M.R.O. 14-5,450-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 925 Press Mis.

Dated 20. 4. 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th April 1866.

No. 300. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th April 1866 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevelly, 13th December 1865, No. 477.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue, copies of letters from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks. I have waited for the last report on the bank off Trichendoor, which has not yet been received, but it will be forwarded on receipt. The result of the examination has been most unsatisfactory.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 8th November 1865, No. 28.

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Government, that I have this day examined the Pearl Banks noted in the margin. I regret to say the result is most unfavorable; the divers having only brought up one pearl oyster during the day. I consider this most unfortunate, as, when last examined, the Cruchan Par was fairly stocked with young pearl oysters, and it was from this bank I expected to get a sufficient quantity for stocking the nursery, the loss is therefore very serious, unless other banks can be found that contain oysters. The weather has been particularly fine, and the sea calm and clear; besides having the divers, I used a dredge which was constantly hauled up with full of dead shells, &c., and I therefore believe the statement of the divers that there were no oysters, is correct. With the "Godavery" I was able to go over all parts of the bank myself, and the examination has been well done. If the weather continues fine, I shall proceed with the examination of the other banks to-morrow.

Cruchan Par.
Cruchan Tondoo Par.
Nagira Par.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 11th November 1865, No. 29.

In continuation of my letter No. 28, dated 8th instant, I have now the honor to report that I have, during the 9th, 10th, and 11th instant, examined the Pearl Banks noted in the margin. The result continues to be most unsatisfactory, the pearl oyster appears to have entirely disappeared from this part of the coast, the divers and dredge bring up plenty of dead pearl and other shells, no soorum or killikoy is found, and very little weed, the cause of their disappearance is to me most inexplicable, as from the appearance of some of the banks at the last examination, I did not anticipate anything of the sort. The only banks which I have now any hopes of containing pearl oysters are those off Trichendoor; the "Godavery" is in want of some slight repairs, and as soon as they can be completed, and if the weather continues favorable, I shall proceed with the work.

9th.—Off Tuticorin.—Kalathe Par.
Odoorevy Par.
Ottee Par.
Attombadoo Par.
10th.—Off Vypaur.—Carier Par.
Pavi Par.
Permandoo Par.
Putta Marikan Par.
11th.—Off Tuticorin.—Cuttorian Par.
Thoyelan Par.
Attawade Arupagum Par.

From the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichendoor, 17th March 1866, No. 102.

1. I have the honor to annex copy of a letter dated 15th March 1866, just received from the Superintendent of Pearl Fishery, on the examination of the banks on the Madura coast, which give rather better hopes of a fishery, but which require further examination later in the year, before any decisive opinion can be ventured thereon.

2. The offer of a reward for information seems to be judicious in facilitating the discovery of banks.

3. It is advisable that the steamer "Godavery," which burns too much coal, should be returned to Cocanada, and Captain Phipps desires EARLY instructions in regard thereto, in order that the season favorable for her return should not be lost.

4. If she cannot be made useful elsewhere, it would be worth consideration whether she might not be sold.

5. Captain Phipps indicates the sort of vessel that will be most useful for the Pearl Fishery—an iron sea-going schooner of sixty tons with auxiliary screw—and I think the subject should be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for India. A flat bottomed river steamer, burning a ton of coal per hour, and which rolls in the open sea, and makes about four miles an hour, as I found by a trip to the Pearl Nursery, is certainly unsuitable for sea-going work. Captain Phipps will examine the southern banks very shortly.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 15th March 1866, No. 9.

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of the Government, that I left this in the S. S. "Godavery" on the 7th instant, taking with me three divers and two canoes for the purpose of examining the Pearl Banks on the coast of Madura. On the same day, I reached and examined the

VAMBAR CARIAR PAR:

on this bank, I found one pearl oyster of four years' old, two of two and a half years, and a quantity of very young ones attached to sea weed; from this I proceeded to the

COOMULUM PAR, also off Vambar,

and anchored for the night. On the morning of the 8th this bank was examined, but nothing was found of any consequence, upon one piece of sea weed a few very young Pearl Oysters were attached; the next bank I examined was the

OOTOOTHUNNY THEEVOO PAR,

upon which the divers found nothing; a patch of rock was next examined, one pearl oyster of one and a half year's age was found. I next proceeded to the

NULLATHUNNY THEEVOO PAR,

this was covered with weed and sponge, but no oysters were found, in the evening. I anchored for the night off Valimookum point, in six fathoms. On the morning of the 9th I steamed to the eastward, keeping the lead going; during the day I examined the large rocky patch off Keelakaray; from this the divers brought up four oysters of various ages, and the dredge also brought up one. I also examined a bank further to the eastward but found nothing. From this I steered to the eastward with the lead going, and at 5 P.M. anchored on the Paumben banks. On the morning of the 10th, I first examined the large

PAUMBEN PAR,

on this I found very young pearl oysters in large quantities attached both to rock and sea weed; the latter, when brought up by the divers, was quite black, the quantity of young oysters that must be on this bank is very large; they do not extend all over the bank, but lay in patches. I next examined the small bank or

CHINNA PAR,

upon which nothing was found; on the other bank, one small oyster of one and half year's age was brought up. I then proceeded towards Paumben, the steamer being in want of fuel; at 4 P.M. anchored in the basin, and received on board ten tons of firewood; the next day the 11th of March being Sunday, we remained at anchor. On the morning of the 12th got under weigh and proceeded to the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th April 1866.

ROCKY LEDGE OFF MARIABLE THEEVOO,

Captain Daviot, the Government Head Pilot, being on board; on this I found young oysters attached to the sea weed, the latter was thickly covered in some parts, the young oysters were not nearly so large in quantity as those found on the Paumben banks on the previous Saturday. After completing the examination of this bank, and unfortunately losing a most useful oyster dredge, I returned to Paumben, and obtained from the Officer in charge of the Jail a further quantity of ten tons of firewood, that had been cut by the convicts and could be spared to a Government vessel. At day light on the 13th I steamed to the westward, keeping the lead going, found five patches of rocks in three and a half and four fathoms water, nothing was found on them. At 4 P. M. anchored for the night on the

PALAIR MALAI PAR OFF ANNAPAR THEEVOO:

on the morning of the 14th examined the bank, but found nothing; at 8 A. M. steamed to the westward and examined the next,

ANNAPAR BANK,

upon which nothing was found also; from the large patch of rocks to the west of this, the divers brought upon one young oyster. After completing the examination of this bank, the last of these on the coast of Madura. I steamed and set sail for Tuticorin, where I anchored at 9 P. M.

5. From the foregoing report it will be observed that pearl oysters have again appeared in the neighbourhood of Paumben and on some banks on the coasts of Madura, I am glad to say in sufficient quantities to give hopes of future fisheries; this being the case, it might be expected that I should propose at once placing a guard-boat in the neighbourhood, but having by former experiences learned that patches of young oyster of this description are not to be depended upon, and from the position of the Paumben banks upon which the seas of the south-west monsoon break with great fury, I have little hopes of these oysters remaining in the same position. I therefore propose to leave them now uncared for, and will again examine the banks at the conclusion of the south-west monsoon, when, if necessary, a guard-boat may then be stationed in the neighbourhood.

6. The finding of pearl oysters on the buoys in the Paumben channel is now, I consider, satisfactorily accounted for; there is no doubt that large quantities of spawn are continually being drifted about these seas; that there are banks of pearl oysters from which the spawn may proceed, is very possible, but the difficulty to find their position is very great. They are probably situated in deep water. I consider a few pearl oysters could be gathered from off almost every bank of rocks on the coast, but for the purposes of a fishery, banks which yield by millions are required.

7. During my stay at Paumben I took the opportunity of gathering all the information I could from the natives in the neighbourhood, no satisfactory intelligence was obtained. Captain Daviot, the Head Pilot, stated that the Tindal of a Chittagong vessel had shewn him some young oysters that had come up attached to a piece of stone with his anchor from the rocky ledge which I examined in Captain Daviot's company. I regret that no particular enquiry was made of this Tindal, to the exact position of his vessel at the time, which might have given me some more definite knowledge. Captain Daviot was not aware of any other Pearl banks in the neighbourhood, so my further remaining at Paumben was unnecessary. Reports and statements of the existence of Pearl banks are often exaggerated, and when enquired into prove so false that I deemed it advisable to ask Mr. Burby, the Sub-Magistrate at Paumben, to endeavour to procure a statement signed by the parties who might, at any time, appear to have fallen in with pearl oyster or banks; I also requested him to offer a reward of a new fishing canoe complete to any fisherman who might come forward and give any satisfactory information.

8. Before concluding this report I have to bring to the notice of Government that I find that the "Godavery," though very useful, is too expensive a vessel for the duties connected with the Pearl Banks, on account of the great cost of working her. On leaving Tuticorin I had on board twenty tons of coal, which, as Government are aware, I purchased at a low rate; on my arrival at Paumben, I found that the expenditure of fuel had been so great, that there was not sufficient remaining to take a vessel back to Tuticorin. I therefore obtained ten tons of firewood, at a cost

of Rupees 66, to make the coal last out; after getting the wood on board, I learned that the Assistant Collector in charge of the Jail, Mr. Burrows, had a large quantity that had been cut up by the convicts for the purpose of burning chunam, as I required more fuel than I then had in store at Tuticorin for the examination of the Trichendoor banks, I obtained, on application to him, a further quantity of ten tons, on my guaranteeing to pay him the value of the same, if required to do so by the Jail Rules. It will be seen that the "Godavery" on account of the expenditure in fuel is an expensive boat for the work required, being unfortunately constructed for river navigation prevents her being used for all purposes; and the small sum she has already earned for other works gives me no encouragement to hope I shall ever be able to make her earnings cover the expenses. Should the Government be of the same opinion, she might be returned to Cocanada; the season for the passage is at present favorable, and if instructions per telegraph could be forwarded, the vessel might be safe there by the 10th proximo. Any delay will render it necessary to detain the vessel here for another year.

The description of steam vessel that would be most suitable for the duties connected with the Pearl Banks, would be an iron sea-going schooner of about 60 tons, properly rigged and fitted with a screw which could be disconnected; the time when steam is most required is during a calm or light head wind, and when actually engaged on the Pearl Banks, for this, the expenditure of fuel would be small; during the trip to Paumben the "Godavery" has been constantly under steam, sail being of course carried to assist when possible.

The examination of the banks on the coasts of Tinnevelly will be proceeded with as soon as the "Godavery" is coaled, and a report of the same will be forwarded without delay.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that I procured at Paumben a large quantity of the young oysters, intending to bring them to Tuticorin. I regret to say, the weather being very hot, I fear nearly if not all are now dead, those that seemed to be still alive were deposited in the Oyster Nursery last night.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board recommend that steps be taken to provide the Superintendent with a small serviceable steam-boat of the kind he describes; it is very evident that the "Godavery" is unsuited to the work, and that it is desirable that the Superintendent should have a steam-boat at his disposal.

No. 301.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1866, No. 925.

1. The Government regret to receive so unfavorable a report, and wish to know what expectation Captain Phipps has of being able to stock his nursery completely from local sources.

2. The Government have no steamer at present better adapted for Captain Phipps' purpose than the "Godavery," and with such slender expectations of a successful fishery for several years, they are unwilling to incur the heavy expenses of procuring a steamer from England. Captain Phipps is at liberty to send the "Godavery" back to Cocanada when the season is favorable for the voyage, giving Government due intimation of his intention. Meanwhile he will make the best use he can of her.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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The examination of the Banks on the Coasts of Tinnevelly, will be proceeded with, as soon as the "Godavery" is coaled, and a report of the same will be forwarded without delay.

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Oysters, intending to bring them to Puticorin - I regret to say, the weather being very hot I fear nearly if not all are now dead those that seemed to be still alive were deposited in the Oyster Nursery last night.

I have &c

(Signed) G. A. Phipps
Superintendent of Pearl Banks

(True Copy)

(Signed) A. Fedderburn
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

The Board recommend that steps be taken to provide the Superintendent with a small serviceable steam boat of the kind he describes it is very evident that the "Godavery" is unsuited to the work and that it is desirable that the Superintendent should have a Steam Boat at his disposal.

(True Copies and Extract)

Secretary.

To The Secretary to Govt
Public Department

No. 925.

The first reports of pearls to be favorable & report and wish to know what Expectation Capt. Phipps has of being able to stock his nursery completely from local sources.

This first have no steamer at present but letter addressed for Capt Phipps favor. I note it on the "Godavery" and with such Elevated Expectations of a rise.

cessful fishery for seven
years, they are unwilling
to incur the heavy Expence
of procuring a Steamer
from England - Capt
Whitfield is at liberty to
lend the Fox-ary "to take
to Coccinada a
for the Wreck
- giving just
notice in time of his
intention. Meanwhile he
will make the best use he
can of her. I. D. S.

14 F. the Board of Revenue direct Capt 20 Sept 66
21 " the Public Works Dept J

Pro 25 April/66 № 403-4

Rec: 1866 Dirkt Genl Jarvis
№ 967

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Reported to England
3/5th June № 26 of 1866

Dated 4th
Desptd 4th } April 1866.
Recd 5th

Pub Works Office 15th May 1866 № 1457

Submitting letter from
Collector of Tinnevelly
forwarding reports from
Superintendent of Park
Banks and recom-
-mending that Cutter
be provided with a
small Steam boat.
№ 925. 20th April
With Order

№ 300-301

Entd 11th/66 R 14