M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2470-71 404-405	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated 21-10-1967.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1867.

No. 404. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor General in Council in the Home Department, under date the 24th September 1867, Nos. 4,785-88 :—

Read a letter from Sir ARTHUR COTTON, K. C. S. I., to Colonel G. J. HALY, dated the 26th July, on the subject of the injury supposed to be done to the Coast Fisheries by the present system of Irrigation Works in India.

REMARKS.—It is desirable to ascertain by local enquiry whether the state of things described by Sir A. Cotton still exists, and if so, what precautionary measures should be taken to prevent such injury to the coast fisheries.

2. The local Governments of the three Presidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal, should therefore be requested to consult with the local learned Societies, such as the Asiatic Society, the Madras Literary Society, and the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, and also with Dr. Day, at Madras, and Mr. Grote, in Calcutta, and other local naturalists, and invite an expression of their opinions regarding the habits of the sea-fish which frequent the fresh water to spawn, so that it may be ascertained whether the circumstances described by Sir Arthur Cotton have affected, or are likely to affect, the supply of edible fish on the coasts, and whether any and what precautionary measures are advisable. The Collectors of districts on the coast should also be consulted upon this subject.

3. The Governor General in Council would also be glad to be informed of the views entertained upon this matter by Dr. T. C. Jerdon.

No. 4,785.

Ordered, therefore, that a copy of the above remarks, together with an extract of Sir Arthur Cotton's letter, be forwarded to the Government of Madras, with a request for full and early report.

Ordered, also, that a copy of the above remarks, and extract of the letter, be forwarded to Surgeon-Major Jerdan, with reference to paragraph 3, and a request for the early submission of his opinion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th October* 1867.

No. 405. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1867, No. 2,470.

Miscellaneous.

Procs. dated 11th Sept. 1867, No. 194.
Do. ,, 7th Oct. ,, Nos. 138, 139.

1. Ordered that the correspondence on the subject that has passed already be forwarded to the Government of India, and that they be informed that further information will be furnished hereafter.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1867.

2. Copies of the papers will also be sent to the Madras Literary Society, with a request to furnish any information on the subject of which they may be in possession.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Literary Society.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2-11

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
21*st October* 1867.

No. 2,471.

No. 406.
To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Miscellaneous.

Procs. of Govt., 11th September 1867, No. 194.
Do. do. dated 7th Oct. 1867, Nos. 138, 139.

1. With reference to the extract from the Proceedings of the Governor General in Council, dated 24th September 1867, No. 4,785, I am directed to forward herewith, for His Excellency's information, copy of the correspondence that has already passed in this Presidency regarding the injury to fisheries in Indian rivers caused by the anicuts constructed in their course.

2. The reports on the subject which may be received will be forwarded to the Government of India hereafter.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Extract of a letter from Sir Arthur Cotton, K. C. S. I., to Colonel G. T. Haly, dated the 26th July 1867.

With reference to our conversation about the effect of the Irrigation Works in India upon the Fisheries, I beg to state that, in my opinion, it is a matter of considerable importance that this matter should be attended to.

In 1836 we built a Weir in Tanjore, called the Colleroon Anicut, about 30 miles from the sea where that river is about 1,100 yards broad in two channels. In the following years a prodigious quantity of fish were stopped by it as soon as the freshes came down, and immense quantities were annually taken at it: of course generally full of roe.

I have not heard of the Weir for nearly 30 years, so that I cannot say whether the fish continued to try to ascend the river. And in 1850 we constructed another Weir, across the Godavery, about 40 miles from the sea where it is 4,000 yards broad in four channels. The Weir is now 14 to 16 feet high, and the water passes over it to the depth of 14 to 16 feet in a full fresh. In the following years the quantity of fish assembled at it, as soon as the first water of the monsoon reached the sea, was prodigious, and many tons used to be killed in a day, some of them 5 or 6 feet long.

I have not heard how the case is for many years. I should suppose that the injury to the Coast Fisheries must be very great, now that seven of the principal rivers on the East Coast, *viz.*, the Colleroon or Cauvery, the Pennaar in South Arcot, the Pullaur, the Pennaar in Nellore, the Kistna, the Godavery, and the Mahanuddy, are thus barred. It seems to me that this matter must be well worthy of the attention of Government.

I should mention that there is a long interval between the arrival of the monsoon water, and the time when there is sufficient passing over the Weir to allow of the fish going over it.

Rec. 27/9/67

Prov. 21st October 1867 Ld de Roe

No 27th Sept 1867

Ld Ath 114-115

Lieut Lab Rec 16/10/67

Pro 11 Sept 67 Nos 194
7 Oct 138-139

Reported to England
P/114 Jud No 32 of 1868 Mis

Transferred
to the Revenue
Department

Fort St George
15 October 1867

Brandt
Under Secy

No 4048 & 05

Rev
Judicial 1867 Sept
Proc Court for Actn
No 2769.
I am
Secretary Govt of India
Home Dept
No 4785

Finl Dept No 3028/68

G/24 Sept
G 16 Oct
16th

Pro 2470. 21 Oct
Encl C.S.C. of this Govt

No 1610 With order
Asks for a report as to
how far the Coast Fisheries
of this Presidency are
affected by the several
Amendments of this Act
and the measures to be
adopted for preventing
the great destruction of
fish thereby occasioned

No 2470

Ordered that the cor-
respondence on the subject that
has passed already be forwarded
+ Pro: of 11th Sept 1867 Nos 194
" 7 Oct " 138-139 to the Govt of India and that
they be informed that further in-
formation will be furnished hereafter
2. 2 Copies of the papers will also
be sent to the Madras Literary So-
ciety with a request to furnish any
information on the subject of which
they may be in possession.

Capt Tolbe Literary Society
Dated 22 21 Oct 67

7 Cyclo Department

Revenue Department

No. 2471-1

5

To

The Secretary to the Government of India
Home Department.

Sir,

With reference to the Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor General in Council of 24th Septr. last No. 4485, I am directed to forward herewith for His Excellency's information copy of the correspondence that has already passed in this Presidency regarding injury to the ~~destruction of~~ fisheries in Indian Rivers caused by the anicuts constructed in their ~~mouths~~.

Proc. of Govt. 11th Sept. 1867
No. 194.
— D. — 17th Oct. —
No. 1384-39.

The

on the subject
The Reports which may
be received will be ~~sub-~~
~~mitted~~ forwarded to the Government
of India hereafter.

L B
21st Oct 69

Reported to England
D/ 14th July № 39 of 1868 Mis.

√11-3-15

Revenue 1867 Deptt
Ro of Govt for Ceytn

№ 2471.

To
The Government of India
Home Deptt

D/ 21 October 67.

№ 406.