

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated July 5th.

Printed 11th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 5th July 1881, No. 1,014.

JULY.

Nos. 14-15.

B. No. 1769 W of 18th July/81

SUBJECT.

Corundum Stones obtained by excavation in certain parts of the Bellary District.—Sanctioning the Collector's proposal as regards puttah lands to levy a seigniorage at the rate of one rupee per 100 seers of —.

Encl. in Receipts Regr.

With order

B. No. 1769 W of 18th July/81

Communicated

to the Supt. Engr.

1st Circle.

Ci

CCB
15.7.81

S.S. 1st Circle

Recd
18/7/81

1 - copy to Cnty - 21-7-81

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

5th July 1881, No. 1,014.

READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

No. 14. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1881, No. 619.

Read the following letter from M. HAMMICK, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Bellary, dated Penukonda, 3rd December 1880, No. 553:—

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 1,520, dated 15th October last, I have the honor to state that as it had come to my knowledge that at a spot near Purghi, in Hindupur Taluk of this division, stones were being dug up as well as collected from the surface of the ground for the purpose of sale, I have made inquiries on the subject with following results, which seem worth bringing to your notice.

2. It appears that at the villages Kothanursapuram and Jungalapully, in Hindupur Taluk, ryots are excavating in their putta lands for the purpose of collecting the mineral corundum. The pits dug are seven or eight yards deep and the corundum taken is of five kinds. These different kinds are said by the village officers to be in different layers, which I suspect is the case from the reasons I have given below.

3. The ryots who mine for the mineral appear to engage coolies to dig for them on the condition that one-third of the mineral extracted is given to them for their share, the Puttadar reserving two-thirds of the mineral as his share.

4. It appears that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. and one Govinda Saibjee, of Madras, are the merchants who buy the mineral, taking the mineral on bandies to Bangalore and thence to Madras by train.

5. The mineral fetches a price varying from Rs. 6 per 100 seers to Rs. 10 per 100 seers, according to the class to which it belongs, and the Tahsildar of Hindupur estimates that about twenty bandy-loads are taken away per mensem, each bandy contains about 200 seers, so that on an average about Rs. 480 seems to be paid to those ryots per mensem, taking the average price as Rs. 7 for 100 measures.

6. As regards the period of time during which this mineral has been exported from this division in the Madakasira Taluk, it has been a custom for a long period, some years apparently, for the mineral to be collected and exported by Anantapur and Gooty, but the mining in the Hindupur Taluk is of quite a recent date. In Madakasira the mineral was merely gathered off the surface, but the profit then seems to have been considerable, for my attention was first directed to this subject owing to it having been reported to me some months ago that a merchant of Madakasira had died leaving Rs. 6,000 which he had made solely by a traffic in this mineral.

7. I enclose a statement showing the state of things in these two villages as regards the working; this statement was given me some fourteen days ago, so that probably more extensive workings now exist than existed when the report was made.

8. It will be noticed that the ryots suspect that copper and silver are extracted from the stones they sell, but from the specimens I have obtained, it is clear that the mineral extracted is corundum and that no ore can be extracted from them.

9. The stones are evidently crystals of corundum, the edges of which are in most cases much worn and rounded no doubt by the action of water, and as the specimens I have obtained are of different sizes, and as each size is marked by one color, the smaller specimens being olive green and the larger almost black, it is exceedingly probable that the specimens are found in different layers as reported.

1 - copy to Qatg - 21-7-81

10. At present this mineral seems only to be collected for sale in Madakasira and near the village of Purgli in Hindupur Taluk, but specimens of the mineral have been brought to me from Gorintla and Vanavole, two villages on the other side entirely of the Hindupur Taluk from Purgli, and as the deposits all through Hindupur Taluk seem to be of much the same character, I am of opinion that the mineral could probably be found in large quantities in most lands in the Hindupur Taluk. Moreover, there is no doubt that the ryots living in the division will begin to search for the mineral as soon as the knowledge of its value spreads.

11. I much regret that I have not seen the spot where the working for the mineral is going on near Purgli, but the matter was not brought to my attention until on a recent tour I had made two marches beyond the spot; I shall now, in the short time that remains before I hand over charge of this division to my successor, be unable probably to visit the spot myself.

12. It may be as well to state a few particulars about the mineral, the information being derived from "Phillip's Mineralogy," which is still the standard book on the subject. The mineral is an oxide of alumina containing a very small portion of iron. The transparent blue and red varieties called sapphire and ruby, respectively, are principally found in gravel and river sand at Matura and Saffragaud in Ceylon, in the Capilan Mountains, and at a few places in Europe. The rough crystals, opaque and dull in color, occur in Canton and in Ceylon and in the Ural. The granular and massive variety called emery is found chiefly, I believe, in Saxony and in Asia Minor. The specimens I have obtained are all corundum proper, though one crystal is transparent and of a green color. If you think it worth while I will forward some specimens of each description of the mineral which I have collected.

13. I have brought these facts to your notice for three reasons: first, because under the Standing Order No. 16. of the Board of Revenue, the matter seems to require orders, as no doubt the ryots must be rendering their land less fit for cultivation by excavating for this mineral; secondly, because it would be well, I think, to obtain definite information as to the value of the mineral in question; it probably fluctuates much, but the prices realized by the ryots are probably much under the price they could obtain if they knew how to make the best of their discovery; and, thirdly, because it is very probable that the practice of quarrying for this mineral will spread wherever it is to be found, and some restrictions or rules would seem necessary on the subject.

No. 245.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue for information and orders with a recommendation that the Collector be authorized to levy a seigniorage at the rate of one rupee per 100 seers (measures) of corundum stones, which may be obtained by excavation. The Head Assistant Collector has been requested to stop all unauthorized excavation and to inform the parties excavating that they must apply for permission to do so. In the case of quarries at present in operation he has been authorized, if the parties agree to pay any seigniorage which may hereafter be fixed, to allow quarrying to proceed, taking steps to ascertain the amount of corundum quarried.

BELLARY,
8th March 1881.

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
for Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 15th October 1880, No. 1,520.

2. A charge may be made either with reference to the superficial area worked which was the course recently approved for quarrying gravel and stone in Chingleput, *vide* G.O., dated 4th November 1879, No. 2,137, or with reference to the quantity of stone raised. The Board prefer the former alternative, and would impose a charge of Rs. 4 an acre as for stone.

3. It is observed that the calculation at paragraph 5 of the Head Assistant's letter gives Rs. 280 (not Rs. 480) as the value of the produce.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Secretary.

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ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1881, No. 1,014.

Miscellaneous.

As regards puttah lands, the Collector's proposal is sanctioned as a temporary arrangement.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

70 Copies.

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N^o 1769 Wd/18th July/81.

*Communicated to the
Supg. Engineer 1st Circle.*

(By C.C.R)

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Industrial

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200/1000/1000

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