

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st August 1871.*

No. 200. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1871, No. 3,003 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd June 1871, No. 269.

IN reply to the Board's Proceedings No. 1,890, dated 5th May 1871, I have the honour to inform you that I consider Captain Phipps's explanation of the alleged discovery of Pearl oyster shells on Nalla Tanni Tevu to be perfectly satisfactory, as it was known to all on the Coast that these shells were there long before Captain Phipps assumed charge of his office. The enclosed papers show that these shells were there in 1846 and 1857, and an old man at Tuticorin affirms that they were deposited there in 1829 when cholera broke out among the Pearl Divers at Manaar on the Ceylon Coast during a fishery on which the boats from this Coast brought their share of oysters across to Nalla Tanni Tevu and washed them there.

2. This account is very probably true, as Nalla Tanni Tevu is the first land they would make with fresh-water when returning from Manaar.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract from a letter No. 46, dated 13th May 1850, from the late Captain ROBERTSON, Master Attendant Tuticorin to C. J. BIRD, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely.

Paragraph 9. "I am confirmed in this opinion from having found quantities of Pearl oyster shells on Nalla Tanni Tevu."

(True Extract.)

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

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN PHIPPS,

I AM glad to tell you with reference to our conversation regarding the Oyster shells on fresh water Island off Kilakarei, that I have seen quantities of them lying there from 1846 ; the last time I was on the Island was early in 1857, when I was in command of the *Sarah Armetage* ; I do not think it probable that there could have been anything like a fishery on the Coast without its being known to people about the place. I have no doubt that had there been a fishery on private account, it would have come to my knowledge, or at least your's, as it must have been carried on in broad daylight, and amongst natives it is utterly impossible that it could have been carried out privately. With regards, believe me, etc.,

22nd March 1871.

(Signed) E. H. DAVIOT.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 5th May 1871, No. 1,890.

2. The Board think that the explanation now submitted entirely exonerates Captain Phipps from the imputation of having permitted poaching to occur in the neighbourhood of Nalla Tanni Tevu without his knowledge.

3. The shells found there were evidently deposited there before Captain Phipps assumed charge.

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No. 201.

ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1871, No. 1,423.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government entirely concur
with the Board in exonerating Captain
Phipps from any blame or imputation of
neglect in the matter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. DEC. SCOTT, Captain, R.E.,
*Under-Secy., P.W.D.,
for Secy. to Govt.*

To the Board of Revenue.

26 23 May 1871 to 105 his.

W. 1423
is examining with the same
any claim or production
evidence in the matter.
No. 3,003
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17 Aug 1871
No. 200-201
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Rev. 1871. Sept.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH JULY 1871, No. 3,003.

Date 25 July 1871

Received.

Encl.

JULY.

No. 3,003

No 1423-21 August 1871

Pearl Oyster Shells—on Nalla Tanni Teyu in
Tinnevely District.—Letter from Collector
stating that he considers explanation of Super-
intendent of Pearl Banks regarding discovery
of, to be perfectly satisfactory, and that shells
were there long before Superintendent assumed
charge of his office, submitted to Govern-
ment.