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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1130	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3-9-1874 ~~196~~	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/1130

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd September 1874.

No. 53. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1874, No. 2,335 :—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Paidugudi 24th July 1874, No. 370.

I HAVE the honor to forward the Superintendent's report on the pearl banks for 1873-74.

2. Agreeably to the wishes of the Board, as expressed in their Proceedings No. 1,137, dated 30th June 1873, there has been very little examination of the banks; where the divers did go down, they found that, as usual, the oysters had shifted.

3. The prohibition of fishing on the banks has been attended with some success. The Superintendent requests permission to dock the *Margaret Northcote* at Bombay during the next north-east monsoon. It is possible, however, that Captain Phipps may devise means for docking her at Tuticorin by hauling her up on a slip, a model of which he has shown me.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain G. A. PHIPPS, Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 2nd June 1874, No. 16.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of Government, that, under the instructions contained in their Order, No. 799, dated 1st August 1873, I have only examined a few of the pearl banks off Trichendore and Pinnacoil during the last fine season. My report in consequence will be found very much shorter than usual. In that of last year, mention was made that certain banks off Vypaur were stocked with young oysters, and I have since ascertained that the Athombadoo Par off Tuticorin has, on one side, a large quantity, but I have not made any very close examination. During last month, I spent some days on the banks off Pinnacoil and Trichendore, as per list annexed, and which were not looked at last year. I regret to state that the examination was not satisfactory. Oysters were found on some in small quantities, but so much mixed with sooram as to be of no value.

2. On the Coodamoothee Par, a few oysters were found of three years' age, and appear to be some of the same lot that were found in 1872-73. The quantity is evidently very small and they lie within a space of a few yards. A buoy was placed to mark the spot, and at a very short distance off, there were none ; three and four at a dive were the most that the divers brought up.

3. On the Velangoo Karuval Par off Trichendore in 7¾ fathoms, we came upon a patch of oysters one year old, it is also of small extent, and they appear to be moderately thick, as the divers could get twenty at a dive ; but amongst this small quantity there were some dead, the result of the sooram with which the bank is covered in almost every part. On the Vadda Ombathoo Par, a considerable quantity was also found, but mixed with the sooram.

4. This season I have had some difficulty in obtaining divers, as a large number had proceeded to the Pearl Fishery in Ceylon, and I was consequently unable to obtain the services of my usual hands. The fitting up of the new light-house, which required my attention, occupied time which I usually have devoted to the pearl banks.

5. The order issued by the Collector and approved by Government prohibiting fishermen approaching the banks has, I think, had a good effect ; but there are so many small patches of rocky ground upon which fish similar to those that are found on the pearl banks are caught, that it is impossible to punish the men with whom they are found on their arrival at the shore. The Guard Boat *Pearl* has been out cruising over the banks daily, and her presence has been sufficient to deter the fishermen from approaching the banks that were of value. I have endeavored to have this order carried out without entailing any great hardship upon the fisher class, who are a poor and hardworking lot in this coast.

6. The Pearl Fishery Steamer *Margaret Northcote* is in good order, and her machinery works well. Government not having considered it prudent to sanction the construction of a dry dock in which she can be cleaned at this port, it will be advisable to allow me to take her to Bombay and place her in dock or on the patent slip during the next north-east monsoon.

7. The steamer has very lately been cleaned and repainted as far down as the careening [illegible]uld allow. The *Pearl* is also in good order. The *Edith* remains at Paumben in charge of the Master Attendant there.

List of Pearl Banks examined during the Season 1873-74.

Coodamoothee Par, Saith Coodamoothee Par, Rajavookoo Sippi Sothicha Par, and Yeerathee Coodamoothee Par.—These Banks were found to be covered with sooram. A few young oysters of three years' age were brought up and appear to be the same that were found in 1872-73; the quantity is very small.

Poodoo Par, Kanava Par, Kadian Par, Nadoomally Poondottu Par, Kari Caruval Par, and Velangu Caruval Par.—These banks were covered with sooram throughout, now and then a few young oysters were found from one to three at a dive.

Poondatta Par, Sandama Covil Poditho Par, Tharadi Pooditha Par.—On these banks found three oysters and plenty of sooram.

Velangoo Caruval Par.—This bank is of great extent and is covered with sooram in almost every part; with the pagoda west on 7¾ fathoms, we came upon oysters of one year age. The patch is small in extent, but where they are, they appear to be moderately thick, as the divers could get twenty at a dive. Even amongst this small quantity there were some dead.

Shanguri Pathari Par, Sattooguria Pathari Par.—The banks are the same. Nothing found but one oyster and plenty of sooram.

Poodoo Poondotta Par, Konar Poondotta Par.—Some young oysters (one year), but all mixed with sooram.

Saith Ombathoo Par.—Blank. Plenty of sooram.

Vada Ombathoo Par.—In some parts, a considerable quantity of young oysters of one year, but much mixed with sooram.

Koothadiar Par.—Some young oysters mixed with sooram and dead shells.

TUTICORIN,
2nd June 1874.

(Signed) G. A. PHIPPS, Captain,
Supt. of Pearl Banks.

(True Copies)
(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Board request that permission may be accorded to dock the *Margaret Northcote* at Bombay, in the event of Captain Phipps being unable to devise means for docking her at Tuticorin.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1874, No. 1,130.

Miscellaneous.

APPROVED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

Govt. of 1874 Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 3rd.

Head.

G. O., 3rd September 1874, No. 1,130.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 53-54.

The "Margaret Northcote".—Approves the proposal to dock — at Bombay, in the event Captain Phipps being unable to devise means for docking her at Tuticorin.

3/1130

No. 2,335.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st August 1874.

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2nd June 1874.

(Signed) G. A. PHIPPS, Captain,
Supt. of Pearl Banks.

(True Copies)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. W. H. French.

Gl. 27 Jany 74 to 228 7.
" 7 Aug 72 " 1-2
" 22 July 72 " 102-3

No. 2959
No. 1165
Rev 1874. Dept

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST AUGUST 1874, No. 2,335.

Dept 27 Aug 74 Encl.

To Board of Revenue 27-8-74

Received 28 Aug 1874.

AUGUST.

No. 2,335.

Pearl Banks—on coasts of Madura and Tinnevelly.—Letter from Collector of Tinnevelly, forwarding copy of report of Captain Phipps on examination of—for 1873-74, submitted to Government with request that permission may be accorded to dock the *Margaret Northcote* at Bombay, in the event of Captain Phipps being unable to devise means for docking her at Tuticorin.

53-54

R 5/2/74
2/5/1874

No 1130
Approved
3 Sept 74