M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2151	Press ~~His.~~
183-84. Dated	12-8-	No. 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th August 1868.

No. 183. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, (Home Department—Public), to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Simla, 16th July 1868, No. 2,999 :—

1. Referring to your letter, No. 2,471, dated the 21st October 1867, on the subject of the injury inflicted on fisheries by the present system of irrigation works, I am directed to forward to you copy of a communication* from the Public Works Department, and of the note by the Inspector General of Irrigation Works referred to in it.

* No. 121-I., dated 2nd July.

2. It appears from Nos. 596 to 600 of the Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, for the month of May last, that Dr. Day has been deputed to inspect the anicuts on the Godavery, Kistna, and Cauvery Rivers, and, after local inquiries and observations, to submit a comprehensive report on the subject. His Excellency the Governor General in Council will be glad if the Madras Government can, without inconvenience, allow Dr. Day to visit the rivers on the Orissa coast also, and to include in his report the result of his inquiries and observations on those rivers.

3. His Excellency in Council also requests that, with the permission of the Madras Government, you will be good enough to instruct Dr. Day, while engaged in making his inquiries, to direct his attention to the practical aspect of the question, as suggested by Colonel Strachey in his note of the 23rd ultimo, as well as to its scientific bearings.

4. In conclusion, I am desired to request that it may be ascertained whether any wanton destruction of fish takes place in inland rivers, and whether any measures of protection are necessary in respect of those rivers.

Memorandum from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated 2nd July 1868, No. 121-I.

In reply to Memorandum No. 2,493, dated 10th June 1868, forwarding, for an expression of opinion, copy of correspondence on the injury supposed to be done to fisheries by dams on rivers for irrigation works, the undersigned has the honor to forward copy of a note by the Inspector General of Irrigation Works on the subject, and to state that the Government of India in this Department can form no opinion on the matter in the absence of the reports promised from Madras, or without such sustained observations and investigations as are recommended by Mr. Grote.

Note by the Inspector General of Irrigation Works, dated 23rd June 1868.

The question has been raised, whether the dams, constructed across Indian rivers for irrigation works, have a practically injurious effect on the supply of fish in the rivers, or on the coast where the rivers end.

To answer such a question we must know several things on which it is admitted that no knowledge exists. These are—

What are the fish which constitute a practically important portion of the food of the people ?

Of those fish, what are those which migrate for the purpose of depositing their spawn ?

Among the migratory fish, what are those which live entirely in the fresh waters, and what are those which pass from the sea, or brackish waters, into the fresh river waters ?

What are the precise habits of each of these classes of fish, as to their migrations, both in respect to their extent up the rivers, and the season at which they occur? And what is the season at which the young brood of fish is developed, and when do they descend the rivers?

With such knowledge, we should be in a position to form an opinion of some practical value on the question that has been put; in the absence of it, all that can be said is, that injury may be done as certainly has been the case in England. But whether there is any fishery at present in India, pressed to the extent that has happened in England in respect to salmon and oysters, may well be doubted.

The facts to which I have above referred are of unquestioned interest in a zoological point of view, and if there are any naturalists, having sufficient general knowledge and leisure to investigate the points referred to, they might usefully be invited to do so. But I confess not to see much that appears of practical importance in the matter, and to establish that there is any such practical importance in it, can, it seems to me, be only done by obtaining an answer to the first question I have put,—what fish form a really important part of the food of the people of India? And then to the following question:—Is there any reason to suppose that the price of such fish, compared to other food, has risen in any special way of late years? My present impression certainly is, that the last of these queries would be answered in the negative, and that, excepting on the sea itself or the estuaries, fish does not form an important element of the food of the people.

It is obvious that some of these considerations are specially within the scope of the Public Works Department, and leave no relation with our operations. When it is shewn that any relief is needed, it can easily be given as on English rivers, and with this view, the best form of "salmon ladder" may be obtained for our instruction.

No. 184. ORDER THEREON, 12th August 1868, No. 2,151.

Miscellaneous.

1. Resolved accordingly that the papers above recorded be communicated to Dr. Day, and that he be instructed to visit the rivers on the Orissa coast during his present tour, and to include in his report the result of his inquiries and observations on these rivers in regard to the injury believed to be inflicted on fisheries by the irrigation works. His special attention will be drawn to paragraph 3 of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter, dated 16th July 1868, No. 2,999, and he will be good enough to extend his inquiries in this Presidency, also to the points therein specified.

2. With advertence to paragraph 4 of Mr. Bayley's letter, the Board of Revenue will be requested to ascertain from the Collectors of districts whether any wanton destruction of fish takes place in inland rivers, and whether any measures of protection are necessary.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department,
,, Surgeon F. Day, M. D.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Examiner of Claims.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 121 I., dated 2nd July 1868.

Memo. from—Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R.A., Secy. to the Govt. of India, P. W. DEPT.,
To—The Secretary to the Govt. of India in the HOME DEPT.

IN reply to memorandum No. 2493, dated 10th June 1868, forwarding, for an expression of opinion, copy of correspondence on the injury supposed to be done to fisheries by dams on rivers for irrigation works, the undersigned has the honor to forward copy of a note by the Inspector General of Irrigation Works on the subject, and to state that the Government of India in this Department can form no opinion on the matter in the absence of the reports promised from Madras, or without such sustained observations and investigations as are recommended by Mr. Grote.

Note by the Inspector General of Irrigation Works,—dated 23rd June 1868.

THE question has been raised whether the dams, constructed across Indian rivers for irrigation works, have a practically injurious effect on the supply of fish in the rivers, or on the coast where the rivers end.

To answer such a question we must know several things on which it is admitted that no knowledge exists. These are—

What are the fish which constitute a practically important portion of the food of the people?

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Among the migratory fish, what are those which live entirely in the fresh waters, and what are those which pass from the sea, or brackish waters, into the fresh river waters?

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The facts to which I have above referred are of unquestioned interest in a zoological point of view, and if there are any naturalists having sufficient general knowledge and leisure to investigate the points referred to, they might usefully be invited to do so. But I confess not to see much that appears of practical importance in the matter, and to establish that there is any such practical importance in it, can, it seems to me, be only done by obtaining an answer to the first question I have put,—what fish form a really important part of the food of the people of India? And then to the following question:—Is there any reason to suppose that the price of such fish, compared to other food, has risen in any special way of late years? My present impression certainly is, that the last of these quiries would be answered in the negative, and that, excepting on the sea itself or the estuaries, fish does not form an important element of the food of the people.

It is obvious that some of these considerations are specially within the scope of the Public Works Department, and leave no relation with our operations. When it is shown that any relief is needed, it can easily be given as on English rivers, and with this view the best form of "salmon ladder" may be obtained for our instruction.

Revenue Depart^t

Proceedings of the Madras Gov^t under date the July 1868.

Read the following letter from the Sec^y to the Gov^t of India.

Requesting that Dr Day may be allowed to visit the rivers on the Orissa Coast in addition to those he has already been deputed to inspect and to include in his report the result of his enquiries.

(Here enter 16th July 1868, No 2999).

I dont think this reference necessary. I would at once order Dr Day to include an inspection of the rivers on the coast of Orissa in his tour.

[illegible]

Resolved that the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department be requested to report whether Dr Day's services can be spared for a further period to enable him to extend to Orissa his enquiries regarding injury to fisheries in

Indian rivers caused by the anicuts constructed in their course to Orissa -

Ordered also that the papers above recorded be communicated to Dr Day with a view to his obtaining the information required during his present tour. His special attention will be requested to paras 3 and 4 of Mr Secretary Bayley's letter dated 16th July 1868, No 2999 -

Inspr Gl Indian Med Dept
Dr Day -

Hobbs

S.O.

Dr Day to visit rivers in Orissa

2495/68

Cir

Modify order as proposed

Reply

5

Revenue Deptt

2157

No. 2151.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 12th August 1868.

Read the following letter from the Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Requesting that Dr. Day may be allowed to visit the Rivers on the Orissa Coast in addition to those he has already been deputed to inspect & to include in his report the result of his enquiries.

(Here enter 16th [illegible] 1868 No. 2999)

Resolved accordingly that the papers above recorded be communicated to Dr. Day and that he be instructed to visit the rivers on the Orissa Coast during his present tour

and

and to include in his report the result of his enquiries and observations on these rivers in regard to the injury believed to be inflicted on fisheries by the irrigation works. His special attention will be drawn to paras 3 ~~[illegible]~~ of Mr. Secy. Bayley's letter dated 16th July 1868 No. 2999, and he will be good enough to extend his enquiries in this Presidency, also to the points therein specified.

I would confine Dr. Day's special investigation to the subject of para 3 – It occurs to me that the subject of para 4 will best be answered by local collectors to whom it shd be cond with an order to report – UDY

2. With advertence to para 4 of Mr. Bayley's letter the Board of Revenue will be requested to ascertain from the Collectors of Districts whether any wanton destruction of fish takes place in inland rivers, and whether any measures of protection are necessary.

1 Inspr. Genl. Indian Medl. Deptt. Dec. 14
1 Surgeon Fr. Dr. Day M.D. 16
Bd. of Revenue 14
6 Accountant Revenue 14

Reported to England
18th May No. 26 of 1869 Mis.

Revenue 1868 Despte
Pro of Govt. for Augt.

No. 2151

Pro of the Madras Govt.
Dd 12 August 1868

From Govt. of Indiana 9th
September 68 No. 3007.
[illegible] 68 - 2468
From the No. 3028/68
[illegible] 69 - 306
From Nd. of Revn. 6 September 69
No. 3021.

Pro. No. 404-406
21/10/67

No. 183-184

Cir
Despatch
Cons. [illegible]