No. 146. Read the following Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 14th January 1873 :—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Shevagungah, 8th January 1873, No. 4,383 :—

In reference to G. O., 25th October 1872, No. 1,478, in the Revenue Department, received with G. O., 12th December 1872, No. 102, on the subject of the fisheries of the Madras Presidency, and with special reference to paragraph 7 of the former mentioned G. O., wherein the Government resolve " to restrict their operations at first to particular localities and to afford protection to the more valuable descriptions of fish only," I have the honour to bring the following matter to the notice of the Government for the issue of such orders as they may please to pass in the matter.

2. I should premise by saying that the subject to which I refer is not one of tank or river-fishery, but of sea-fishery, yet none of the less importance on that account.

3. At the spot where the Vygay river debouches into the sea, and which spot is known as Attenkurray in the Ramnad Zemindari of the Madura District, there is an enormous pool or bay of great depth, frequented, between the months of April and October in each year, by shoals of fishes of large size for the purpose of spawning. Tons upon tons of fish are caught here during the season and are salted and carried off to the interior on pack bullocks and tattoos ; but not a single anna of revenue is raised upon this most legitimate source of revenue.

4. It appears to me well worthy of the investigation of some fish-expert as to the effect that such a wholesale slaughter of fish as that abovementioned has on the general production of fish along the coast, and how far, *i.e.*, to what littoral extent the baneful influence of this practice is experienced.

5. Although the pool under reference lies immediately off a Zemindari, it is, like all other Indian seas and fore-shores, the property of the crown. There can, I apprehend therefore, be no objection raised to the levying of such a tax as will, at all events, check the indiscriminate slaughter of such quantities of fish as now takes place. The pool being particularly well sheltered during the south-west monsoon is much affected by fish of all sizes ; and there can be no doubt but that such a valuable fishery as it is ought to contribute its quota to the Government revenues.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

14*th January* 1873.

No. 147. Order thereon, 14th March 1873, No. 313.

Miscellaneous.

The Board of Revenue will obtain from the Collector a detailed report of the conditions of this fishery. Mr. McQuhae will state his opinion as to the propriety of regulating the opera-

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th March 1873.

tions of the fishermen in the interests of the consumers, and will forward specimens in spirits to the Museum for identification. The specimens should be very carefully labelled, and all the informations procurable regarding them, with their Tamil names, should be supplied.

2. Colonel Roberts will be thanked for his report. The Government do not desire to derive revenue from fisheries so much as to preserve and restore them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Public Works Department.

No. 4383. District Engineers Office
Camp. Sivaguhgah. 8th January.
1873.

From.

Lieut.-Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.
District Engineer
Madura.

To.

Colonel C. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Madras.

Sir,

In reference to G.O. 25th October 1872, No. 1478, on the Revenue Department received with G.O. 12th December 1872 No. 102, on the subject of the Fisheries of the Madras Presidency, and with special reference to Para 7 of the former mentioned G.O. wherein the Government resolve "to restrict "their operations at first to particular "localities and to afford protection to

the

"the more valuable discriptions of fish only.

I have the honor to bring the following matter to the notice of the Government, for the issue of such orders as they may please to pass in the matter.

2. I should premise by saying that the subject to which I refer is not one of Bank or River Fishery, but of Sea-fishery, yet none of the less of importance as the sequel will show.

3. At the spot where the Vygay river debouches into the Sea, and which spot is known as Attenkurray in the Ramnad Zemindary of the Madura District, there is an enormous pool or bay of great depth, frequented between the months of April and October in each year, by shoals of

of fishes of large size, for the purpose of spawning. Tons upon Tons of fish are caught here during the season and are sold and carried off to the interior on pack bullocks and tattoos; but not a single anna of revenue is raised upon this most legitimate source of Revenue.

4. It appears to me well worthy of the investigation of some fish-Expert, as to the effect that such a wholesale slaughter of fish as that above mentioned has on the general production of fish along the Coast, and how far, i.e. to what littoral extent the baneful influence of this practice is experienced.

5. ... Although the pool under reference lies immediately off a Zemindarry it is, like all other Indian Seas and foreshores, the property of the Crown. There can, I apprehend therefore be no objections raised to the levying of such a tax as will, at all events, check the indiscriminate slaughter of such quantities of fish as now takes place. The pool being particularly well sheltered during the South West Monsoon is much affected by fish of all sizes; and there can be no doubt but that such a valuable fishery as it is ought to contribute its quota to the Government

Revenue.

Revenues.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
Richd. Roberts Lieut. Co. R.E.
District Engineer
Madura.

7

Rec'd 12th Dec 1872 No 102 Fins

No. 146-147

14. Dec 72 Mr Dec 15 Jan
20. Dec 72 Ch. Sec. 8 Jan 73

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

C. Walker Lt Col R.E.
Secy to Govt N.W.P. & O.

No 313.

14th Jany 1873

The Govr in Council will obtain from Mr Walker a detailed report of the conclusions of his fishery - Mr Walker has only stated his opinion as to the propriety of regulating the operations of the fishermen, in the interests of the conservancy -

15 Jan 73 Rec'd 16 mailed 18 Jan 73

Rec'd 8 Jan. 1873 Deptl No 4,380
From No 192
The District Engineer Madura
No 100
To the Secretary to Government N.W.P.

Dated 8 January 1873
Received 13th do
— " — 15th do " —

Reports on the subject of the Fisheries in this District.

Walter Walker
No 313 of 14 March 1873
Transferred

Sec

- and will forward Specimens in spirits of the Nectaurus for identification - The Specimens should be very carefully labelled - and all the information possible regarding them in the Tamil names should be labelled.

2. Col K. will be asked for his report. The Govt will next desire to receive from Fisheries - to ensure to preserve & restore them

W.S.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 14th.

Read.

G. O., 14th March 1873, No. 313.

V. Boards Pro 14 April 1874
N° 848

MARCH.

Nos. 146-147.

Fisheries in Madura District.—Report of the District Engineer in connection with them forwarded to the Board of Revenue for the submission of a detailed report from the Collector.