

## MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |                 |
|----------|-------|-----------------|
| G.O. No. | 191   | Press           |
|          |       | <del>Mis.</del> |
|          | 29-30 |                 |
| Dated    | 2-2-  | 1865.           |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd February 1865.*

No. 29. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1864,  
No. 7,564.

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to W. HUDLESTON,  
Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th September 1864, No. 369 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward for the information of the Board and Government, copy of a report from Captain Phipps, Superintendent of Pearl Banks on the Oyster nursery at Tuticorin.

2. As regards the construction of the nursery and the flooring Captain Phipps proposes to be laid down, I have instructed him to communicate with the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer; both these officers will be at Tuticorin in a day or two.

3. I proceed to notice the other points in this report.

4. I recommend that Captain Phipps be allowed to include small expenses incurred on account of the Oyster nursery in his Revenue Contingent Bill.

5. When the nursery is completed, a permanent establishment for its conservancy will be necessary, and in the meantime sanction should be accorded for the employment of a few extra hands when required.

6. I beg to recommend that the instruments and aquariums solicited may be supplied to Captain Phipps. I consider them absolutely necessary.

7. If a small steam boat of the kind described by Captain Phipps can be spared by Government, it would be most useful. This, however, will not be required for some time to come.

8. I beg earnestly and respectfully to support the request of Captain Phipps for an increase of salary. I have seen this officer's work for the last five years, and I can speak in the highest terms of praise of the same. The duties, additional to those of Master Attendant, imposed on him as Superintendent of Pearl Banks are most arduous, entailing great exposure to the sun, and I am well aware of the high cost of living at Tuticorin. I trust, therefore, I may be allowed to recommend, for the favorable consideration of Government, that Captain Phipps' salary, for the combined offices of Master Attendant and Superintendent of Pearl Banks and Oyster Nurseries, be raised to Rupees 600 a month.

9. In my report, dated 10th June 1861, on the Pearl Fishery held in that year, I recommended that this deserving officer's salary might be fixed at Rupees 500 a month; since that time he has taken great pains in all work connected with the Pearl Banks, while the experiment of Oyster nurseries now undertaken will entail not *varying* but *constant* additional labor and responsibility, and on the care and attention given by the Superintendent, the success of the experiment mainly depends. I would not urge this so strongly, did I not consider it both a matter of policy, and one to which Captain Phipps has fairly earned a claim.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. A. PHIPPS, Esq., Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 21st September 1864, No. 25.

1. The Pearl Oyster nurseries proposed in my letter, No. 15, dated 9th March 1863, having been sanctioned by Government, and as the tender for constructing them has been accepted, no delay will, I hope, now prevent the experiment from having a fair trial. I therefore beg you will be good enough to lay before Government a few detailed particulars of the work, which will, I trust, be approved of.

2. The Contractor has commenced to store coral on the island adjacent to where the nursery is to be constructed. By the end of October the northern wall should be completed. When this is done, I purpose laying in the centre of the bed a space of forty feet square of hard stone rock: I shall also put down a similar space covered with coral. I hope thus to be able to observe which of these materials is the most suitable for the pearl oyster to thrive on. Upon each of these

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd February 1865.*

spaces, I propose to place a stock of pearl oysters of about three years age. I shall also construct a number of small tables made of satin-wood; these will be placed in various parts of the nursery for holding small quantities of oysters of the same age. By careful watching, I expect to determine when the act of spawning takes place, at which time bundles of twigs, coir matting, collecting tiles, poles with cross-pieces, &c., will be placed in the water for the purpose of catching the spat; these can easily be taken up, and the young oysters carefully removed to a separate bed. To facilitate the work of removing the young oysters to the deep sea banks, which must eventually be done, the second and third nurseries should be fitted up with a platform two feet off the bottom made of satin-wood, having a grating top upon which, flat tiles or slates can be placed, and on which the young oysters will be laid. It will be seen that by the following this plan, the oysters at the time of being removed to the deep sea bank, will be easily taken up, the tiles or slates being lifted out of the water, and the oysters scraped off into baskets. I am aware that this is a slight deviation from the original plan; but it will, in my opinion, be an improvement, and it is similar to that pursued with the edible oysters in other countries. I shall also be able to do away with the coral flooring proposed in the estimate, and which, I fear, may encourage the growth of grass and weeds. At present a correct estimate of the probable cost of the various materials that will be required cannot be prepared. The work of laying the centre beds will be done by the Contractor, though the hard stone will be provided by me. An estimate, however, of the platform tables, &c., will be submitted as soon as I have been able to get musters of each article made. In the meantime I would beg permission to include all small expenses incurred for the oyster nursery in my Revenue Contingent Bill.

3. For the work pertaining to the nursery, a certain fixed establishment, as per margin, which includes a boats crew for keeping up communication with the shore, will be required.

|                     | Rs. |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1 Head Tindal .. .. | 12  |
| 1 Deputy " .. ..    | 10  |
| 1 Lascar .. ..      | 9   |
| 1 " .. ..           | 9   |
| 1 " .. ..           | 8   |
| 1 " .. ..           | 7   |
| 1 " .. ..           | 6   |
| 1 Carpenter .. ..   | 15  |

At various times in the year, the Superintendent should have a discretionary power to employ extra hands; this of course will mostly apply to the time when young oysters are being removed, or when an extra amount of work renders it necessary. The duties of the permanent establishment will be to keep the nursery clear of weeds and grass, and to remove anything that is likely to injure or interfere with the general care of the place. Provision has been made in the Estimate for the erection of a building on the eastern boundary of the nursery for the accommodation of the people in charge.

4. To enable me to watch carefully, and obtain all the knowledge I can regarding the pearl oysters, I would beg to suggest that the instruments noted in the margin be provided for my use, and also eight aquariums; the former would be invaluable as a means of determining the probable time for preparing to catch the spawn; the aquariums I would use for ascertaining the age to which the pearl oyster actually lives, and for watching its habits. It would also be desirable to obtain further knowledge regarding the effect of the Soorum, Killikoy, and other shell fish, which are now considered the natural enemies of the pearl oyster; the aquariums could be made up in the Arsenal at Madras.

|                     |
|---------------------|
| 1 Microscope.       |
| 2 Wet Thermometers. |
| 2 Dry " "           |

oysters, I would beg to suggest that the instruments noted in the margin be provided for my use, and also eight aquariums; the former would be invaluable as a means of determining the probable time for preparing to catch the spawn; the aquariums I would use for ascertaining the age to which the pearl oyster actually lives, and for watching its habits. It would also be desirable to obtain further knowledge regarding the effect of the Soorum, Killikoy, and other shell fish, which are now considered the natural enemies of the pearl oyster; the aquariums could be made up in the Arsenal at Madras.

5. When the time approaches for removing the young pearl oysters to the deep sea banks, it will be necessary for their safety, and to ensure the boats being brought into proper positions on the bank, to have a small steam vessel. The time selected for this work must be the finest season of the year; it will, therefore, be obvious that the means for getting the boats containing the young oysters to the banks must be certain. A calm morning, by which the boats might be prevented reaching the bank, would be fatal to the young oysters, and occasion great disappointment and loss; the most suitable vessel for this purpose would be a screw boat of about forty-five feet keel with engines of six or eight horse-power. I believe Government have several vessels of this description in the Public Works Department, and employed working on the Godavery, Cau-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd February 1865.*

very, &c. ; should one become available, I would beg to suggest that it be made over to this Department, and used also during the examination of the pearl banks ; for this it would be most useful, as it would enable the Superintendent himself to go over all parts of the banks quickly. This with the present arrangements I am unable to do, and with an extent of pearl banks of nearly ninety miles, which should be examined at least once each year, and which must be done either at the commencement of the north-east monsoon, when fair weather for ten or fifteen days may be expected, or after the middle of February, and before the south winds set in ; during these season there are often days of calm which prevent me reaching distant banks in a sailing vessel. I then lose most valuable time, and am obliged to hurry over work, which, if I could depend more upon my vessel, I would give more time to. I have sometimes lost valuable days from the fact of the bank I wished to be examined, being some miles to windward, and upon reaching it found the day too far advanced for working, and my boatmen all tired, having perhaps had to row their boats from ten to fifteen miles. With the services of a small steam boat, the examination of the pearl banks would be more fully made ; the cost of working would be small, as firewood is cheap and easily procured on this coast ; a permanent crew would be necessary only during the examination of the banks, and when removing young oysters.

6. I would now beg to bring the following to the notice of Government. The duties connected with the pearl banks, devolved upon me on becoming Master Attendant at Tuticorin in June 1859 ; since which time I have had the honor to be appointed Superintendent of the Pearl Banks, and have also received an increase of salary with gratuities for my services. Unfortunately during the past two, and, I fear, during the three ensuing years, fisheries cannot be expected. That the oyster nurseries will prove a success, there seems to be little doubt ; but as some years must elapse before this can be realized, I would respectfully beg that the Government will be pleased to grant me a further increase of salary. On the last revision of the Marine Department, the salaries of the Master Attendants of Cocanada and Cochin, which had previously been on the same scale as Tuticorin, were raised to Rupees 350 ; the reason stated for not giving me the same rate of pay was, that I already received an equal sum for my duties connected with the pearl banks. At the time being in expectation of future fisheries, for which I should receive gratuities, I abstained from troubling Government on the subject ; my reason for doing so now is that I find the present salary barely sufficient, and that while exercising the closest economy during the past five years, the expenses of actual living have increased, in some cases, to one hundred per cent. House rent has also been doubled.

7. To ensure the success of the oyster nursery, it will be my duty to devote all the time to it that I possibly can, the most careful watching will be required at all seasons of the year. I therefore trust that the Government will be pleased to grant me such an allowance as Superintendent of the Pearl Banks and Oyster nurseries, as will prevent me from being inconvenienced by continual pecuniary cares.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. SILVER, Collector.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that the Collector be authorized to carry out his proposals so far as they are applicable to the present position of affairs. The arrangements that may be found expedient on the completion of the Nursery can be submitted for consideration hereafter.

2. As regards the proposed increase to Captain Phipps's pay, the Board observe that his present salary of Rupees 350 is not more than adequate remuneration for his services as Master Attendant at the important port of Tuticorin, and in consideration of the heavy additional labor imposed on him as Superintendent of Pearl Banks, they recommend that he be allowed in that capacity a separate salary of Rupees 150 monthly, or Rupees 500 in all.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd February 1865.*

No. 30.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1865, No. 191.

**Miscellaneous.**

1. The Government approve of the arrangements mentioned in paragraph 2 of Captain Phipps' letter, the experiments should be varied, so as to ensure an early acquaintance with the habits, &c., of the Pearl Oyster. All small expenses incurred may be charged in the Revenue Contingent Bill under a distinctive leading.

2. Subject to the Collector's general orders, Captain Phipps may employ extra servants when necessary.

3. Captain Phipps will be supplied with a microscope and thermometers from the Ordnance Stores, if any are available. Four aquaria will be made up at the Mint for present use, and the Secretary of State will be requested to send out six of the most approved description with the necessary apparatus.

4. It will be ascertained from the Public Works Department whether any small steamer can be made available for the fishery. Captain Phipps will state when the vessel will be required, and whether with it he cannot dispense with one at least of the guard boats.

5. Captain Phipps is now in receipt of a personal allowance of 150 Rupees per mensem for his services in connection with the Pearl Fishery, the question of raising his salary (Rupees 200) as Master Attendant to the same standard as that of the Master Attendants of Cochin and Cocanada will be considered in the Marine Department.

6. The Government wish the construction of the Nursery to be vigorously prosecuted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

*Chief Secretary.*

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Military Department.

„ the Public Works Department.

„ the Marine Department.

- R. H. Lee

Exd. R. H. Lee.

Revenue Department

N<sup>o</sup>. 191.

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
under date the 2<sup>d</sup>. ~~July~~ <sup>January</sup> 1865.

Read the following  
Pro: of the Bd of Revenue.

Submitting letter  
from the Collector of Tin-  
nevelly, and recommending  
that authority be given for  
carrying out the proposals  
therein made for ensuring  
the success of the Pearl Oyster  
Nurseries now being constructed  
and that the salary of Cap-  
tain Shipp's, the Supt., be in-  
creased to Rs 500.-

(Here enter 21<sup>st</sup> Nov  
1864, No. 7564).

WON  
J

The Govt. are  
-proud of the arrangements  
mentioned in para 2 of Cap-  
tain Shipp's letter - the ex-  
periments should be varied  
so as to ensure an early  
acquaintance with the ha-  
-bits, &c of the Pearl Oyster.  
All small expenses incur-  
red may be charged in  
the Revenue Contingent bill  
under a distinctive head-  
ing.

Subject

Subject to the Col-  
lector's general orders  
Captain Shippe may em-  
ploy extra servants when  
necessary.

Captain Shippe  
will be supplied with a  
microscope and ther-  
mometers from the ordi-  
nance store, if any are  
available. - Four aquaria  
will be made up at the ex-  
pense for present use,  
and the Secy of State will  
be requested to send out  
6 of the most approved  
description with the neces-  
sary apparatus.

It will be ascer-  
tained from the Public  
Works Department whether  
any small steamer can  
be made available for  
the fishery. - Captain Shippe  
will state when the vessel  
will be required, and whether  
with it he cannot dispense  
with

with one at least of the  
guard boats-

Captain Shippe  
is now in receipt of a  
personal allowance of  
150 Pd per mensue for  
his services in connection  
with the Pearl Fishery - the  
question of raising his sa-  
lary (Pd 200) as Master  
Attendant to the same  
standard as that of the  
Master Attendants of  
Cochin and Cochin  
will be considered in the  
Marine Department.

The Govt wish  
the construction of the  
Nursery to be vigorously  
prosecuted.

114 To the Board of Officers East 24 Feb  
17 " the Secretary Dept S  
18 " the Public Works Dept S  
19 " the Marine Dept S  
20 " the Navy Dept S

