

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

GO. No. 154/	Press
	Mis
177-179	
Dated 11-7-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 177.

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th May 1867, No. 3,282.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th April 1867, No. 225.

1. I have the honour to forward, herewith, a report from the Superintendent on the present state of the Pearl Banks.

2. There are sixty-six banks off the coast between Paumben and Manapad Point, and these have all been examined. Fifteen of these have oyster spat in abundance, but Captain Phipps cannot state with certainty that this spat is that of the real pearl oyster; it is, however, believed to be so in Ceylon. Forty-one of the banks examined shewed no signs of a return of the oysters; the skate is said to be the great enemy of these shell-fish, and as skate abound in these seas, it is possible that they clear the banks. Captain Phipps was unsuccessful in getting oysters to live in the nursery off Tuticorin, as the mud is accumulating, and this will, I fear, render the nursery useless.

3. The aquaria are not yet erected, as a room is building for them; but I hope to have them placed in position shortly.

4. The Board have sanctioned the retention of the flat-bottomed paddle-wheel Steamer "Godavery" for another year. This vessel is not, however, well adapted for the purpose. She carries no sail, and being flat-bottomed is unsafe in a gale of wind; if any accident happens to the machinery she is utterly unmanageable, and can only drift before the wind. I experienced this inconvenience recently when cruising with Captain Phipps; part of the machinery gave way, and it was only by setting the awning as a sail, that we managed to reach the shore near Vypar, though, had the wind been against us, as it was the day before, we should have drifted up to Paumben. The "Emily," a small schooner, is a mere boat quite unsuited for a voyage, and if the pearl-banks are to be examined as they should be frequently, I think Mr. Markham's proposition of purchasing a schooner both to sail and steam should be at once carried out; if large enough, a vessel of this description would be very useful in many ways, and would soon pay her cost in carrying treasure and Government stores to and from Madras, and might be frequently employed in bringing timber for public works from Ceylon; she should be strong and roomy, and capable of standing the severe weather so often experienced in the Gulf of Manaar.

5. I have received the lithographed Maps of the Pearl Banks, alluded to in the concluding paragraph of Mr. Markham's letter.

6. I cannot report on the subject of oyster nursery at present, as the aquaria are not yet ready, and the intended nursery or enclosure for oyster beds is too near the shore, and has hitherto been a failure. I hope to try a small enclosure off one of the further islands shortly.

As required in Government Proceedings, No. 881, dated 16th April 1867.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 26th April 1867.

1. In submitting the annual report of the examination of the Pearl Banks off the coasts of Tinnevely and Madura for the information of the Government, I had hoped to have been able to state, with some degree of certainty, that a decided improvement had taken place, and that there were again prospects of pearl fisheries; of this I regret to say there is now some doubt.

2. In the early part of the year I first proceeded with the examination which had been delayed in consequence of the absence of the usual period of light winds and calms generally expected in the month of November; during this time the sea is clear which greatly facilitates the works: in consequence of this my first day's examination did not take place until the 7th January. During this and the following days I was employed on the

Calathoo Par,
Ottee Par,
Nagara Par,
Cruchan Par,
Thondoo Par, and
Odooruvy Par, off Tuticorin.

On these banks there were no old oysters, but upon the sea-weed that was brought up by the divers immense quantities of pearl oyster spat; these were so closely attached to the weed, and also to each other, that it was impossible to calculate the quantity; it being inadvisable to disturb it more than necessary, I merely allowed the divers to proceed across the banks with the view of finding out if every part was covered in the same way. From these banks I proceeded to Vypar, and found the

Vypar Caria Par,
Fernandoo Par,
Davi Par, and
Puditha Marikan Par,

all in the same satisfactory state, the spat being so thick that the divers and others expressed themselves in a most hopeful manner. After remaining on these banks a sufficient time to satisfy myself that I was not mistaken, and that the oyster spat was not only on a small part of each bank but all over, I returned again to Tuticorin banks and examined

Tholayeram Par,
Kanava Par,
Passi Par,
Puttoom Par, and
Kotodiar Par,

which were all found destitute of pearl oysters. The

Anthoovoy Auroopagam Par,
Kanathoevoe Auroopagam Par, and
Alava Par,

were next examined; these were thickly covered with young oysters of the same age as those found on the Vypar banks, the

Vada Ombathoo Par,
South Ombathoo Par,
Pootee Pendeerata Par,
Conor Pendeerata Par,
Par Cadanjan Par,
Nunjoorichan Par,
Neela Ombathoo Par, and
Yaralhevo Ombathoo Par.

During the examination of these banks the divers now and then came upon a few young oysters, and two or three of a more advanced age; the quantity found, however, was so small that I do not consider them of any immediate value; and having now completed the examination of all the Tuticorin banks left for the coast of Madura, and on the 27th of January reached the

Coomulum Par,

on which I found a few young oysters. The

Vambar Cariar Par

was thickly covered with weed; the Oopoothunee Thevoo Par and a new bank contained some young oysters attached to sea-weed; the

Nullathannitheevoo Par,
Ana Par,
Valimookam Par,
Paria Par.

Upon these no oysters of any description were found. The Paumben banks were next reached: it will be remembered that on these, when last examined, a large quantity of young pearl oysters was observed. The present examination has again proved the extreme uncertainty which attends the movement of the pearl oyster, two of the banks being this year quite barren of oysters, and one, the long rocky ledge off Manialle Theevoo, having young oysters for the present year in place of those found during the previous examination which have disappeared. The situation of these banks, in my opinion, quite precludes the idea of it being possible for pearl oysters ever to reach maturity on them, exposed as they are the greater part of the year to the strength of the south-west monsoon, during which the sea breaks heavily with a strong current setting through the pass which drifts the oysters, if once detached from the rocks, on to the surrounding sand when they perish. Being at Paumben, and having in view the removal of the pearl oysters, which His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon had kindly given permission, from Mundee Theevoo, and a change in the weather having taken place, to which it was not advisable to expose the "Godavery," I borrowed the guard-boat "Edith" from the Officer in charge of the Public Works Department at Paumben, and proceeded in her to Manaar, where I saw Mr. W. C. Twyman, Superintendent of Pearl Fisheries to the Government of Ceylon. Mr. Twyman kindly gave me all the information I wanted, and offered any assistance I might require. On my return to Paumben the weather continued so boisterous that it was impossible to take the "Godavery" through the pass, (I should here mention that the small pearl bank from which the oysters were to be removed was situated near Mundee Theevoo, off the north-east point of Ceylon, and consequently in Palks Bay). After delaying three days at Paumben, I determined to take the "Godavery" through the Manaar channel, which was safely accomplished on the afternoon of the 5th February. At Manaar Mr. Twyman gave me a supply of fuel free of charge, and also a Pilot for Mundee Theevoo, which was reached the next day at 1 p. m.; the oysters lying in a depth of 1 and 1½ fathoms, the divers and also all the boatmen and steamer's crew were at once engaged taking them up. I was prepared, from what Mr. Twyman had told me, that to get a large quantity would take some days, and now found that the number brought up at a dive never exceeded five, and generally less. In the evening I went to Jaffna in a canoe, and called upon Mr. Dyke, the Government Agent of the Province. Next morning I was again on board superintending the removal of the oysters, which, when brought up, were at once placed in baskets suspended from the sides of the steamer. By 1 p. m. I had 25,000 on board, and fearing to lose them by further delay, I got under weigh and the next morning passed the Paumben channel, and the same night reached Tuticorin; the oysters were kept constantly wet all the time on board the steamer, but as has since been found, were unable to bear the change, and upon examination of the stones upon which they were placed a few days afterwards were found dead. The oysters, though similar in shape to those of Ceylon and Tinnevely, are very flat, and from what I was told had never produced pearls.

On the 25th February Mr. Holdsworth, the Ceylon Government Naturalist, arrived at Tuticorin. During his stay the nursery was visited and also the pearl banks. Mr. Holdsworth was

much pleased with the appearance of the banks, and the immense quantities of young oysters shewn him. After an examination of the nursery he was of opinion that the presence of mud, which has been gradually gathering, will prove a very serious drawback to its usefulness; the mud, which first appeared in one corner, has now extended almost over the whole of the bottom, and a few days is sufficient to cover with a thick layer a heap of stones which I put down for the reception of oysters; this difficulty was not anticipated, the same bank upon which the nursery was placed having always been clear of mud previously, and I regret to say that I much fear for the success of the experiment from this cause, since the finding of the young pearl oyster spat I have at various times taken up small quantities which have been placed in the nursery and also in aquaria; those placed in the nursery appear to have quickly died off and disappeared probably from the deposit of mud; those placed in the aquaria have lived for some weeks, but I have been unable to make out any change in their appearance.

During the previous and present month I have examined the pearl banks of Punacoil, Manapad, and Trichendur. I am sorry to have to report that these banks are all in an unsatisfactory state, some contain a few young oysters, but the quantity is much too small to be of any value. Under these circumstances I do not consider it necessary to refer to each bank separately.

Regarding the young oysters found on the Tuticorin and Vypar banks, I think it advisable to mention that the opinion that these small shells are the spat of the pearl oyster is derived from the divers and fishermen on the coast, and the Jaddy Talaven, Mr. J. Gwyn Jaffery, to whom some of the young shells have been submitted by Mr. Maskham, is also of the same opinion. During the past eight years I have visited every bank on the coast once each year, and sometimes oftener. I am, therefore, a little doubtful of this conclusion. In the year 1860, on one of the banks off Vambar spat of a similar description was found, and at a later date a bank off Tuticorin was covered in the same way; last year the Paumben banks were also in the same state; when next examined the spat had all disappeared. What makes it still appear to me more doubtful is that amongst these millions of so-called pearl oysters, I have found a few which I know to be the real pearl shells. There is also another reason. During the past few days, being anxious to bring my report to a late date, I passed over some of the Tuticorin banks; though the weather was fine, the sea was not clear. This prevented a very careful examination. On sending the divers down on banks which when last examined contained young oysters none were found. On the Cruchan Par they were thick as ever; but to my surprise there was no difference in their size and no change in their appearance. The time that has elapsed since they were first discovered is quite sufficient for the change which I looked for to have taken place, and I must add, that until further examination I shall remain doubtful of their being the true pearl oysters. I learn from Ceylon that a large quantity of spat, similar to that just mentioned, has been found on the Ceylon pearl banks, and which has been considered to be that of the pearl oyster. I trust that this may prove correct. It must be remembered that the actual change from spat to the pearl oyster has never been observed either by Mr. Holdsworth or myself. Under these circumstances it would be advisable to wait and see the state of the banks at the next examination before coming to any conclusion, and thus prevent future disappointment.

Before concluding this report, I beg to state that the plan sanctioned for keeping the nursery in repair by the employment of the Light-house Lascars has succeeded to my satisfaction. The walls have at times suffered from the violence of the wind and sea, but have been quickly repaired. A large quantity of heavy stone has been landed from the shipping which has tended to strengthen the work before the ensuing north-east monsoon. A few of the palm-irah piles which are rotten will require replacing. I beg to recommend that the present monthly allowance for the up-keep of the nursery be continued.

I annex the usual Statement shewing the banks examined during this inspection.

Statement shewing the condition of the Pearl Banks during the season 1866-67.

Date.	Name of Bank.	Depth of water.	Condition.	Position.
1867.				
January 7th	Calathe Par	7 Fathoms.	Young oysters.	Tuticorin.
	Ottee Par	" "	" "	" "
	Nagara Par	6 & 7 "	" "	" "
	Cruchan Par	7 "	" "	" "
	Cruchan Thondoo Par...	7 "	" "	" "
	Odoorivy Par	6½ "	" "	" "
	8th Cariar Par	" "	" "	Vypar.
	Fernandoo Par	" "	" "	" "
	Davi Par	6 "	" "	" "
	Puttamarikan Par	" "	" "	" "
	9th Tholayerum Par	7½ "	Blank...	Tuticorin.
	Authombathoo Par	8 "	" "	" "
	Kanava Par	" "	" "	" "
	Pasi Par	" "	" "	" "
	Puttura Par	" "	" "	" "
	Authoovoy Auropagam Par ...	6 "	Young oysters.	" "
	Kanatheeyo Auropagum Par...	6½ "	" "	" "
	Vanthevo Auropagum Par ...	6 "	" "	" "
	Aulava Par	" "	" "	" "
	10th Vada Ombathoo Par	7 "	Blank...	" "
	Saith Ombathoo Par	8 "	" "	" "
	Poottependearta Par	" "	" "	" "
	Conorpendearta Par	7½ "	" "	" "
	Parhadanjan Par	8 "	" "	" "
	Nungoorichan Par	" "	" "	" "
	Neela Ombathoo Par	" "	" "	" "
	Veratheeyo Ombathoo Par ...	" "	" "	" "
	Koothadiar Par	" "	" "	" "
	26th Coomulum Par	5½ "	" "	Vambar.
	27th Vambar Caria Par	6 "	" "	" "
	Opoothannytheeroo Par	5½ "	" "	" "
	New bank	" "	" "	Mookoor.
	Nullathunnytheeroo Par	5 "	" "	" "
	Anna Par	" "	" "	Anapar.
	28th Valenookum Par	6 "	" "	" "
	Paria Par	6½ "	" "	Keelakary.
	Paumben Par	6 "	" "	Paumben.
	Cheenee Par	" "	" "	" "
	29th Rocky Ledge	4½ "	Young oysters.	" "
March 14th	Carian Par	6 "	Blank...	Punacoil.
	Kanava Par	7 "	" "	" "
	Karia Kavul Par	8½ "	" "	Trichendoor.
	15th Karia Par	8 "	" "	" "
	St. Thommy Coil Puditha Par.	8½ "	" "	" "
	Trady Pali Puditha Par	" "	" "	" "
	Summon Puthi Par	7½ & 8½ "	" "	" "
	Seeman Putti Par	7½ & 8½ "	" "	" "
	16th Manapad Par	8½ & 9 "	" "	Manapad.
	Manapad Poodoo Par	5½ & 6½ "	" "	" "
	Poonthotta Par	8 "	" "	Trichendur.
	Thondoo Par	7½ "	" "	" "
	Odoo Karia Par	6½ "	" "	" "
	Valangoo Caruvel Par	7 & 8 "	" "	" "
	Paria Mali Pottiaputta Par ...	8 "	" "	" "
	Nalamalypoodee Putta Par ...	" "	" "	" "
	Sorooku Ombathoo Par	" "	" "	" "

Statement shewing the condition of the Pearl Banks, &c.—(Concluded.)

Date.	Name of Bank.	Depth of water.	Condition.	Position.
1867. April	22nd Selthan Par ...	8&9 Fathoms.	...	Punnacoil.
	Sandamarum Puditha Par ...	8½ "	"	"
	Neelancoolam Puttara Par ...	8&9½ "	"	"
	Sungaria Par ...	10 "	"	"
	23rd Yerathacooro Mootoo Par ...	8 "	"	"
	Rajah Ovoo Chippi Par ...	" "	"	"
	Kotta Mootti Par ...	" "	"	"
	Poodoo Par ...	" "	"	"
	Sandasattoo Mootoo Par ...	7½ "	"	"
	Coil Puditta Par ...	8 "	"	"

(Signed) G. A. PHIPPS,
Superintendent of Pearl Banks.

Tuticorin,
26th April 1867.

- Submitted for the information of Government.
- The Board support the Collector's recommendation that a Steam Schooner be obtained for the examination of the oyster banks.

No. 178. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th June 1867.*
Read the following letters from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevely, 13th June 1867, No. 315.

In continuation of my letter, No. 225, dated 29th April 1867, I have the honour to forward a letter from the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, enclosing plan of a Screw Schooner furnished by Mr. Markham.

From the Superintendent of Pearl Banks, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Tuticorin, 12th June 1867, No. 16.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 3,282, dated 23rd May 1867*, I have the honour, as requested, to enclose a plan of the small Screw Steamer referred to in Mr. Markham's letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, dated the 12th December 1866. I am not aware if a copy of the same has been sent to the Board of Revenue.

2. Should the Government be inclined to consider favourably the proposal to have such a vessel built for the purpose of the pearl banks, I would recommend that the cabin accommodation, height, and ventilation be altered to meet the requirements of this climate. The vessel should be supplied with the usual duplicate parts of machinery and fitted with a winch for weighing the anchors; also compasses, awnings, and a good quantity of all necessary stores.

Submitted to Government, in continuation of the Board's *Proceedings, dated 28th May 1867, No. 3,282.*

No. 179.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1867, No. 1,541.

1. The Government regret to learn that the facts ascertained by the examination of the banks are not more encouraging, but they trust that such promise as there is

may be fulfilled. The opinion of the divers and fishermen as to the spat found being that of the true pearl oyster is entitled to weight, but Captain Phipps would do well to subject some of the spat to observation in the aquaria. A very flat oyster, believed to be the "Mother-o'-pearl" variety, is found off Bellikerry on the coast of North Canara, nearly opposite Anjedwipa, from which seed pearls in considerable quantities have been obtained. It might be well for Captain Phipps to endeavour to obtain specimens of these for comparison with the flat oyster obtained from "Mundee Thevoo."

2. The Government fear that the nursery in its present position must be abandoned as a failure, but approve of the Collector's intention to try a small enclosure further out from shore. They rely on the best possible use being made of the aquaria for purposes of observation. Constant attention should be given to this subject.

3. As regards the purchase of a Steam Schooner for the purpose of examining the banks, such as is described in Mr. Markham's letter to the Secretary of State, dated 12th December 1866, the Government observe that an iron vessel of forty tons burthen and ten horse-power is estimated to cost about £2,250 delivered at Tuticorin; and the Collector is of opinion that she could be very usefully employed in many ways in the Government service when not required for purposes immediately connected with the fishery, and would soon repay her cost. It is certainly very undesirable that the risk involved in using the "Godavery" for the work should be incurred longer than is absolutely necessary, and experience has proved that a sailing boat is comparatively useless for the purpose in view.

4. The plan of the Steam Schooner will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Marine with copy of Mr. Markham's letter, printed in G. O. of 1st March 1867, No. 510, Revenue Department, and his opinion requested as to the suitability of the vessel, and the probability of her being turned to such account for Government purposes as to render the purchase desirable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Superintendent of Marine, with a Plan, and G. O. No. 510.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Secretary

Re. 16 April 1867 No. 258 & 259
" 7 March 1867 No. 117 & 118
" 1 March 1867 No. 15 & 16
" 1 June 1867 No. 125 & 126

Rev- 1867. Department
Mr of Govt for study

No. 1121

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Reported to England
of 12th August A.S. of 1867
Ellis

Dated 28th May 1867.

Deaf / Inmate as
Rev?

D. Q. 25 1st - 18 July

No. 3,282.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

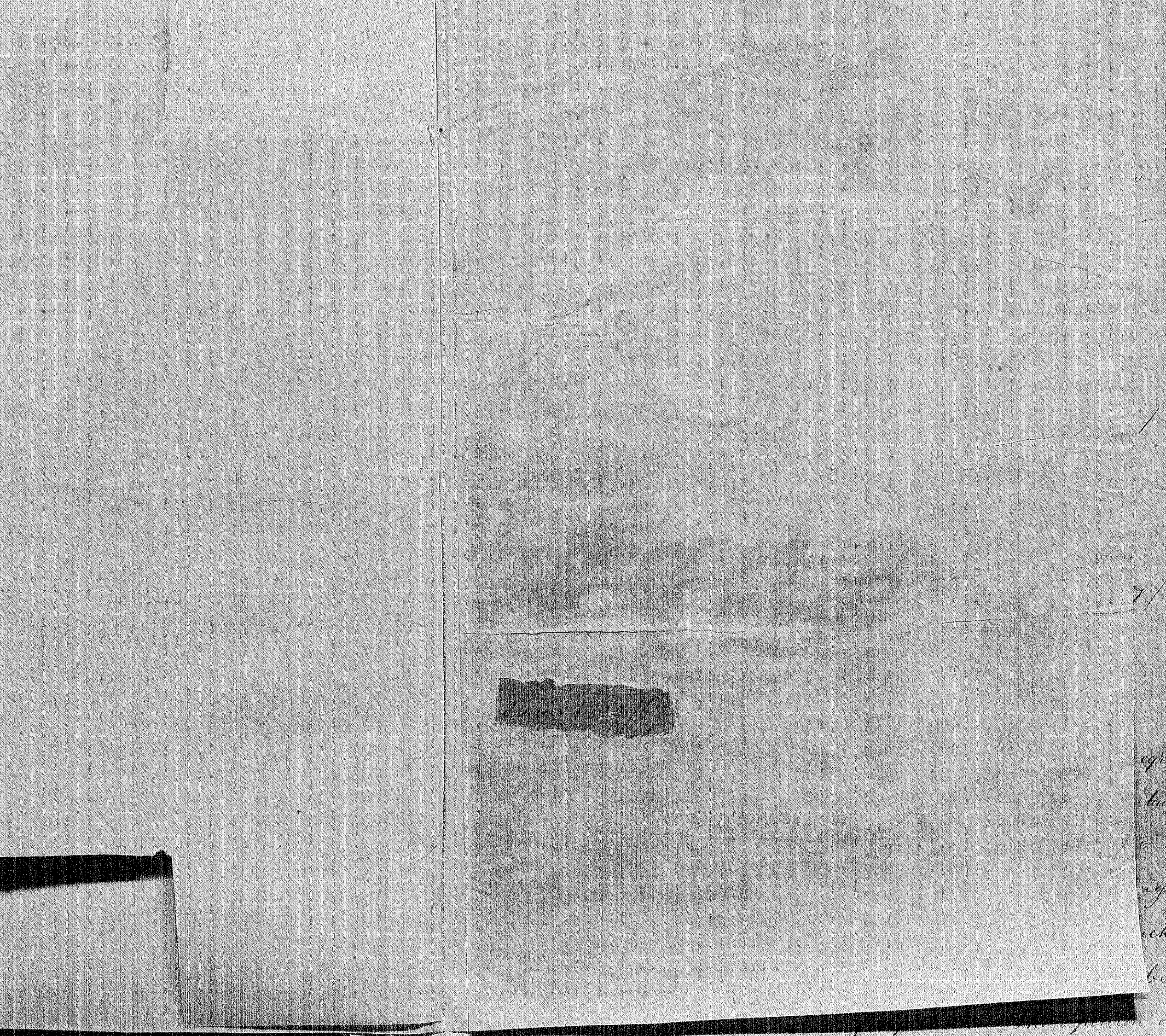
Copy to the Collector of Tanjore. 17.

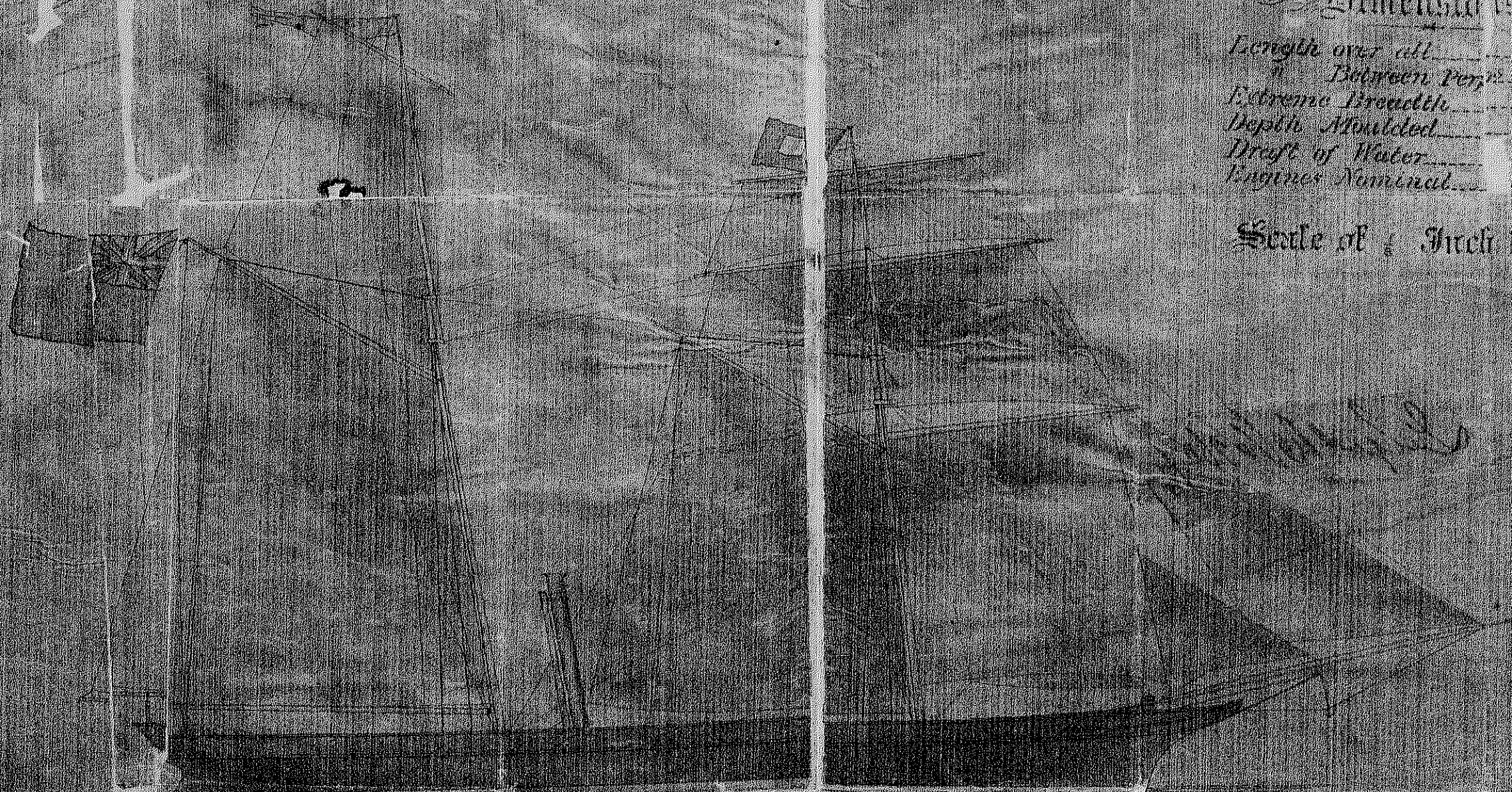
Ed. J. Wright.

177

25 July 1867

Submitting for information letter from Collector of Tinnevely forwarding report of Superintendent of Pearl Banks of the oyster banks off the coasts of Tinnevely and Madura and supporting Collector's recommendation that a Steam Schooner be obtained for examination of Oyster banks.





Dimensions		Feet	Inches
Length over all	68	0	
" Between Perps	60	0	
Extreme Breadth	15	0	
Depth Moulded	4	0	
Draft of Water	5	0	
Register Nominal	1000		

Scale of 1 Inch to 10 Feet

Wm. Mitchell

W. MITCHELL & CO
Iron Ship Builders
Low Walker
Pembroke on Tyne

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th. July 1867.

Read the following
Proceedings from the
Board of Revenue.

Submitting for information letter
from Collector of Tinnevely forwarding
report of Superintendent of Pearl
Banks of the oyster banks off the
Coasts of Tinnevely and Madras,
and supporting Collector's recommen-
dation that a Steam Schooner be
obtained for examination of Oyster banks.

(Here enter 28th May/67

P3282

Submitting letter from Collr
of Tinnevely forwarding one from
Supt. Pearl Banks enclosing a plan
of a Steam Schooner furnished by Mr.
Markham and suggesting that
certain alterations be made in it, if
it is proposed to build such a vessel
for the Pearl Banks.

(Here enter 19th June/67

W.A.

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tained by the examination of the
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cess will be achieved as there is every
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work

Order to Comdant
of the 1st Regt of Artillery
at Fort Mifflin

December 1867 Before
the 1st Regt of Artillery
at Fort Mifflin

1867

To the Commandant of
the 1st Regt of Artillery
from the 1st Regt of Artillery
1867

Received of the
Commandant of the 1st
Regt of Artillery
the sum of \$100.00
with order thereon

1867

which should be incurred larger
than is absolutely necessary, and
experience has proved that a
sailing boat is comparatively
useful for the purpose in view.

The plan of the Steam
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with copy of Mr. Markham's
letter printed in G.O. of 1st
March 1867 N. 510 R. D.

and his opinion requested as
to the suitability of the vessel
and the probability of her
being turned to such account
for Government purposes as
to render the purchase
desirable

LB

140 p. 1st Regt of Artillery
Capt of Marine with 1st Regt of Artillery