

821

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th May 1871.*

No. 150. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March 1871, No. 1,332:—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to Acting Secretary the to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th March 1871, No. 77.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of Government, Captain Richardson's last report on his examination of Pearl banks; he has now left the district, having been relieved by Captain Phipps. I hope soon to have an opportunity of inspecting the banks myself, but till then, I can add nothing to the information furnished by Captain Richardson.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain H. RICHARDSON, Acting Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 20th February 1871, No. 7.

I BEG leave to forward you, for the information of Government, the result of my late examination of the Pearl banks on the coasts of Tinnevely and Madura.

2. I commenced the examination on the 27th December, and went off to the Vypar bank. We did not find the same quantity of soorum as last year, and although the divers brought up oysters at every dive, the size or quantity had not improved to any appreciable extent. We spent two days examining the ground off Chippicollam, where the Chank divers reported that they had come on some very large oysters last year, but were not successful in finding any. Went on with the examination of the ground outside Hare Island as far out as Tolairam Par, and so continued on till we came off Pinnacoll, and in reference to this bank, I don't think I can do better than give you a copy of my Journal as written at the moment. "At noon, Pinnacoll bearing west, and having spread the canoes wide apart from the steamer, drifted to the south-west over the position where oysters were found last year, but in a drift of four to five miles, the divers brought up but one or two oysters, although I am firmly convinced that the oysters were there. They brought up a little soorum now and then. We made a thorough examination of this ground for a breadth of four miles in 7, 7½, and 8 fathoms water, but the divers only brought up one oyster at a time, and that of a large size, which on examination, showed that the cable was forcibly ruptured from a stone or other substance. The behaviour of the divers and others show me that there is some combination, as no surprise is expressed at not finding the oysters, which were plentiful last year. The Jodi Talaven refused to come with us on this occasion, although noticed that we were going to Manapad and had promised me that he would go, he said he was going to Mookoor, but did not go till long after we had returned."

3. Such was my remark on the Pinnacoll banks. On going over the Trichendur bank, the same result ensued. The divers did not bring up any oysters.

4. In my Journal is this remark: "On the bearing of the pagoda, where last year there was a large quantity of well grown oysters, the divers did not bring up one, I feel firmly convinced that there is some combination, as no surprise is expressed by any person, but what the cause is I cannot divine; I suspect Jodi Talaven is at the bottom of it, and has given some secret orders to frustrate the work."

5. We gave up this bank after a most careful search, without one oyster being brought up, and I can only remark on this fact by quoting a sentence in a letter from the late Collector Mr. Longley, who visited this bank twice last year when living at Trichendur when making an independent examination of the bank for his own personal satisfaction my not being present, he wrote to me in the following terms:—

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6. "I was much pleased with the examination made of Trichendur bank. The number and size of the oysters brought up exceeded my most sanguine expectations."

7. The Assistant Collector Mr. Grigg was also a witness to the large quantity of oysters on the bank.

8. We then went over all the ground until we came to Manapad bank, where the same examination was carried on with similar results. No oysters were brought up. We then proceeded on our way back to Tuticorin, and on the evening of the 3rd February, we anchored on the Trichendur bank, to have another examination in the morning, which we carried on the next day, and the Tindal having put the vessel in the same position with the pagoda, bearing west by south three miles, and where Mr. Longley had seen such a quantity of oysters last year, and having told the divers that he was certain the oysters were there. They then for the first time brought up some oysters attached to the Pena shell, and very much covered with large barnacles which had no existence on this bank last year. We removed a quantity of those barnacles, and brought with us to produce for your inspection on arrival at Tuticorin, and which I had an opportunity of displaying to you.

9. I next proceeded to the Madura coast, and went up to Paumben, and examined all the ground from that downwards to the south-west, having four of our last year's divers. The small bank of oysters to the southward of Moosel Island was still there, but had not increased in size or quantity. The small bank, four miles south-west of Sheramoodelly Tevoo, was also similar to last year. Examined all the ground carefully from Nalla Tanni Teevoo to Ooppoo Tanni Teevoo without finding oysters in any quantity, and then stood off eight miles to the new bank, and moored a buoy on the bank in eight fathoms, and stood off with the steamer and canoe and examined the bank in various directions, the canoe showing oysters two miles from the steamer and three miles from the buoy. The oysters not so numerous as last year, and very much mixed up with barnacles. The divers also brought up many large sized oysters open, fish gone, from this bank, went on to Tuticorin, passing over the Vypar banks, but being late, the men brought up but few oysters before giving up work.

10. Having been relieved by Captain Phipps, the permanent officer, he will have an opportunity and plenty of time, it being the finest portion of the season to go over the banks, and as I have not expended much of the funds, he will have quite sufficient at his disposal to carry on the further examination.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government with reference to Government Order No. 1,086 of the 15th July last.

2. There appear to be very good grounds for suspecting fraud on the part of the local divers, and it would be satisfactory to have their reports checked by a European diver.

3. The Board trust that Mr. Puckle will find an early opportunity of carrying out his intentions, and that Captain Phipps will devote as much time as possible to the most careful and repeated examinations of all the banks. They were somewhat surprised to observe that the Steam Ship *Margaret Northcote* had been sent to Trevandrum during the height of the season.

4. A tin box containing specimens of the oysters described by Captain Richardson as covered with barnacles, etc., was very kindly brought by him for the Board's inspection, and will be forwarded to Government with these Proceedings.

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No. 151.

ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1871, No. 834.

Miscellaneous.

THE employment of a European diver (if one can be obtained) seems desirable. The Board will arrange for this if they can.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

5-6-09

Revised Sept
12^o May 1771.

~~Fr.~~ 834.

Memorandum for Orders on No. 1111

The Board suggest that the Buoy be examined by a European Diver. This was done in 1859-60. with good results-the diver being sent from Ceylon & Ma Das. I believe there is now one here in Govt employ, but am not sure whether his services could be spared.

be L'plac-

I think it is not
improbable that the
native Diggers are playing
tricks -

broads -
The Pickens
to the Simplex in a black
& Tinselly formerly
claimed certain
privileges

Despatch
G.O

The employment
of ~~an~~ European diver
(if one can be obtained)
seems desirable. The

J. A. S.

5/1

But will arrange for this,
if they can.

14 Father's W. of Ben Decr 13
6 - Southey 17

April 1907

privileges in the Pearl
 fishery which were dis-
 allowed and it is possible
 the Temple officials are
 inducing the divers to
 conceal facts in view
 of some poaching opera-
 tions.

L.B.

11/10/1900

Native

14-20-1900

11/10/1900
 with order

11/10-1900

1850-1851

Memorandum

I am not a
member of the
Society of Friends
but I am a
member of the
Society of Friends
in the
Society of Friends