M.R.O 1—33,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1456.	Press ~~Mis.~~
365-66		
Dated	25th May	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th May 1869.

No. 565. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department :—

The Collector of Madras requested to report whether the fishermen of Ennore and Kattivakkum, Madras District, pay at present any tax for the right of fishing in the back water, and, if not, why they are exempted from it. (Here enter 15th May 1869, No. 1,602)

No. 566. ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1869, No. 1,456.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No 1,602.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Govt. Mt. {1869} 21st May. 83

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May, 25th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 25th May 1869, *No.* 1,456.

LIX.

Nos. 565-566.

Right of fishing at Ennore and Kattivakkam.—Order requesting the Collector to report whether any tax is paid by the fishermen, communicated to Revenue Board.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 15th May 1869.

No 350. Read the following Endorsement of the Acting Superintendin g Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 29th April 1869, No. 622 :—

Read the following letter from W. FRASER, Esq., Executive Engineer, East Coast Canal, to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Madras, 27th April 1869, No. 18.

1. I have the honour to inform you that I opened the Ennore bar, very successfully, yesterday morning at half-past eight o'clock. A channel thirty yards wide at the bottom, (which was at the level of the surface of Ennore lake,) with side slopes of three to one, was cut from the back-water to the sea. At half-past eight o'clock the barrier was removed, and the sea allowed to flow in. In a few minutes a strong current was established, and the first tide raised the surface of the lake three inches. From this and the two succeeding tides there was no ebb current; but this afternoon there is a strong ebb tide, and the channel is consequently being deepened out to sea. The surface of the lake is now seventeen inches higher than it was before the bar was opened; and as the gates of Sheddienkuppam lock were forced open, I presume that some water has reached the Cooum river.

2. I ex[illegible]d to have heard from you, on Saturday, the decision of Government about th[illegible]posed deepening of the Cooum; but not hearing I bunded across the canal at Ch[illegible]tamony, which is north of all the salt channels, for the purpose of giving a good supply of water to the salt works, Cochrane's Canal, and the Cooum, by preventing it from flowing to Pulicat lake. Coolies are placed at the bund to remove the sand bags from the centre to allow boats to pass.

3. When the bund is removed the water will, as usual, flow away to Pulicat lake, and I would, therefore, recommend that that bar should also be opened. If sanction is given immediately, I can open it about the 24th of next month. It could be opened on the 11th of next month if coolies could be got to work willingly; but it was with the greatest difficutly I got a Contractor to undertake the opening of Ennore bar, as some evil-disposed people, who did not wish us to succeed, had circulated amongst the coolies the idea that before the bar could be opened twenty-seven coolies, men and women, were to be sacrificed to appease the god of the sea. The consequence was that it was nearly impossible to keep them at work; and when we came to remove the barrier, just at the critical moment when they were most wanted, when the first splash of water came in, they all ran away. Fortunately a sheep was readily procured, and when it was sacrificed and its blood sprinkled about, a few coolies were induced to return and remove the barrier in a kind of way, but not so effectually as it should have been. This state of things may appear very extraordinary, but nothing is too absurd for these men to believe or do.

I have never come across a class of people so ignorant and debased as are the Ubrawar Maistries and coolies about Madras. Their only enjoyment appears to be getting drunk. The account of the cost of opening this bar will be submitted in two or three days. I expect it will be considerably under the amount placed at my disposal.

I shall be obliged if you will communicate the contents of the letter to the Board of Revenue and to the Government, and let me know the decision about Pulicat bar as speedily as possible.

4. I have again to complain of the conduct of the fishermen of the two villages of Ennore and Kattivakkam. I sent for the Moonsiffs; one came and promised to have 100 fishermen ready when I wanted them, I agreeing to pay them whatever the Moonsiff said they should get.

I wanted thirty on Sunday night to watch and keep good the fence I had put up, from 7 until 11 o'clock P. M. They refused to give me any assistance, although they knew they would be paid for their time. Depending on the fishermen coming, I had allowed all the coolies to go away; and, to keep the fence secure, the Overseer, Writer, Goomastahs, and Lascars, who had been working hard all day, had to remain out until past 11 o'clock, when all danger to the fence was over.

These fishermen pay nothing for the right of fishing in the back-waters. They are greatly interested in the opening of the bar, as only then can a supply of fish come in; their services are of great value at the most critical time, as they have no fear of the water; and I think it is very hard that we should not have such services available on such exceptional occasions as these.

FORWARDED to Government for information. The Acting Superintending Engineer has forwarded a copy of this report to the Board of Revenue, with a request that funds may be provided for the opening of the Pulicat bar.

(Signed) J. BEAN, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

No. 351. ORDER THEREON, 15th May 1869, No. 1,602.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 65.

These papers will be communicated to the Collector of Madras, who will, with reference to paragraph 4 of Mr. Fraser's letter, report whether the fishermen of Ennore and Kattivakkam pay at present any tax for the right of fishing in the back-water and, if not, why they are exempted from it.

(True Extract.)

Colonel R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madras.
,, Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1456
Comm^r. to the Revenue Board

25 May/69

Revenue Dept.
No. 1616.

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE COLLECTOR OF MADRAS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 15th.

Recd. 18

Encl.

G. O., 15th May 1869, No. 1,602.

MAY.

Nos. 350-351

Tax.—The Collector of Madras requested to report whether the fishermen of Ennore and Kattivakkam, Madras District, pay at present any tax for the right of fishing in the back-water, and, if not, why they are exempted from it.

No 1456—25 May

Write Order