

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>1812</u>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
<u>567-568</u>	
Dated <u>25th</u> June <u>1918</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th June 1869.*

No. 567. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th May 1869, No. 3,823 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 30th April 1869, No. 1,185, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Fisheries of the Madras Presidency.*—Passing orders on Dr. Day's Reports on this subject.

THE Board have carefully examined the reports embodied in the foregoing Proceedings of Government, and beg to be permitted, before giving effect to the orders of Government, to submit the following observations.

2. Dr. Day's recommendations consist, so far as the Revenue Department is concerned, of these proposals, namely :—

1st,—Letting by public auction, for the coming Fusly, all pieces of water (of sufficient size for fishing) which are not navigated by sea-going vessels, and all rivers above the point where such navigation ceases.

2nd,—Prohibiting the use of nets, the meshes of which are less than four inches in circumference.

3rd,—Prohibiting the draining of tanks for the purpose of catching fish.

4th,—The prohibition of poisoning the water for the same purpose.

5th,—The prohibition of fishing with nets within 100 yards of all anicuts and such like masonry works extending across streams.

6th,—The prohibition of fishing in irrigation channels which communicate with the sea, between the months of October and February both inclusive; and,

7th,—The offer of rewards for the destruction of crocodiles and other vermins.

3. With regard to the foregoing suggestions, the Board observe, in the first place, that it appears to them necessary, in the interests of the classes which live by the salt-water fisheries, to place those fisheries on a footing distinct from those of waters above tidal reach.

4. In the latter case there is scarcely anywhere a numerous and distinct class dependent on this pursuit for subsistence, though the Godavery river may furnish an exception. The estuaries, however, are fished by a distinct class, who have, most probably, no other support; and if these waters are farmed by outsiders, the class of fishermen, who are already anything but well-off, will suffer.

5. The Board would therefore suggest that either the headmen of these fishing villages should hold the fisheries at a small royalty, and under some such rules as are proposed by Dr. Day, or that protective rules should be embodied in a brief Fishery Act.

6. With regard to the proposed restriction in the use of nets having meshes below a certain size, it appears to the Board impossible to forbid (as proposed by Dr. Day) the use of a mesh of less than four inches in circumference, for they believe that whiting of the average size, and all the smaller mullet could pass through meshes of that size, to say nothing of prawns, immense numbers of which are daily consumed in Madras and elsewhere, and which are taken in fine-meshed casting nets.

modified

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th June 1869.*

7. The total prohibition of fishing near the anicuts does not appear necessary to the Board, although it might be well that a sufficient time should be allowed to enable the fish to ascend the ladders (where such are provided) unmolested, after which the fishing could be unrestricted.
8. It is no doubt very desirable that unfair and wholesale destruction of breeding fish at the anicuts and elsewhere should be prevented, and that a stop should be put to the poisoning of water and drainage of tanks for the purpose of catching fish, and in this object, and in the purport of most of his rules, the Board heartily agree with Dr. Day.
9. Finally, the Board would request that time be allowed to learn the opinion of the District Officers, as to the operation of the proposed system before it is carried out.
10. Meanwhile, and pending the further orders of Government, Dr. Day's reports together with the Order of Government thereon, will be communicated to Collectors, who are requested to report as to the probable effect of the introduction of the proposed system into their several districts.
11. The three sets of questions proposed by Dr. Day in his last report should be replied to at the same time.

No. 568.

ORDER THEREON, 25th June 1869, No. 1,812.

- THE Government see no reason why the protective measures suggested by Dr. Day should be deferred; but they will not object to their details being modified as proposed by the Board in paragraphs 3, 4, and 6 of their Proceedings.
2. The Government have already expressed their concurrence in Dr. Day's views as to the prohibition of fishing close to the anicuts, and this should be made one of the conditions of the contracts.
 3. After communicating with the Collectors, the Board will be good enough to submit definite proposals for dealing with the salt-water fisheries to which they refer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of Madras
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 25th.

Recd.

G. O. No. 1869, No. 1,812.

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No. 567-568.

River Fisheries.—Board's observations with reference to Dr. Day's recommendations in regard to them, with orders thereon.

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Revenue Department.

No. 1812

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 25 June 1869.

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Subj. to Government
certain observations, with
reference to Dr. Day's recom-
mendations in regard to
river fisheries in Madras
Presidency.

H.C. 28th May/69 H.C. 3823

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