M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1518	**Press** ~~Mis.~~
65-66	
Dated 5-9-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th September 1860.

No. 65. Read the following letter from Captain F. APPLEGATH, 33rd Regiment M.N.I., to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 31st July 1860, No. 1 :—

SIR,

1. Will you do me the favor to submit for the perusal by His Excellency Sir Henry G. Ward, the following particulars, regarding the existence of Coal on the banks of the river Krishna in the Masulipatam District, about 100 miles from the Eastern Coast, with a water communication the whole way to the Sea.

2. In the early part of 1851, when Assistant Civil Engineer of the Masulipatam District, I applied for permission to collect specimens of rocks, ores and minerals for the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851, and whilst travelling through the north-westerly part of the above District, I was greatly struck by the strong indications of a Coal field, at the junction of the Palair and Krishna rivers, North latitude 16° 50′ East Long. 80° 10.′

3 I have lately had opportunities of proving to my entire satisfaction that the sandstone rocks, shales, clays, limestone and bituminous substance (Coal) are identical with the Coal accompanying rocks of the Nerbuddah and Soane rivers, I found that the bright red sandstones readily ignited, and the more black and bituminous substances, when burnt, left ash and a very little slag or cinder ; but before I had full opportunity of realizing the extent of my discovery, I met with a very bad fall over the rocks, which compelled me to leave India for England in August 1851.

4. A reference to the records of Government will prove that since that time, I have done all in my power to induce a further investigation of this subject, as it is one fraught with so many great advantages to the Madras Presidency, and I trust that my anxiety to revive the subject, will convince the present Government of my entire sincerity in the belief that the locality referred to in the last part of the 2nd paragraph of this letter, contains a most valuable material for fuel. That dug from the surface, contained 60 to 70 per cent. of combustible matter, and there are the best reasons for believing that as on the Nerbuddah and elsewhere, the real Coal is found in immediate proximity to this bituminous substance, (in which is also found valuable Iron ore) so it will be also found on the Krishna.

5. I have also travelled over (in the years 1856-7-8-9) large portions of the Nagpore and Jubblepoor Districts, and have viewed Coal in its bed, on the banks of the Nerbuddah and carried specimens of the Nerbuddah Coal and Iron to Bombay, and obtained an analysis of the Coal by an analysing Chemist, who reported a yield of very good gas, and an excellent coke, fit for all purposes. I am sanguine that the same good results will follow a similar trial of the Coal on the Krishna.

6. I have therefore the honor to propose that in order to investigate and realize the best results from any attempt to win the Coal, a sum of 500£ should be granted in order that three or four shafts should be sunk in the Coal field on the Krishna, and further that a small detachment of one Naigue and six Privates from the Sappers and Miners, properly equipped, should be placed under my orders, as in the event of any blasting of rocks being required, the village people working as coolies would be liable to accident.

7. The extent of the Coal field is about 20 square miles, and I have no doubt, but that I shall be enabled to make a most satisfactory report of the " Coal" " Iron" and " Limestone" on the Krishna, before expending half of the money placed at my disposal, and I also trust that ason a prior occasion, " The establishment of Cement Works" received credit for a proper regard for the expenditure of Government money, I shall earn the same encomium on this, and in adverting to the great and useful properties of Coal, now so essential for the progress of the country, I beg to add here my matured belief that great economic results will flow from a development of the Coal in Southern India.

8. After a most careful revision of my Surveys and Geological Sections (which of course cannot be expected to be highly finished) and having had many opportunities of studying the coal bearing strata in this country, together with frequent careful and anxious studies of the Coal accompanying rocks exhibited in the Bombay Museum from the Nerbuddah river, I am firmly convinced that the Coal and Coal accompanying rocks of that locality are identical in every important respect with those I viewed on the Krishna. The Coal at Nagpore is 13 feet thick, that on the Nerbuddah more than 20 feet; both these deposits are extensive, and the value of them has yet to be realized.

9. There is one point in connection with my former inquiry, that I wish here to mention, and that is a peculiar round shaped fossil which was pronounced at Madras and Calcutta to be a fossil Oyster, though the absence of the shell, a much less perishable material was never attempted to be accounted for. This fossil has subsequently been proved to be a fossil of the Nagpore Coal series.

10. The Coal on the Krishna is also accompanied with a very good Iron ore and Limestone ready at hand. The Iron ore is smelted and sold by the Natives by means of charcoal, and the developing of the Coal at that locality would be the means and opportunity of establishing Iron manufactures with a prospect of great and immediate success, independent of supplying Madras itself with Coal for all manufacturing, economic and locomotive purposes.

No. 66. ORDER THEREON, 5th September 1860, No. 1,518.

Captain Applegath's application will be submitted for the Orders of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

30th August
1860

My dear Mr Barcroft
I have asked
Capt Rawlins but he
gives me no hopes
of getting from the
entire one (although
2 the Empress Opera
but I have seen Mr
Gatty of the Rotary
Steam Press & he
thinks all I require
can be done there
for 20 Pieces.

Yours
very truly
Francis Chesterton

(4) Parsons 1860 Register

Geo: Gordon for self & Partners

No 1358

From Captain H. Hyde Parker
33rd Regt to Lieut Col Gordon

Dated 31st July 1860

Dear Sir

I am directed by Major General
Bruce to request that you will
be pleased to cause a Board
to be assembled to examine
and report upon the state
of the Arms & Accoutrements
of the Detachment of the
33rd Regt under your command
now at Quebec

I am Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
H. Hyde Parker
Lieut 33rd Regt

Lieut Col Gordon
&c &c &c

J. 1378

Captain Applegarth applies for
leave on behalf of the Marchioness
of Normanby for absence of
Lieut Lees

Dep. J.A.G.

Lieut Lees
Adjutant
33rd Regt

Dep. J.A.G.
Applegarth 33rd Regt

Lieut Lees
33rd Regt

Leave granted
for 14 days
from 18th inst
by order
H. Hyde Parker
Lieut 33rd Regt

1865-66

Honorable the Secretary of State

Copy in no Secret Dep.
8 Sept. 1860 895

Rec.d 1860 Depart.t
Sec.y of Govt. for Affairs
No. 1568

From Captain F. Applegath
1st Regt. N.I. Infantry
Dated 31st July 1860
Rec.d 1st Aug.t — " —

From Do. D/ 30th Aug.t 60. C.N 1827.
in Rep. 5 Sept. 60
No. 1519

Reports on the existence
of Coal on the banks of Kristna
in the late Masulipatam Distrct
and requests the grant of 500 R.s
and the aid of a small Det.
tachment of Sappers & Miners, in
view to his further prosecuting
the investigation.

With an order
to give [illegible]

No. 65. 66.