

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2980

Press
~~Mis.~~

266. 287

Dated

14-12-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th December 1867.*

No. 266. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd December 1867, No. 7,820 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th November 1867, No. 649.

1. I have the honor to forward, herewith, a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, reporting the disappearance of the supposed pearl oyster fry from the banks off Tuticorin and Vypar.

2. The broken slabs have been cemented together; the aquaria will be set up immediately that the stone-flooring is finished.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 18th November 1867, No. 32.

1. I have the honor to inform you, that during the whole of the past week, I was employed inspecting the pearl banks off Tuticorin and Vypar. The weather having been particularly favorable, and the sea clear, the examination was carefully made, and with the steamer "Godavery," I was able to go over each bank several times using the dredge. I regret exceedingly to have to report that the state of the banks is again very discouraging. The large quantity of what in the early part of the year covered the banks, and was supposed to be the pearl oyster fry, has entirely disappeared, and they are now quite bare; on some I found a very few young pearl oysters, but the quantity was so small as to be of no value.

2. From the entire disappearance of the supposed pearl oyster fry, I am of opinion that calling it by this name was a mistake, the fry being that of some other mollusc, and this would shew that the divers of the coast know really very little of the appearance of the pearl oyster, when young; during the last few days those of the latter that I have found present quite a different appearance, although no larger in size than the false fry; of this it is remarkable that great quantities have been found, and also of the Chinese window sort in this harbour over the sand and mud; some of which I have had placed in the nursery, and in other parts, for observation. In my former report I mentioned that large quantities of a similar kind have been found on the Ceylon pearl banks, and I am now anxiously looking forward to the result of the next inspection on that coast.

3. During the present north-east monsoon, I am keeping a diver employed, who proceeds out in the "Emily" daily. The lead is kept in use continually, and as soon as a rocky bottom is found the diver is sent down to examine; in this way I hope if there are any banks unknown, (and which I believe there are still a greater number,) I trust to find them.

4. The north-east wind appears now to have set in, and I fear there will be no opportunity for continuing the inspection of the banks before February or March, which is usually the best season for diving operations.

5. I regret that I am still unable to make use of the new aquaria, the room for their reception being still unfinished.

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 267. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1867, No. 2,980.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

*Under the name
Horne
22/5/1867*

*Recd. 1867. Department
20 of Govt. for 2000*

No. 3312

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 3rd December 1867.

*Propd by
Rao. 6*

No. 7,820.

Submitting to Government letter from Collector of Tinnevely forwarding one from Superintendent of Pearl Banks reporting disappearance of supposed Pearl Oyster fry from banks off Tuticorin and Vypar.

RECORDED.

*Forwarded to the P. W. S.
enclosed a copy of this,
showing banks shown on
a plan of the
beach with square?*

W. S.

W. S.

(This Copy and Extract)

Secretary

22/5/1867

22/5/1867