M.R.C. 1—38,000—16-10-23.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1086 Press Mis.

15-2-53 Dated 15-7-1820 Ms.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

15.8.6

No. 152. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1870, No. 4,648 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichendur, 24th May 1870, No. 214.

In continuation of my letter of the 14th February, disposed of in Board's Proceedings, 4th March 1870, No. 1,530, I have the honour to forward a further encouraging report from Captain Richardson, pointing out the almost certainty of a fishery of the newly-named St. Patrick's bank in 1872 off Vaimbar. It appears that, in my former report, I fell into an error in saying that it was from the Pinnacovil banks that a fishery might be expected in 1872. It should have been from the southern portion of the Trichendur bank.

2. In reference to the Pearl Oyster shells being found in such quantities on the Nalla Tanni Tivu as to excite a suspicion of the banks having been poached, I have communicated with the Magistrate of Madura on the subject, and will report further on hearing from Mr. Bliss.

3. I beg to support Captain Richardson's recommendation that the pay of the Tindal of the *Margaret Northcote* be raised in consideration of his long and useful service to 30 Rs., and the pay of the Writer to 30 Rs.; he is now paid nothing for his work in the Pearl Fishery Department. I think great credit is due to the Acting Superintendent for the very careful and searching manner in which the examination of the coast has been conducted; he has completely exposed the fallacy of the opinion expressed by the authorities in 1868 that the oysters had left the coast.

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Enclosure No. 1.

From the Acting Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 4th May 1870, No. 13.

In continuation of my report, furnished to you on the 2nd February 1870, as to the condition and prospects of the Pearl banks or patches to the southward and westward of Tuticorin, I now beg leave to forward you, for the information of Government, the result of a second examination, carried on to the north-east from Paumben to Tuticorin.

2. On the 28th February I started in the Screw Steamer *Margaret Northcote* direct to Paumben, and anchored in sight of that light the same evening. Early next morning commenced an examination of the ground outside Paumben and in the direction of Mannar. Pearl Oysters were brought up by the divers frequently, but no decided patch was discovered to lead to the hope that oysters would increase in any quantity to create a fishery. I anchored in Paumben this evening, and communicated with Captain Daviot, Master Attendant, seeking local information.

3. Next day I commenced the examination in my usual way, as previously explained, going on and off shore with the steamer, the canoes bisecting my course. Well-grown oysters were brought up during this day's work, but much scattered.

4. On the 3rd March came on a very promising patch of oysters, about three and-a-half miles from Moosel Island, the oysters bearing from the Island S. S. E. S. by east and south, in seven and-a-half and eight fathoms water. It is to be remarked that under these depths the Pearl Oysters will not thrive or increase on this part of the coast, as the turbulent sea sent up by the south-west monsoon disturbs and detaches them. This bed is the nucleus of a very promising patch that may grow and extend and come to perfection in about four years or more. Although

oysters were found thinly scattered all over the ground examined this day, the above patch was the only one discovered to hold out the hopes of a future fishery.

5. About four miles south-west of the island called "Sheramoodeely Tivu" another patch exists similar to the previous one, which will take time to come to perfection.

6. During my examination of this part of the coast a circumstance came to my knowledge, which I consider the attention of Government should be drawn to, and a searching inquiry made. On the 5th March I landed on an island called "Nalla Tanni Tivu" or fresh water island; there I found the remains of what must have been a most extensive Pearl Fishery. Many millions of the Pearl Oyster shells remaining apparently taken up from eight to ten years ago. The shells having been but partially examined, a great quantity of small pearls still adhered to the shells. The inhabitants of "Keelacary," "Valinookum," and "Keelcaud," besides other villages on the coast, must have reaped a rich harvest, and the Native officials of those villages and towns must have winked at the transaction, as no Government fishery was ever held in that locality. I brought away a quantity of the shells which can be inspected.

7. In continuation of this examination I came on the best and richest bank on the whole coast. It is situated due south of the island of "Oopoo Tanni Tivu," eight and-a-half miles from the island, in eight and-a-half fathoms water. Being out of sight of the land at the time of hitting on it, the steamer's boat was lowered and moored on the bank, where she remained two days, the steamer and canoes making an examination of the extent of the patch all the time. It consisted of oysters from three to four years old, with an extent of two and-a-half to three miles. Some of the oysters had pearls in them well formed. The examination of this bank having been concluded on the 17th March, it was named on the Chart as St. Patrick's bank.

8. The further examination of this portion of the coast was continued up to the position of those previously reported on without any further success.

9. I have now to state, for the information of Government, founding my opinion on the information extracted from the fishermen, divers, and other people, versed in the nature and habits of the Pearl Oyster, as well as my own inspection, that there are four or five extensive patches of Pearl Oysters which will yield a fishery for four consecutive years, commencing in 1872 or 1873 at the farthest, as well as two minor patches in the direction of Paumben, as before explained, which will take some time, before being confidently reported on as to their extent and yielding properties.

I trust it will not be out of place here to draw attention to some previous statements made, so as to prevent Government ever being led into any hasty determination of abandoning such a lucrative source of revenue as a Pearl Fishery.

10. In 1868 the then Collector Mr. Puckle made use of the following words in his letter to the Board of Revenue in forwarding the Superintendent's report :—

"This report is still more discouraging than the last, and there is now no doubt that the "Pearl Oysters have left this coast."

Such could not have been the case, but the oysters were not found. For, in one year and nine months after that time, I found oysters from three to four years old on several parts of the coast, and in considerable quantities. The Pearl Oyster is not migratory.

11. In forwarding my last report to the Board, you fell into an error, quite unintentional I feel convinced, but as it affects the statements I have made, and confuses my report with one previously made by the former Superintendent, I am sure you will correct it. You say, "Captain "Richardson found three classes of oysters on Pinnacovil bank; Captain Phipps only discovered "oysters to the north of the bank, one year old. The last examination has resulted in the "discovery of oysters, varying from two to three years old, and it is the middle and southern "portion of this bank that the Acting Superintendent thinks will yield a fishery in March 1872." Now the conclusions here drawn by you are founded on an erroneous hypothesis, for, if you will refer to my report, you cannot find that I ever stated that there were three classes of oysters on the Pinnacovil bank, or that I expected a fishery from it in 1872. My statement was that the oysters on Pinnacovil were not very thick, but were pronounced to be three years old. The expectation of a fishery which I held out was from the oysters on the southern portion of the Trichendur bank, which I stated had the three classes of oysters, and which bank, by referring to the fourth clause of the late Superintendent's Report in April 1869, he states, "the banks of Trichendur "contain also but few. The weather during the examination has been nearly always calm, with a "clear sea, which enable the divers to do the work carefully."



*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*15th July* 1870.

I am sorry to have been obliged to enter on those explanations, as it may appear invidious, but yet it is due to myself not to allow the various reports to clash with each other as to facts.

12. The last bank, which I discovered twenty miles north-east of Hare Island Light House, is the one that I have the greatest hopes of being first ready to fish in 1872. The pearls being well formed in the oysters, a sample of which I had the pleasure of forwarding for your inspection. Our Head Tindal and some of our native divers think it probable they might be ready in 1871, but I don't concur in that opinion.

13. Before concluding this report I must express my grateful acknowledgments for the very able assistance and advice I have received from our resident Medical Officer Dr. Reed, who has taken a great interest in the arrangement and preservation of the oysters in the aquarium, and would it not be well worthy of the consideration of Government to place the experimental portion of this department under the scientific care of a person so well fitted for such duties as a medical man?

14. I must not conclude without asking you to bring to the notice of Government my expressions of the very active and efficient assistance I have received from our Head Tindal Kaitain Victoria.

15. It is now more than twenty years since this man was first employed under a Master Attendant at this Port, and for the last ten years he has been constantly and actively employed as a Government Head Tindal. He has a perfect knowledge of the position of all the oysters reported on. He is a good sea-man. I have instructed him in the use of the Charts of the Coast, and he is learning the use of the Quadrant, and by next season, he will be able to ascertain the latitude by observation. I would confidently propose an increase of his salary. The Native Tindals in this Port make more than double what he is paid, 20 Rupees per month.

There is another of our Government servants, Iyemperumal Pillay, who, from your own observation, I am sure you will agree with me, is well worthy of an advance of salary; he is paid but Rupees 20 per month as the Master Attendant's Clerk for the last three years. But the more onerous duties he has to perform in keeping the accounts, correspondence, and official documents connected with the Pearl Fishery Department, he gets nothing for. He is a most clever, industrious, and hard-working man, and well worthy of your advocacy with the Board for an increase of salary.

16. The oysters deposited in the aquarium are suffering very much from the increased temperature, many dying during the night; every exertion is being used to preserve them through this trying season of the hot land-winds.

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SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Proceedings of the Board, No. 1,530, dated 4th March 1870.

2. Captain Richardson's report is very complete and satisfactory, and the Board see no reason to doubt that there will be a very lucrative fishery in 1872.

3. In consideration of the high opinion expressed of them by Captain Richardson, the Board resolve to support the Acting Collector's recommendation for an increase of pay to the Tindal, Kaitain Victoria, and the Master Attendant's Clerk, Iyemperumal Pillay.

4. It will be observed that the former has greatly improved in knowledge of his work, and that private Tindals are said to earn more than double his present pay; whilst the latter receives no extra remuneration for a good deal of onerous

business in connection with the Pearl Fishery Department. The extra charge can be met from the provision in the Budget on account of Pearl Fishery Establishment.

5. The Board await the Collector's further report on the subject mentioned in paragraph 2 of his letter.

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No. 153. ORDER THEREON, 15th July 1870, No. 1,086.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council is glad to find that the present report on the Pearl banks of the Tinnevelly District is even more encouraging than that disposed of in the G. O. under date 28th June 1870, No. 957. Both reports will now be submitted for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

2. In consideration of the favourable report submitted by Captain Richardson of the qualifications and services of the Tindal and Writer referred to in paragraph 3 of the Acting Collector's letter, His Lordship in Council is pleased to sanction a special temporary addition of Rupees 10 to the monthly salary of each of them, the charge being debited to the provision for the Pearl Fishery.

3. The report called for in paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings should be submitted to Government when received.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No 1086

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

*Dated July 15th.*

*Recd.* Encl.

*G. O., 15th July 1870, No. 1,086.*

**JULY.**
**Nos. 152-153.**

*Pearl banks in Tinnevelly.*—Report from Acting Superintendent on the result of his examination of them, ordered to be sent to Secretary of State, and a temporary addition to the monthly salary of each of the Tindal and Writer in question, sanctioned.

of the qualifications
and services of the
Tindal & Winter referred to
in para 3 of the Col. Cole's
letter, His Lordship in
Council is pleased to
sanction a temporary addition
of Rs 10 per to the monthly
salary of each of them,
the charge being debited
to the provision for the
Penal Fishery.

The Bd called for in
para 5 of the Bd's Proc.
should be submitted to
Govt when received

RB

15 July 1870

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