

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1017	Press ~~Mis.~~
^{16-18.} Dated	9-7-1820	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 16. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th March 1870.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th March 1870, No. 116.

In forwarding copy of a letter received from the Master Attendant, Tuticorin, I have the honour to draw the serious attention of the Board and Government to the facts set forth by Captain Richardson, showing the damage done to the harbour by the retention of (what may now be called the *debris*) the Oyster Nursery, as sanctioned in Proceedings of Government, No. 86, 7th October 1869, No. 2,743, Miscellaneous. The Nursery was retained in view to future experiments; but I think after all that Captain Richardson has said against the retention of the Nursery in its present site, that if, at any time, further experiments are to be made, it will be advisable to form a Nursery outside the Island, as it was proposed to do had the present experiment proved successful.

2. In regard to Captain Richardson's remarks on the Jetty, an estimate is now being prepared by the Superintending Engineer for an Iron Screw Pile Pier; but as Captain Prendergast tells me, it will take at least *two years* to get this from England as he proposes to do, it is evident something must be provided sooner, and I have written to know if it is not possible to get one made in Madras.

3. In conclusion, I trust Government will sanction the removal of the Nursery; the stones would be most useful in completing the sea-wall now being built by the Municipality, and the speedy completion of which is of great importance to the Town.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain H. RICHARDSON, Acting Master Attendant, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 23rd February 1870, No. 40.

I BEG leave to draw your attention to the urgent necessity there exists for your obtaining the sanction of Government for the removal of the Pearl Oyster Nursery, which has been constructed in the harbour of Tuticorin, and which has proved a failure, and the maintenance of which has been abandoned according to the orders of Government. Since the construction of this Nursery a spit of sand has run out from its north-west corner, and is rapidly approaching another spit of sand which runs out from the Horse-shoe bank on the main land. These two spits keep on steadily extending, and if the Nursery is allowed to remain three years longer, will eventually join each other, and cut off the present passage which the trading vessels take when coming to the inner anchorage. Where there was six feet of water two years ago, there is now but two feet, and no time should be lost in the removal of the Nursery if the harbour is to be conserved.

2. It has also had the effect of throwing over a large body of silt in the direction of the present landing Jetty which has nearly become useless for the purpose intended; the small cargo schooners of twelve to eighteen tons being only able to approach it at highwater. The Nursery could be removed without expense to Government as the material would sell well either at auction or otherwise, proper arrangements being stipulated for as to its entire removal. I would also respectfully ask you to draw the attention of Government to the fact that the trade of this Port keeps on steadily increasing; that its Customs Revenue and Port Fund have increased in ten years,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th July 1870.*

from 1859 to 1869 from Rupees 17,000 to about one lakh; and that after voting the sum of Rupees 9,800 for the building of the Light-house, we still have Rupees 24,000 to the credit of the Port; and, under these circumstances, I would ask your advocacy in expending a portion of this fund on local improvements, such as the extension of the Jetty with proper material. For this purpose I would recommend Iron Screw Piles twelve to fourteen feet long. Wood is no use, as the present one is nearly destroyed by the worm, and if the piles were coppered, the copper would be soon removed by pilfering, and the same result would ensue. As there is a great number of cattle and horses shipped from here to Colombo, a crane on the end of the Jetty would be a necessary appliance. A couple of the Madras Piers could be easily spared.

3. The extension of the Railway to Tuticorin will assuredly attract a very large additional trade to this Port, and I have no doubt we will have daily steamers running between it and Colombo. A good Wharf for these vessels to come alongside would induce parties to enter on such a speculation. Wharfage could be charged, and the expenditure recouped.

4. The construction of a sea-wall is also of paramount necessity, as a great portion of the old frontage of the Town has been already encroached upon and washed away. By an inspection of the Harbour Chart of Tuticorin, it will be seen that where the Master Attendant's old Office and Flagstaff originally were the ruins are now in the sea. I have ventured on submitting these recommendations, and trust to your advocacy with Government to have them carried out; the healthy condition of the Port Fund and general increase of trade warranting the expenditure.

THE Board resolve to submit these papers for the orders of Government.

2. In G. O., 7th October 1869, No. 2,743, Government sanctioned the abandonment of the Pearl Oyster Nursery in the Tuticorin Harbour, but approved of Captain Phipps's suggestion that it should be left in its present state in hopes of its being turned to account in future. Captain Richardson now reports that the harbour is being rapidly injured by the retention of the Nursery, and that in three years the present passage will be destroyed, and advocates the immediate removal of the ruined walls which, he says, may be effected without cost, the material being required.

3. The matter being one relating to the Marine Department, the Board have no opinion to offer beyond that the retention of the *debris* does not appear called for in the interests of the Pearl Fishery.

No. 17. From the Acting Master Attendant, Administrative Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 2nd June 1870, No. 2,711.

I HAVE the honour to state, for the consideration of Government, that the Acting Master Attendant of Tuticorin has suggested the entire removal of the experimental Oyster Nursery at that Port on account of its causing great injury to the harbour and its approaches.

2. By a reference to the accompanying Chart it will be seen that a bank called the middle bank runs W. N. W. and E. S. E. across the entrance of the harbour. Mr. Richardson represents that on the east end of this bank, a short distance from Hare Island, the Oyster Nursery was constructed, occupying about one-third of the space of the whole bank from the extreme east end, and is formed

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9th July 1870.*

of four coral stone walls supported by piles, and raised three to four feet above the top of highwater mark. The effect produced has been that, by the flood-tide combined with the sand held in suspension during the strength of the north-east monsoon striking against the north-east walls of the Nursery, and being obstructed in its natural direct course down towards Devil's Point, and thrown over towards the Town of Tuticorin, silt has become deposited to so great an extent on the west side of the middle bank that it now nearly runs across and joins itself to a spit from the main land called Shoemaker or Horse shoe Spit; and the Acting Master Attendant of Tuticorin is of opinion that, if left to itself, in less than three years there will be a dry ridge between the Nursery and Horse-shoe Spit, and completely shut off the passage to the present anchorage.

3. Mr. Richardson further states that the cargo schooners coming in from the shipping now frequently ground in the above passage, which never previously occurred; in fact, a little to the north-west of the Nursery, where there was six feet of water two years ago, there are only two feet now to be had. The middle bank itself has also extended much farther to the northward, in consequence of the sand being deposited when striking against the north wall of the Nursery, and will soon join the small rocky patch to the northward of Hare Island. Were the Nursery walls removed, it is anticipated the tide will then have a free course over the bank, and thus the present large deposit of soft mud be cleared away, and the former depth of water, before the obstruction in question was created, again be obtained.

4. In paragraph 2 of a letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, under date 17th of April, 1869, embodied in Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department of 11th June 1869, and communicated to this office by Order in the Marine Department, No. 147, of 21st June 1869, it is thus stated regarding the Oyster Nursery, "which we must, I am afraid, set down as a complete failure, as not a single oyster will live in it owing to the mud constantly silting up." It would appear, therefore, from all the foregoing circumstances, there are good reasons for removing altogether the Nursery herein referred to, and I beg to recommend this may be at once carried out; the expenses of same to be of course borne by the Pearl Fishery Department.

REFERRED to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

2. It appears very desirable in the interest of the Harbour of Tuticorin that the experimental Oyster Nursery should be removed.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
6th June 1870.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1870, No. 1,017.

Miscellaneous.

UNDER the circumstances reported by the Acting Master Attendant, the Government have no objection to the entire removal of the remains of the Pearl Oyster Nursery.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th July 1870.*

2. The proposal to utilize the materials in the construction of a sea-wall will be considered in the Marine Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Marine Department.
,, the Acting Master Attendant.

Exd. F. R. Dantleman.

Rev^d Department

No 1014
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 9th July 1870

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Subj. letter from Coll^r
forwarding one from Master
Attendant bringing to notice
damage done to harbour by
retention of debris of Pearl
Oyster nursery at Tuticorin
in Tinnevely Dist.

(H.B. 30th March 1870)

Recd also No 1640

Under the circum-
stances reported by
the Acting Master
Attendant, the Govern-
ment have no objection
to the entire removal
of the remains of the
Pearl

J. D. L.
M. A.

Govt. of Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy, Acy, &c.

Dated July, 9th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 9th July 1870, No. 1,017.

JULY.
Nos. 16-18.

Pearl Oyster Nursery at Tuticorin in
Tinnevely.—The entire removal of its remains
approved.

Pearl Oyster Nursery.

2. The proposal to
utilise the materials
in the construction of
a sea wall will be
considered in the Marine
Department.

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14 Taken from Reef Depth 15
5 — Marine Depth
8 — Agallaster Affluent with an eye

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Remains of the
Pearl Lager in
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one
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