Star Pagodas. | |
| 21 | Madengoe | 400 | — | 1 1/10 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | | | | | | | 8 | 15 1/2 | | | | |
| 22 | | 600 | — | — | 4 | 3 1/2 | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 23 | Thools | 800 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 86 10 0 | 86 10 0 | — | 3 do. |
| 24 | | 1000 | — | — | 2 | 1 1/2 | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | | | | | | | 8 | 5 1/2 | | | | |
| 25 | Maettool | — | — | — | 2 | 14 1/2 | — | — | 8 9 1 | — | — | 3 Rupees. |
| 26 | Shell Pearls | — | — | — | 5 | 8 | — | — | 46 4 0 | — | — | 2 1/2 Star Pagodas. |
| | | | | | | | 8 | 2 1/2 | | 54 13 1 | | |
| | | | | | Total | | 29 | 13 | | 542 0 3 | | |

Selavetorre, 30th November, 1862.

W. C. TWYNAM,
JAMES WORSLEY,
H. M. PATCHICO.





CEYLON FISHE 1863 Annex

## ANNEXURE No. 4.

## NOTICE FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF PERSONS ATTENDING THE FISHERY.

1.—Application for Ground for dwelling Houses, Boutiques, and Koottu, to be made to the Assistant Agent of Mannar, who will grant a permit for the Ground allotted; and any House or Koottu erected contrary to Orders, or without Permit, will be removed.

2.—The arrangements of Police, will be made by the Assistant Agent; and it is hereby notified for general information, that the Police Establishment is intended exclusively for the protection of all persons attending the Fishery, the maintenance of good order, and the preservation of the Public Peace, that they have no concern in the management of the Fishery, or in the collection of any dues, either for Government, for Temples, or any other account; and that such employment on their part is positively prohibited.

3.—The Police, and all Peons, will at all times wear their Belts, and Badges. They are particularly required to be civil and gentle to all persons, and carefully to abstain from interfering with any person, except where it is necessary for the preservation of good order.

4.—No persons connected with the Establishment will be permitted to receive any present or perquisite whatever, or to engage in any manner in the speculations of the Fishery, on pain of immediate dismissal.

5.—The Boatmen, and Divers, and all persons in general, are to take notice, that no one is authorized to make any deduction from their shares, on account of privilege or Charity Oysters. All contributions they choose to make for charitable purposes will therefore be perfectly voluntary; and in the case of Divers delivering Oysters into the Government Koottos, it will not be permitted, even with the consent of the Divers, that such contributions should be received by any one inside the Koottos. The Shark Charmer is remunerated by Government, and is not allowed, under any pretence whatever, to receive, demand, or exact Oysters from the Boatmen, Divers, or other persons. Any violation of this rule should be immediately reported to the Superintendent.

6.—After they leave the Koottos, the Divers will be at liberty to do as they please with their Oysters, and if molested they should apply to the Police for protection.

7.—The Fishing Boats will be inspected, under the immediate supervision of the Superintendent, as to their Sea-worthiness, condition of Sails and Oars, and complement of Crew. The Crew of each Boat will consist of 23 persons, viz:—

1 Samman Oattee.
1 Tindal.
1 Thoaly.
10 Divers.
10 Munducks;

and previous to the Inspection of the Boats, the Samman Oattee will be required to furnish a List, containing the names of the above-noted persons.

8.—From the Boats found to be qualified, the number required will take their chance of employment by Lottery.

9.—The Tindals of the Boats so selected will receive from the Cutcherry, Certificates, and a copy of the Rules for the guidance of their conduct when at Sea, and on Shore. And it is specially notified for general information, that those regulations will be strictly enforced, and the wilful breach of them will be dealt with as therein provided for.

10.—The Tindals of all the Boats employed and unemployed are to attend to the Orders of the Bench-master, particularly with respect to the places where their Boats are to be kept, and the mode of securing them so as to prevent interruption to the passage of other Boats to and fro, and of people along the Beach. Neglect of these orders on their part will subject them to be excluded from employ. No canoes are to be hauled up on the beach, except at the place assigned for them.

11.—No Huts of any description are to be erected upon the Beach, either for the use of the Crews of Boats or Canoes, without special permission.

12.—It will be required that the Boat's Quarter share of the Oysters fished daily, be divided according to established customs; viz.:—

Samman Oattee—the Oysters brought up in two divings for each stone, i. e., one diving for each diver.

Tindal. do. do.
Thoaly. do. do.
2 Divers, of each stone Two-thirds.
2 Munducks do. One-third.

Thoalyvalle or Boat-owner, the whole of the Boat's share of Oysters once in six days' fishing; but the share may be taken any day *after*, but not *prior* to the *3rd day's fishing*, that may be agreed upon. Arrangements with Divers to pay them by wages instead of allowing them their share of Oysters, according to the established customs, are expressly forbidden.

13.—It is particularly notified, that the first day's fishing will *positively* take place on the first day in March that the weather may permit the Boats to fish. It is therefore recommended to such Boatowners and Divers, as may wish to be employed at the Fishery, that they should be at Aripo, *on* or *before* the 20*th* February.

*Colombo*, *December*, 18

C. VANE,
*Supt.*

## ANNEXURE No. 5.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TINDALS AND BOATMEN OF THE DIVING BOATS IN EMPLOY.

1.—The Boats will be numbered by the Beach Master, and all Orders to the Tindals, Divers, and Boatmen, respecting the Boats to proceed to sea each night, and the Banks to be fished on, will be communicated to them through the Beach Master, to whose orders they are to pay attention; and any wilful disobedience thereof, will subject them to discontinuance from employ.

2.—The signal to proceed to sea will be as usual,—a gun fired at midnight.

The Adappanar will proceed a-head with a light, and all the Boats are to follow him; and on no account to take any other course, but keep as close as possible to the Headmen's Boats.

3.—The signal to commence diving will be as usual, flag hoisted to the main top-gallant mast-head of the Government Vessel. This signal will be made at half-past six in the morning, and no diving is to take place until it is made. The Tindals are to keep their Boats within the Boundary of the Buoys, and the place pointed out by the Headmen as the fishing ground for the day. Boats fishing beyond these limits will be discontinued from employ.

4.—The signal to cease diving, will be a gun fired from the same vessel at noon, when all diving is immediately to cease, and the Boats to return to shore, following the course taken by the Headmen's Boats.

Difficulty having been heretofore experienced in enforcing proper attention to this signal, the Boatmen are warned, that notice will be taken of the numbers of the Boats in which diving is continued after the signal is made, a report of which will be made to the Superintendent, who will impose a fine on the Boatmen for such disobedience; or if the offence be reported, discontinue the Boat from employ.

5.—The Boatmen are to pay strict attention to the orders of the Superintendent of the Kootoo, and of the Peons, and other Officers, acting under him, in respect to the business of landing and counting the Oysters.

6.—Upon proof of Oysters having been opened in any Boat, such Boat will be immediately discontinued from employ, and none of the Boatmen, or Divers, that may have been in it, will be allowed to enter into any other Boats.

The finding of knives, sticks, or other implements, for the opening of Oysters, will subject the party on whom found, and the Boat to which he belongs, to discontinuance from employ; and all knives or other implements whereby Oysters may be opened, and three-fourths of all Pearls found concealed on the persons of the Boatmen, or in the Boats, will be given to the finder or informer.

7.—The Crew of each Boat to consist of—

1 Tindal.
1 Sammun Oattee.
1 Thoaly.
10 Divers.
10 Munducks.

the division of the Boat's ¾ share of the Oysters fished daily, will be according to established customs.

Sammun Oattee—the Oysters brought up in two divings for each stone, i. e., one diving for each diver.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tindal | do. | do. |
| Thoaly | do. | do. |
| 2 Divers, of each stone | | ¾ |
| 2 Munducks, | do. | ¼ |

Thoalyalle or Boat-owner, the whole of the Boat's share of Oysters once in six days' fishing, but the share may be taken any day *after*, but not *prior* to the 3*rd day's* fishing, that may be agreed upon. Arrangements with Divers to pay them by wages instead of allowing them their share of Oysters, according to established custom, are expressly forbidden.

8.—Divers deserting from the Boat in which they are engaged before the Fishery is over,—Tindals, and Sammun Oattees extorting from the Divers more than the share they are entitled to, will be subject to punishment.

9.—The Boats are not to leave without the permission of the Superintendent, and they are to give notice of their wish to do so, to the Beach Master.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TINDALS AND BOATMEN OF THE DIVING BOATS IN EMPLOY.

**1.**—The Boats will be numbered by the Beach Master, and all Orders to the Tindals, Divers, and Boatmen, respecting the Boats to proceed to sea each night, and the Banks to be fished on, will be communicated to them through the Beach Master, to whose orders they are to pay attention; and any willful disobedience thereof, will subject them to discontinuance from employ.

**2.**—The signal to proceed to sea will be as usual,—a gun fired at midnight.

The Adappanaar will proceed a-head with a light, and all the Boats are to follow him: and on no account to take any other course, but keep as close as possible to the Adappen's and Inspection Boats.

**3.**—The signal to commence diving will be as usual,—a flag hoisted to the main top-gallant-masthead of the Government Vessel. This signal will be made at half-past six in the morning, and no diving is to take place until it is made. The tindals are to keep their Boats within the Boundary of the Buoys, and the place pointed out by the Supervisor, Adappen and Coxswains, as the fishing ground for the day. Boats fishing beyond these limits will be discontinued from employ.

**4.**—The signal to cease diving, will be a gun fired from the same vessel at noon, when all diving is immediately to cease, and the Boats to return to shore, following the course taken by the Headmen's Boats.

Difficulty having been heretofore experienced in enforcing proper attention to this signal, the Boatmen are warned, that notice will be taken of the numbers of the Boats in which diving is continued after the signal is made, a report of which will be made to the Superintendent, who will impose a fine on the Boatmen for such disobedience, or if the offence be repeated, discontinue the Boat from employ.

**5.**—The Boatmen are to pay strict attention to the orders of the Superintendent of the Kottoos, and of the Peons, and other Officers, acting under him, in respect to the business of landing and counting the Oysters.

**6.**—Upon proof of Oysters having been opened in any Boat, such Boat will be immediately discontinued from employ, and none of the Boatmen, or Divers, that may have been in it, will be allowed to enter into any other Boats.

The finding of knives, sticks, or other implements, for the opening of Oysters, will subject the party on whom found, and the Boat to which he belongs, to discontinuance from employ; and all knives or other implements whereby Oysters may be opened, and three-fourths of all Pearls found concealed on the persons of the Boatmen, or in the Boats, will be given to the finder or informer.

**7.**—The Crew of each Boat to consist of—

1 Tindal,
1 Samman Oattee,
1 Thody,
10 Divers,
10 Munducks.

The division of the Boat's ½ share of the Oysters fished daily, will be according to established custom.

Samman Oattee—the Oysters brought up in two divings for each stone, i. e., one diving for each diver.

Tindal. do. do.
Thody. do. do.
2 Divers, of each stone ⅛.
2 Munducks, do. ⅛.

Thodyvalle or Boatowner, the whole of the Boat's share of Oysters once in six days' fishing, but the share may be taken any day *after*, but not *prior* to the 3*rd day's* fishing, that may be agreed upon. Arrangements with Divers to pay them by wages instead of allowing them their share of Oysters, according to established custom, are expressly forbidden.

**8.**—Divers deserting from the Boats in which they are engaged before the Fishery is over,—Tindals, and Samman Oattees extorting from the Divers more than the share they are entitled to, will be subject to punishment.

**9.**—The Boats are not to leave without the permission of the Superintendent, and they are to give notice of their wish to do so, to the Beach Master.

No. 9

# NOTICE FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF PERSONS ATTENDING THE FISHERY.

**1.**—Application for Ground for Dwelling-houses, Boutiques, and Kottoo, to be made to the Assistant Agent of Manaar, who will grant a permit for the Ground allotted: and any House or Kottoo erected contrary to order, or without Permit, will be removed.

**2.**—The arrangements of Police will be made by the Assistant Agent; and it is hereby notified for general information, that the Police Establishment is intended exclusively for the protection of all persons attending the Fishery, the maintenance of good order, and the preservation of the Public Peace; that they have no concern in the management of the Fishery, or in the collection of any dues, either for Government, for Temples, or any other account; and that such employment on their part is positively prohibited.

**3.**—The Police, and all Peons, will at all times wear their Belts, and Badges. They are particularly required to be civil and gentle to all persons, and carefully to abstain from interfering with any person, except where it is necessary for the preservation of good order.

**4.**—No persons connected with the Establishment will be permitted to receive any present or perquisite whatever, or to engage in any manner in the speculations of the Fishery, on pain of immediate dismissal.

**5.**—The Boatmen, and Divers, and all persons in general, are to take notice, that no one is authorized to make any deduction from their shares, on account of Privilege or Charity Oysters. All contributions they choose to make for charitable purposes will therefore be perfectly voluntary, and in the case of Divers delivering Oysters into the Government Kottoos, it will not be permitted even with the consent of the Divers, that such contributions should be received by any one inside the Kottoos. Any violation of this rule should be immediately reported to the Superintendent.

**6.**—After they leave the Kottoos, the Divers will be at liberty to do as they please with their Oysters; and if molested, they should apply to the Police for protection.

**7.**—The Fishing Boats will be inspected, under the immediate supervision of the Superintendent, as to their Sea-worthiness, condition of Sails and Oars, and complement of Crew. The Crew of each Boat will consist of 23 persons, viz:—

1 Samman Oattee,
1 Tindal,
1 Thody,
10 Divers,

[illegible] previous to the Inspection of the [illegible], the Samman Oattee will [illegible] obtaining the names of the above-noted persons.

**8.**—From the Boats found to be qualified, the number required will take their chance of employment by Lottery.

**9.**—The Tindals of the Boats so selected will receive from the Cutcherry, Certificates, and a copy of the Rules for the guidance of their conduct when at Sea and on Shore. And it is specially notified for general information, that those regulations will be strictly enforced, and the willful breach of them will be dealt with as therein provided for.

**10.**—The Tindals of all the Boats employed and unemployed are to attend to the Orders of the Beach-master, particularly with respect to the places where their Boats are to be kept, and the mode of securing them so as to prevent interruption to the passage of their Boats to and fro, and of people along the beach. Neglect of these orders on their part will subject them to be excluded from employ. No canoes are to be hauled upon the beach, except at the place assigned for them.

**11.**—No Huts of any description are to be erected upon the Beach, either for the use of the Crews of Boats or Canoes, without special permission.

**12.**—It will be required that the Boat's Quarter share of the Oysters fished daily, be divided according to established customs;—

Samman Oattee—the Oysters brought up in two divings for each stone, i. e., one diving for each diver.
Tindal do. do.
Thody do. do.
2 Divers, of each stone, Two-thirds.
2 Munducks, do. One-third.

Thodyvalle or Boatowner, the whole of the Boat's share of Oysters once in six days' fishing, but the share may be taken any day *after*, but not *prior* to the *3rd day's fishing*, that may be agreed upon. Arrangements with Divers to pay them by wages instead of allowing them their share of Oysters, according to the established customs, are expressly forbidden.

**13.**—It is particularly notified, that the first day's fishing will *positively* take place on the first day in March that the weather may permit the Boats to fish. It is therefore recommended to such Boatowners and Divers as may wish to be employed at the Fishery, that they should be at Aripo *on* or *before* the *20th* February.

*Colombo*, *December*, 1863.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TINDALS AND BOATMEN OF THE DIVING BOATS.

## கலாபத்துணைதாயில

முதலேலிபபதற் கெபடடிருகுகு தோணிகளின தலடலமாகருகுகு தோணிகொதாகருகுகு கொகேபபடுகு

## கபடடகர.

முதலவெது.—தோணிகருகுகு படறல விசாரிபபுகொதன அலலது பிலமாலற தெபமால நிலகமேபபடும. ஒவவொருநாளிலும படலுகுபபோதற தோணி னேபபறறியுகு குளிகவேணடிய பாகனேபபறறியும சலடடலகளை தலடலமாகருகுகு. குளிகதாகருகுகு, தோணிகொதாகருகுகு. பிலமாலற்றலளிகக தரற வேபபடுவதால, அதால பணனபபடுவ படடலகளை அவன வெளிதது படவ வேணடியத. அலடடலகளுகு மனதாக னேமையாகல படபபாகவேயாயில வேலையிலிருது நிறதபபடுவதறகு எதிரனகொளள பிருபபான.

உ. வது.—படலுகுப போறதறகக அலடயாளமால, வழமைபோல மேல சலடடில ஒரு வெடடுதறபபடும—அடபபகுதோணி, முதலவெதிலபடடியாய ஒரு வெளிசசததடனபோக, சலடதோணிகளும அவா தோணியினபினபுகுப போகவேண டியத.—அடபபகுதுடையதும. சொதனததோணிகளுகு கூடியமடடுகு விடடிசசே ரதது போகதெஅனறி ஒருவிதததிலும வேறவழியாயப போகக்கூடாத.

உ. வது.—முதலவெலிபபுத தெவையுகுவதறகு தலடயாளமாய, வளமைபபடி வெதனமெனறுசொலலின பெரிய பாயமாததினறலபபில ஒரு கொடடிவறபபடும. இரதடலடையாளம விடியறகாலமே அதறகாமனிகருகு சொலலபபடும. இவவிரடல டையும சொலலபபடுமலலாதது மியாதொருவா குளிகபபடாத.

மேறகூற தலடலமாரன தலவனதோணிகாக சாவிபோடடலடையாளபபடுதது பிருகுமெனகொளளுனாலும, அவனிருளிகக மியமிதது நடறதவிடமாக சுபபிரதலவா அலடபபதா, மேலமாரன விடயதாலும சொலலபபடுமிடதிலும வைததிருகவேண டுமெ—இரத எலலோருகுபபால குளிகபபடுவ தோணிகாக வேலையிலிருதது தளிப போலபபடுமெ.

ச. வது—குளிபபுகிறதறகுமுனறாக அலடயாளமால அல வருவிலிருபபதாலே மதியதில ஒரு வேளைசொலபபடுமெ அவவேலைத தாமதமுடனே குளிபபுகிறதற படடத தோணிகள திருமபித தஙகளைகொதுடைய தோணி ஏறவருமவரையல லைலு ஏறவாவேணடியத.

மிதாரு முறினைகளிலும இலவிதமாயப பணனபபடட அலடயாளமுளளோ சரியாளவிதமாய வெளிகொணரபபடியால, வேலைதலாத அலல அலட யாளம காலடபபடடபினனு குளிகிறதறாய எனபபடுமிதாதோணி மெமமாதறா மெனபு அறிநதி, அவித குளிபபபபபாறிசு பபபினரொனறனிகாகு தெப போதறகுப பணனவேணடுமெ அதினபோல அதால அவித அமசசலினறதிலு காத தோணிகொதாகருகு சொலலபபடுமெ—அலல அவராறறதறகாத திருமபச செயயசசமபவிததால, அதறதோணிகய வேலையிலிருதது தளிபபபோகப படபபடடுமெனபு தோணிகொதாகருகு சொலலினகை பணனபபடுகினறத.

ஓ. வது.—பெபினகை கால கிறகுமதிசெயறு வேலெலெகருவின சாரியததில கொடுசெ பெபினரொனறதறுடையதும, அவினனை பணவிடாடதறகுமிருகுமெ சேவை குடையதும, மறு உதவியாளதாகருடையதும, படடினகளொத தோணிகொதா நிடமாய வெளிதது நடவேவேணடியத.

ஈ. வது.—மியாதொருதோணியில பெபினை அறறதாக உபபவேபணனபபட டால அவிததோணியை உடனே வேலையால தளிபபோடுகிறதா தவிர அதி மிருகவேபபடட தோணிகொதா தலலது குளியாடவி வொருவேயாகுதல மறு தோணியிலபோகும படவகொடுகவேபபடமாடடாத. பெபினை அறிவகேடிய தறகாக, மெபுனை, அலலது மறறபுய தவகளை வைபபிதததால, அவனை எபன சாதறகில வைபபிகவேபபடுமோ அவவேபும, அவனிருதத தோணியையும, வேலபி லிருது தளிபபோடுதறகு எதுவாயயிருபபதுமனறி, பெபினை அறிவகேடிய வல எதறகாயும, புய தவகளையும தோணிகொதாகருகுகு தெரிவிகாமல தளிதது வைததிருதததாக வைபபிதது பபடுமெ வலலாமுதறசனில நாலில மூனறு பஙகுமெ, வைபபிகவேபபடுகிற அலலாதறை தறபோதுபபடுகிற வருகுகு பிபினை பலவருகுகுதினாக கூலிகொடுகுமபடி யாதொரு ஒபபுவரு பணனபடாதெனறு பிரதானமாய விலகவேபபடடிருகினறத.

அ. வது—வலாபம முடிகிறதறகுமுனனே குளிகொதா குளிகிறதறகாக தாவ னை வரபபடடிருகுகு தோணிகளிலிட டோடடபபோடடசெமபவிதாதும, தலடல மாகருகுகு, பெபாகுடடவருகுகு தவகளுகுரிததான பலனகளிட மேறறிமாக பாதொனறைறை குளிகாதறிடதறகில வலோடனாமாய எதிரசெமபவிதாதும, அதறகாக வேதனமபெறுவபாக.

க. வது.—தோணிகை சுபபினரொனறன தாயுடைய உதரவிலலாமல தறறையவிடடுபபோகவேபபடாத. அபபடியே அவனை போலிருமபிறல அதறகுப பிலடாலறறிடம அறிவிகவேணடியத.

# PEARL FISHERY.

*Conditions of Sale.*

The Oysters will be put up in lots of one thousand, and the highest bidder for each lot will be allowed to take at the same rate a further quantity, according to the number which may be brought on shore daily.

The maximum quantity allowed to be taken in one lot will be made known daily, before the commencement of the Sale.

The biddings are to be in Madras Rupees.

Payments to be made as provided for in the Advertisement.

Twenty per cent. to be paid immediately, and the full amount of the purchase within four hours; in failure of which the deposit will be forfeited, and the Oysters sold at the risk of the Purchaser as to any loss that may arise; but the Purchaser will have no claim on account of any increase that may take place.

The Oysters to be removed from the Koottoo before noon, on the day following the Sale, in default of which they will be re-sold in manner above stated.

Attention is particularly called to this last provision, as it will necessarily be strictly enforced.

Written Permits will be given to the purchasers for the delivery and removal of the Oysters.

The Oysters will be delivered,—partly by the heaps as counted on receipt, partly by actual counting,—at the discretion of the Koottoo Superintendent.

# CONDITIONS OF SALE.

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Memo.

Enclosures as per list
of letter as per list dated
are herewith forwarded

Col: Leys Office
Col: 19 January 1844

Revenue Department 5

No. 75.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 14th January 1864

Read the following letter from the Colonial Secretary, Colombo.

Furnishing certain information regarding the Pearl Fisheries in Ceylon.

(Here enter 19th Dec. /63 Dis.)

Ordered that the papers received with the foregoing letter be forwarded through the Collector of Tinnevelly to Captain Phipps for his information.

Dr. Kelaart's report will be returned by Captain Phipps after perusal.

Ordered that the following letter be addressed

T.

Rec'd to the Sec. of Rev. Cir. No. 15
Collr. of Tinnevelly
Capt. Phipps

To the Colonial Secretary
Colombo.

(Here enter 14 Jany 64/65 No 75A)

Revenue Dept.

No. 75 A.

To

The Colonial Secretary
Colombo

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 19th December 1863 No. 49 and to request that you will convey the acknowledgements of this Government to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon for the valuable reports which accompanied it.

I am instructed to request His Excellency's permission to re-print

Do.

Sarah's reports
itution
Presidency

Fort St. George
14th Sept. 1864.

Revenue 1864 Sept^r
Pro: of Gov^t for January.

No. 754

To
The Colonial Secy:
Colombo.
Dy 14th January/64.

Conveying the
acknowledgments
of this Gov^t for the in-
formation furnished
by the Ceylon Gov^t
regarding Ceylon
Pearl Fishery.

No. 147