

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

1174

Press
Mis.

Dated

7-8-

18

71

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

7th August 1871.

No. 24. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel F. APPLEGATH, 33rd Regiment Madras Native Infantry, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vizianagram, 5th July 1871 :—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Professor Oldham's Memorandum on the report of the specimens recently submitted to him, and regret extremely his opinion should be unfavourable.

2. The main object of Government being the discovery, in this Presidency, of a sufficient supply of workable coal, I will not at present attempt to answer Professor Oldham's Memorandum, or meet the reflections it contains; but there are one or two points on which I wish to offer a few remarks.

3. Professor Oldham is studiously silent on all the most important rocks I have collected and sent him, especially the whole of the specimens marked B., which are absolutely identical with the Bengal lower coal series, *i.e.*, rocks found immediately below coal in India. (See my Conclusion, dated 16th February 1871, paragraph numbers 1 and 2).

4. Again, in my Conclusion I prominently brought to notice, in paragraphs 3 and 7, the similarity of the rocks quarried to those obtained from the Chanda Coal Pits; but Professor Oldham is entirely silent on this important point, however. He now acknowledges "that the Chanda coal-bearing rocks do come into the Madras Presidency and reach within seven or eight miles of Ellore," which is still further to the south than Juggiapettah. These rocks in reaching Ellore pass through upwards of thirty miles of the Kistna District; thus on Professor Oldham's own admission coal-bearing rocks do exist in the Kistna District.

5. Another important point. Three months have elapsed since the specimens were sent to Professor Oldham for report—a significant circumstance—as a real genuine coal was brought to me from the Nizam's country in February last, discovered, I believe, within about forty miles of Juggiapettah in the Koniducundah Taluq. This coal is of excellent quality, and of its extent and thickness I hope soon to be able to give an official account in detail.

6. The Superintendent of the Geological Survey, in his report on the coal resources of India, states that the country between Kurnool and the Godavery is "unknown geologically," which I verily believe to be a fact. By a reference to the district maps it will be seen that the country between Kurnool and the Godavery includes the whole of the Kistna District. Is it, then, fair for Professor Oldham to have expressed throughout this inquiry such premature and adverse opinions regarding the existence of coal in a district he now admits to be "geologically unknown?"

7. It is well to bear in mind that about ten years ago Professor Oldham put every kind of professional obstruction to the discovery of coal on the Godavery (see Geological Memoirs, Vol. III., Part I., Mineral Statistics, page 12, dated Calcutta, 1st June 1861), and he is now acting in a similar manner with regard to the Kistna project.

8. Professor Oldham, in his seventh paragraph, has drawn an inference, *viz.*, that the coal burnt there was procured elsewhere, which is directly contrary to facts. The coal I once quarried and burnt on the banks of the Kistna was excavated from a horizontal boring, about eighteen feet deep, into the rock on the banks of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
7th August 1871.*

the Pallar river, and I distinctly repeat that the coal was not procured from elsewhere. It was burnt in large open heaps without the assistance of any other fuel. It was also utilized by a blacksmith under my own eye to put on the tire of a native bandy wheel. And further, Professor Oldham, in his seventh paragraph, alludes "to his personal examination of the ground three years since." While we were encamped at Vadadry he acknowledged to all of us in camp that he had seen a burnt outcrop of shale (coal?). Why did he withhold such an important fact in his report to Government?

9. I feel confident that the Madras Government will give me credit for sincerity in my present pursuit (under difficulties) of an object calculated to prove of so much benefit to the Presidency at large, and also that my efforts in this direction have had the effect of sustaining interest in, and stimulating inquiry for, coal in the locality I have named, and I am glad to notice that even Professor Oldham himself now holds out the hope that perhaps at no very distant date our desire for coal may be gratified.

10. Feeling persuaded that a sufficient supply of workable coal will soon be obtainable from near the place I have long pointed out, I am content to wait and let facts speak for the correctness of the assertions I have so constantly advanced as to the existence of coal in the Kistna District, when I trust the Government will be willing favourably to consider my exertions in the good cause.

No. 25.

ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1871, No. 1194.

To be recorded.
(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Public DEPARTMENT.

No. 1499

From Lieutenant Colonel F. Applegate.

Dated 20th July 1871.

FOR ORDERS.

Circulate.

I would "re-ent" this.
I can see how a line
is right

Is N.
B.P.

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PUBLIC.

Dated August, 7th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 7th August 1871, No. 1194.

AUGUST.
Nos. 24-25.

Recording letter from Lieutenant Colonel Applegate remarking on certain points in Professor Oldham's report on the specimens of coal rocks lately discovered at Juglaipetah.

71
Tizianagrum 5th July 1876

From

Lieutenant Colonel T. Applegath
35th Regiment M. I.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of Professor Oldham's
Memorandum on the report of the
specimens recently submitted to him,
and regret extremely his opinion
should be unfavorable.

2 The main object of Government
being the discovery, in this Presidency,
of a sufficient supply of workable
Coal, I will not at present attempt
to answer Professor Oldham's
Memorandum, or meet the reflections
it contains, but there are no or two
points on which it is to be observed.

remarks.

3. Professor Oldham is studiously silent on all the most important rocks I have collected and sent him, especially the whole of the specimens marked B, which are absolutely identical with the Bengal lower coal series i. e. rocks found immediately below coal in India, see my conclusion dated 16th February 1877 paragraphs Numbers 1 and 2.

4. Again in my conclusions I prominently brought to notice in paragraphs 3 and 7 the similarity of the rocks quarried to those obtained from the Chanda coal pits; but Professor Oldham is entirely silent on this important point, however. He now acknowledges "that the Chanda coal bearing rocks, do come into the Madras Presidency, and reach within 7 or 8 miles of Ellore," which is still further to the

9⁺
south than Juggiahpettah. These rocks in reaching Ellore pass through upwards of 30 miles of the Kistnah District, thus Professor Oldham's own admission coal bearing rocks do exist in the Kistnah District.

5. Another important point, these months have elapsed since the specimens were sent to Professor Oldham for report; a significant circumstance, as a real genuine coal was brought to me from the Nizam's Country in February last, discovered I believe within about 40 miles of Juggiahpettah in the Honiducundah Talook. This coal is of excellent quality and of its extent and thickness. I hope soon to be able to give an official account in detail.

6. The superintendent of Geological Survey in his Report on the coal resources of India, states that the Country between Kurnool and the Godavery is "unknown

Geologically, which I verily believe to be a fact; by a reference to the District Maps it will be seen that the Country between Hummal and the Godavery includes the whole of the Kistnah District; is it then fair for Professor Oldham to have expressed throughout this inquiry such premature and adverse opinions regarding the existence of Coal in a District he now admits to be "Geologically unknown"?

It is well to bear in mind that about two years ago, Professor Oldham put every kind of professional obstruction to the discovery of Coal in the Godavery see Geological Memoirs Volume 3 Part I Mineral Statistics Page 12 dated Calcutta 14 June 1865 and he is now acting in a similar manner with regard to the Kistnah project.

8 Professor Oldham in his 7th Para has drawn an inference namely that the Coal burnt there was procured

117 elsewhere which is directly contrary to facts; The Coal once quarried and burnt on the Banks of the Kistnah was excavated from a Horizontal boring about 18 feet deep into the rock in the banks of the Pullar River and I distinctly repeat that the Coal was not procured from Elsewhere it was burnt in large open heaps without the assistance of any other fuel. It was also utilized by a Blacksmith under my own eye to put on the tire of a Native Waddy wheel, and further Professor Oldham in his para 7 alludes "to his personal examination of the ground three years since" while we were encamped at Cadadry acknowledging to all of us in Camp that he had seen a burnt outcrop of shale (Coal?) why did he withhold such an important fact in his report to Government?

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10 Feeling persuaded that a sufficient supply of workable coal will soon be obtainable from near the place I have long pointed out I am content to wait and let facts speak for the correctness of the assertions, I have so constantly advanced as to the existence of coal in the Kristnah District, when I trust the Government will be willing favorably to consider

my exertions in the good Cause

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant
Francis Applegarth Esq. Col. &
38th Regiment M. A. I.

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July 1871 August
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Oct 5 July 1871 }
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No. 1499

Received
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With an index
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Gort. of 1871 Madras.

Public

Dated Aug 7. }

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 7 Aug 1871, No. 174

Nos. 24. 25

Recording the letter from the
Appellate Commission on
certain points in Professor
Hodgkin's report on the
of Coal rocks lately discovered
at Juggiahpet.