1364

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th September 1872.

No. 152. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1872, No. 1,760:—

Read the following letter from J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th August 1872, No. 178:—

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 30th November 1871, No. 4,350, I have the honour to forward, herewith, the information desired by Dr. Day.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

REPLIES BY TAHSILDARS.

Questions.	*Answers.*
1.—What number of fishermen are there in your range, and are they only such, or do they pursue other occupations?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—There are about 1,000 fishermen in the Trichinopoly Taluq, and if the term fishermen include anglers also, the number may be said to be about 10,000. They have other occupations, such as agriculture, etc. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—There are 50 men who use nets and 100 men who use line and bait in the Museri Taluq. There are besides 1,000 men who catch fish when fisheries of tanks are rented out; and whenever the water in channels and pools is low, these men catch fish in cloths. The aforesaid individuals pursue other occupations. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—There are 25 fishermen in the Kulitalai Taluq who catch fish for sale, and these men serve also as Palankeen bearers and coolies, etc. The Pallars, Valiers, and other low caste people in the villages catch fish for their own use, and pursue also agricultural and other occupations. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—There are 100 fishermen in the Perambalur Taluq who pursue also other occupations. *By Wodiyarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—There are 58 fishermen in the Wodiyarpoliyam Taluq. These men attend also to agriculture and other pursuits.
2.—What are the names of the fishermen castes in your district?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—Sembada *alias* Valier, Rowthu, Palla, Padiachi, Balija, Boyi, Ambalagara, Paria, Vadakatti (northern) Boyi, and Kalla, are the names of castes to which the fishermen in the Trichinopoly District belong respectively. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—Valier, Kammavar, and Mavaliyah are the names of fishermen castes in the Museri Taluq.

Questions.	*Answers.*
	By Kulitalai Tahsildar.—Siviyar, Pambaikara, Valier, Maliar and Palla are the names of castes prevailing among the fishermen in the Kulitalai Taluq. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—Sembada, Paria, Palla, Padiachi and Mahommedan are the castes of the fishermen in the Perambalur Taluq. *By Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—The fishermen in the Wodiarpoliyam Taluq belong to Sembada and Ambalagara castes.
3.—Are the Local markets fully supplied with fish or could more be sold ?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—The local markets are inadequately supplied; more could be sold; the supply available is not sufficient to meet the local demand. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—In the cusbah town of Museri and at weekly fairs, fish is brought in baskets chiefly from Trichinopoly and sold. The requirements of the taluq seem to be amply supplied, except in the case of sea fish, for which there is a great demand. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—The local market is inadequately supplied, and more could be sold. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—Fish bazaars do dot exist in the Perambalur Taluq nor is there any great demand for that article. When Tank fisheries are rented out, people buy and use fish. The Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar is of the same opinion as the Perambalur Tahsildar.
4.—What is the price of large and small fish in the bazaar, and also that of first and second sort bazaar mutton ?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—Large fish is sold at Rupees 1¼ for each, and small fish at 1 Pie for two. First sort bazaar mutton is sold at 2 Annas, and the second sort at 1 Anna and 8 Pies per lb. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—The price of large fish ranges from 1 Pie to 4 Annas, according to its size; small fish is sold at about 1 Anna per each measure. Salted fish is sold at the rates varying from ½ Anna to 4 Annas each. There are no Mutton bazaars in this Taluq. People using mutton, buy sheep and slaughter for their own use. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—Large fish is sold at 1 to 4 Annas and small fish at ½ to 1 Anna each. Very small fish is sold in small groups at 1 to 6 Pies for each group.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th September 1872.

Questions.	*Answers.*
	First sort bazaar mutton can be purchased at 4 Annas, and the 2nd sort at Annas 3 and Pies 4, per seer of 25 Rupees weight. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—There are neither Fish nor Mutton bazaars in the Perambalur Taluq. *By Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—Large fish is sold according to the demand, at 3, or 4 Annas, and small fish at the rates varying from 6 Pies to 1 Anna for each. There are no Mutton bazaars; people purchase sheep at the weekly fairs at Rupees 4 for a large sheep and Rupees 3-2-0 for a small sheep, and sell mutton on a profit of 4 or 8 Annas for the whole lot, dividing the quantity amongst the purchasers; mutton is not weighed.
5.—What proportion of people eat fish ?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—The population of the Trichinopoly Taluq is 258,194; about 160,000 may be said to eat fish. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—The population of the Museri Taluq is 255,339; four-fifths of this number may be said to eat fish. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—About 60,000 individuals eat fish. The population of the taluq is 227,667. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—Out of the total population of the Perambalur Taluq, viz., 171,147; 110,000 eat fish. *By Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—170,000 persons out of the total population of 237,454 of the Wodiarpoliyam Taluq eat fish.
6.—Have the fish increased, decreased, or remained stationary of late year ?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—The fish are said to have of late years decreased, owing to the construction of Anicuts and Bridges, etc., in the Cauvery and Coleroon rivers, which obstruct the passage of fish from the sea up the river. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—The fish appear to have of late years partly decreased. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—The fish seem to have decreased owing to the failure of seasonable rains, in consequence of which rivers, tanks, and other reservoirs have not received full supply of water. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—In consequence of the breaches in the tanks caused by the late Cyclone, the fish have very much decreased. *By Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—The fish are reported to have decreased of late years.

Questions.	*Answers.*
7.—Are very small fish taken in any quantity during rains; if so, how?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—Very small fish are caught in large quantities during rains with the aid of the following instruments:—Tundu, (line and bait) Kuchali, Var Valai, Visu Valai, Kachal, Kitti Valai. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—When the freshes subside in the rainy season, very small fish are caught in nets with small meshes. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—When the water is low, small fish are caught by the following means:—Vichi, Valai, Pari. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—During rains, hand nets containing small meshes are used at the mouths of the supplying channels of large tanks, and the small fish are caught in considerable quantities. *By Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—Very small fish are taken by means of hand nets near the sluices of the supply and surplus channels.
8.—What is the smallest size of the mesh of the nets employed?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—One-eighth of an inch. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—About the size of a quill. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—About the size of the little finger. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—About the size of a Tamarind stone. *By Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—One-fourth of an inch.
9.—Are fish trapped in irrigated fields during the rains?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—No. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—This practice does not appear to exist in the Museri Taluq. *By Kulitalai Tahsildar.*—Fish are trapped in irrigated fields by Pallars and other cultivators of low castes. *By Perambalur and Wodiarpoliyam Tahsildars.*—No.
10.—Enumerate the various sorts of fishing, and give the native names of every form of net, trap or snare used in taking fish in your range?	*By Trichinopoly Tahsildar.*—With the aid of the following 14 instruments, the fish are taken in this Taluq:—1. Kye Tundu; 2. Yeri Tundu; 3. Kattu Tundu; 4. Suliki for catching the fish "Aral"; 5. Wutal; 6. Kuchalu; 7. Var Valai; 8. Vis Valai; 9. Valai of large meshes; 10. Kitti Valai; 11. Janda Valai; 12. Tattu Valai; 13. Yedduppu Valai; 14. Kanni Valai. *By Museri Tahsildar.*—Fishing is carried on by means of line and bait, and nets in streams and rivers. In shallow pools, earthen pots with a hole made at the bottom of each vessel are placed in the pools with some vegetable substance called Pera Talai put in the pots, and the pots are taken out the next day; by this means fish called Aral and Velangu are caught. Fish are also taken by trapping. The following are the native names of nets used in the Museri Taluq:—1. Tarichi Valai; 2. Sirukan Valai; 3. Maruchu Valai; 4. Kanni Valai; 5. Kytu Valai; 6. Vendu Valai. *By Kulutalai Tahsildar.*—The following are the native names of instruments used in taking fish:—1. Vich Valai; 2. Kitti Valai; 3. Tundu (line and bait); 4. Pari; 5. Ambu; 6. Wulta; 7. Kye Valai; 8. Kacha Valai. *By Perambalur Tahsildar.*—Fish are taken by line and bait, and nets of large and small sized meshes. *By Wodiyarpoliyam Tahsildar.*—Fish are trapped in rivers and streams and the instruments used are known by the following native names:— 1. Var Valai; 2. Kanni Valai; 3. Visiri Valai; 4. Kattal; 5. Tundu; 6. Sar; 7. Pari.

10th August 1872.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

COLLECTOR'S REPLIES.

1.—Are breeding fish and very young ones destroyed in your district to any great extent?	IN the absence of express prohibition, fishermen spare no fish, however small. They are naturally anxious to obtain the immediate return of their labours rather than wait for doubtful profits at some distant period.
2.—If they are destroyed, how, in what places, and in what seasons?	The fish swarm in large numbers below the Anicuts, etc., in constantly and vainly attempting to ascend the apron wall, and they are equally unable to go backwards when the river decreases, and the communication seawards is thus shut off; the fish thus remain congregated together in large pools formed by the rush of water over the apron and through the sluices, when the water falls off and the pools become lessened, the fish are netted most easily and the destruction is tremendous. Similar destruction occurs when the fisheries of tanks are rented out.

Questions.	*Answers.*
3.—What is the smallest size of the mesh of nets allowed or employed in your district ?	One-eighth of an inch is the smallest size of the mesh of nets employed in this district.
4.—What difficulties are there against regulating the size of the mesh of nets ?	There are daily brought to the market, basketfuls of exceedingly tasteless small fish called "Vellichay" etc., they never grow bigger than 3 or 4 inches, and are largely purchased by the poorer classes to eat with their rice. By limiting the size of mesh, we virtually prohibit the capture of these little creatures and thus cut off an article of food. The fishermen will demur, as the limitation will deprive them of the opportunity of obtaining the small fry which they are at present permitted to catch and destroy.
	The limitation is however no doubt very essential, as tending to increase the fish population and thus secure a good supply to the market.
5.—What size between knot and knot of the meshes of nets do you consider advisable ?	I should say that 5 inches circumference would be a proper minimum of the size of the mesh of nets, except perhaps for prawns. Taking the mesh to be a square, the size between knot and knot is one and one-fourth of an inch.
6.—What objections exist against prohibiting the sale of the fry of fish in the bazaars ?	*Vide* my answer to Question 4.
7.—Are there any objections against prohibiting the capture of fish in hilly districts as the Himalayas or Nilgiris for the first two months of the monsoon season when they are breeding ?	This is not a Hilly District.

10th August 1872.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Collector.

FORWARDED to Dr. Day in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 3rd August 1872, No. 1,485.

No. 153. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1872, No. 1,354.

Miscellaneous.

REFERRING to his answer No. 2 in enclosure 2, the Collector will communicate with the Superintending Engineer in view to the construction of a fish-ladder at the anicut.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

of the monsoon season when they are breeding.

10th August 1872.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Acting Collector.

FORWARDED to Dr. Day in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 3rd August 1872, No. 1,485.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To Dr. Day, Inspector-General of Fisheries.

Copy to the Chief Secretary to Government, R. D.
" to the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Rec. 1872.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH SEPTEMBER 1872, No. 1,760.

Encl.

SEPTEMBER.
No. 1,760.

Fisheries.—Letter from Collector of Trichinopoly, forwarding information desired by Dr. Day regarding—, communicated to latter officer.