M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1690 Press ~~Mis.~~

382-83 Dated 16 - 6 - 19 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th June 1868

No. 382. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1868, No. 2,774 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th April 1868, No. 150.

I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the Board, Captain Phipps' report on the oyster banks off the coast. This report is still more discouraging than the last, and there is now no doubt that the pearl oysters have left this coast.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 4th April 1868.

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that during the last month I have been employed in examining the pearl banks on the coast of Madura and Tinnevelly. I regret that there is still no appearance of a return of the pearl oyster, and the banks at present contain nothing of value ; on some the divers now and then brought up one oyster, and on the large bank off Keelakaray, on the Madura coast, I procured in one morning nearly twenty of various ages. All oysters found were at once thrown back into the sea.

2. The Vypaur and Tuticorin banks were examined in November last, and found quite bare. I have again had them looked at, but they remain in the same state. Those of Pinnocoil and Trichendore are also quite bare. The Manapaud banks were not examined. A change in the weather forced me to return. I feel, however, quite sure that they are much too exposed to the sea to allow the pearl oyster to thrive upon them.

3. Under the sanction contained in the Proceedings of Government, No. 1,397, dated 24th June 1867, I examined the pearl banks from Cape Comorin to Calatchi belonging to his Highness the Maharajah of Travancore ; nothing was found, and the absence of even a few dead pearl shells convinced me that there has been no large quantity of pearl oysters on that coast for many years.

4. During the present fine season a diver has been continually employed, and I have had this part of the coast* examined with the view of finding new banks. Many small patches of rock have been inspected at various times, on which were found two or three oysters, but nothing more.

* Tinnevelly.

5. The almost entire disappearance of the pearl oyster from the Ceylon and Tinnevelly banks seems to me quite inexplicable. I fear that nothing more can be discovered regarding their natural history until a favorable return of spat, which may take place at any time. The banks this year are nearly free from Soorum and Killikoy, and the quantity of sea-weed on them is much less than it was last year.

6. The oyster nursery is in good repair. At the commencement of the north-east monsoon the north wall was injured by the high sea, but it has since been repaired by the light-house establishment.

7. In my report on the examination of the banks in November last I mentioned that a large deposit of what was formerly supposed to be the pearl oyster fry had settled in the Tuticorin harbour; this has now entirely disappeared. A quantity that I placed for observation at the nursery, and on some stones under the jetty, was all lost in a very short time. The Ceylon banks, which when examined last year were found partially covered with the same kind of fry, are again bare. I think there is no doubt now that it is not the fry of the pearl oyster.

8. The aquaria room is completed and the tanks set up, the broken pieces of slate cemented carefully together. The piping for the supply and waste water was found a little short, and required a few yards more of tubing to make all complete. This has been ordered from Madras, and it will

be fitted immediately on arrival, and the aquaria filled with water. The directions for preparing the cement sent from England were followed, and for some reason this has taken a long time to harden.

9. The boiler of the steamer *Godavery* shewing signs of weakness, I have proposed to send her back to Cocanada, as I fear that, if detained much longer, she may be unable to make the passage under her own steam. Under the orders of Government conveyed by telegram, she was placed at the disposal of Captain Lyons to proceed to Paumben in January last.

10. The Guard Schooner *Emily* is in constant use, except when the crew are employed on the steamer. Being now eight years old she requires repairs in hull and rigging. The *Pearl* is laid up in the harbour, and the *Edith* remains at Paumben in charge of the Public Works Department. Annexed is a list of the pearl banks examined during the present fine season.

STATEMENT shewing the condition of the Pearl Banks, during the season 1867-68.

Date.	Name of bank.	Depth of water.	Condition.	Position.
1867.				
November 11th	Alloova Par	5½ Fathoms.	Blank.	Tuticorin.
	Cunnathevoo Appa Par	7 ,, ...	...	...
	Pulipoondoo Par	8 ,, ...	...	...
	Saith Ombathoo Par	8½ ,, ...	...	...
Do. 12th	Vada Ombathoo Par	7 ,, ...	...	...
	Parcadungan Par	8 & 9 ,, ...	...	...
	Nengoorichan Par...	8 ,, ...	...	...
	Neela Ombathoo Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Tholayrum Par	7½ ,, ...	...	...
	Koothadiar Par	8 ,, ...	...	...
	Passi Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Pathari Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
Do. 13th	Athombathoo Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Erathavoo Ombuthoo Par... ...	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Athoovoy Aroopagum Par ...	6 ,, ...	...	...
	Keelathee Par	7 ,, ...	Some young oysters.	...
	Oodooroovee Par	6½ ,, ...	Blank ...	...
	Oothee Par	7 ,, ...	...	...
Do. 14th	Nagara Par	6 & 7 ,, ...	...	...
	Vanthevoo Aroopagum Par ...	6 ,, ...	Some young oysters.	...
	Nadoothoondoo Par	0 ,, ...	Blank ...	...
	Koorichanthoondoo Par	7 ,, ...	...	...
	Koorichan Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Koorichan Par Ar...	7 & 8 ,, ...	...	...
	Kariar Par	6½ ,, ...	...	...
Do. 15th	Davee Par	0 ,, ...	...	Vypaur.
	Podootha Marican...	6 ,, ...	...	...
	Fernandoo Par	6½ ,, ...	...	...
1868.				
March 11th ...	Vambar Caria Par	6 ,, ...	...	Vambar.
	Ooppoothunni Thevoo Par... ...	5½ ,, ...	...	...
	Koomoolum Par...	0 ,, ...	...	...
	New bank	0 ,, ...	...	Mookoor.
	Nullathunni Thevoo Par	5 ,, ...	...	...
Do. 12th...	Ana Par	0 ,, ...	...	Anapar.
	Valangoolum Par	6 ,, ...	...	...
	Paria Par	6½ ,, ...	...	Kelakarry.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th June 1868.

STATEMENT shewing the condition of the Pearl banks, during the season 1867-68.—*(Concluded.)*

Date.	Name of bank.	Depth of water.	Condition.	Position.
1868.				
March 13th ...	Paumben Par	6 Fathoms ...	...	Paumben.
	Cheeni Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Rocky Ledge	4½ ,, ...	...	...
Do. 17th ...	Selthan Par	8&9 ,, ...	...	Pinnocoil.
	Nadookoodamathee Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Yeratheekoodamathee Par ...	8 ,, ...	...	...
	Sahithookoodamathee Par ...	7½ ,, ...	...	...
	Thoondoo Par	8 ,, ...	...	...
Do. 18th ...	Kadian Par	6 ,, ...	...	...
	Poodoo Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Kanava Par	7 ,, ...	...	...
	Neelungalloo Patharai Par ...	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Shangooria Pathoo Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Sundiamarum Pooditha Par ...	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Karai Karoovul Par	8½ ,, ...	...	Trichendore.
	Karai Par	8 ,, ...	...	...
Do. 19th ...	Valungoo Caroovul Par	6½ ,, ...	Blank ...	...
	Poonthotta Par	8 ,, ...	...	...
	Sundamacoil Pooditha Par ...	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Tharadee Poolee Pooditha Par ...	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Nadoomaly Pooditha Par... ...	7½ ,, ...	...	...
	Parcamaly Pooditha Par	0 ,, ...	...	...
	Kovil Pooditha Pathary Par ...	0 ,, ...	...	...

TUTICORIN,
4th April 1868.

(Signed) G. A. PHIPPS,
Superintendent of Pearl Banks.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 383. ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1868, No. 1,690.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government regret to learn that there is no improvement in the present prospects of the Pearl Fishery, but there seems no sufficient reason to suppose that the oysters will not again return to the banks.

2. Captain Phipps will renew his examinations as soon as the season re-opens.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

dr

1690.

Ye Gov.r Capt L
Learn that ther is no
Improvement in the
present prospect of the
Great Fishery. but there seems
to be Gov.r Nasm[illegible] present
I suppose that the Oysters
Likewise again return to the
banks. Capt Phipps sick
under his Examination
as soon as the season
&c. opens.

L B

16th June 28.

No Copies Lr Mr B. & Revd Dr Cooper

3

24th June/67 Nos 324/25
14 December " 266-267
30th January/62 Nos 278-279

Reported to England
Dy 4th August No 42 of 1862 Mis:

Rev. 1868. Department.
Bd of Govt for June

No. 1319.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 16*th April* 1868.

Dup to
Rec'd 24th

No. 2,774.

Submitting letter from Collector of Tinnevelly forwarding report of Captain Phipps, Superintendent of Pearl Banks, on oyster banks, off coast of Madura and Tinnevelly.

Ltr 16th Apl 1868 - 16 June

Ltr to Govt

Cir. Ltr

Sketch (Duplicate)

Ltr 30th Jan 62 Govt

Ltr to Govt

P.C. 382-383.

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