

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|          |           |                 |
|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| G.O. No. | 1396      | Press           |
|          |           | <del>Mis.</del> |
|          | 77-78     |                 |
| Dated    | 4-8-1864. |                 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
4th August 1864.*

No. 77. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th July 1864, No. 4,162.

Read the following letter from the Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, dated 27th June 1864, No. 71c :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 3,833, dated 22nd June 1864.

2. I regret that I failed to understand paragraph 3 of the letter of the Board, forwarded to me by the Madras Government, dated 25th April 1864, as conveying the meaning which the Board intended.

3. In my former letter to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 23th May 1864, I have pointed out in the District of Cuddapah, a considerable area, comprising portions of the Talooks of Cuddapah, Dhoor (or Podatoor), and Jummulmudgoo, as affording throughout some prospect of success; though even there, I should rather expect an additional and more constant supply of water to be obtained, by the deeper sinking of ordinary wells, than any strong artesian effect. In a subsequent letter to Government dated 11th June 1864, I have indicated some other localities in the Kurnool District as affording a chance at least of a more constant and fuller supply than is at present obtained.

Feeling as I do, the extreme importance for an additional and more continuous supply of water, I much regret that I am unable to point out any other localities in which the geological features of the country warrant any expectation of successful artesian borings. Nowhere in those parts of the Presidency with which I am acquainted, have we the basin-shaped arrangement of alternate porous and non-porous strata, such as in the typical examples of the London and Paris basins, which would render success highly probable, indeed almost certain; rarely have we anything even approaching to this; and the plains of Southern India do not, as far as I know, present characteristics similar to those occurring in some cases in the Northern and North West Provinces, where even in the absence of a basin-like structure, the features of the country would apparently justify expense being incurred, on the chance even of success, when the results of success would be so inestimable.

Unfortunately, too, our experience of artesian borings in India is so limited, that we have few or no data to depend upon. The only experiment with which I am acquainted was that made in Fort William, Calcutta, about twenty-five years since, when a depth of 481 feet was reached, but without success, and the particulars of the section obtained in that case, which have been carefully recorded, while they are perhaps only applicable in illustration of borings in similar delta deposits, go far to show that our anticipations or prognostications, must always be very uncertain.

4. Although not affording prospect of artesian effect, and therefore, perhaps, beyond the scope of the present inquiry, I venture to point out one or two localities, in which I should expect a considerable and tolerably constant supply of water to be procured by sinking wells of some depth. (1) In the neighbourhood of Manmundoor, in the District of North Arcot, we have a considerable area covered by clay-slates, overlying the altered sandstones which, I believe from the base of the somewhat basin-like valley, extending from a little north of Kurkumbady to near Ballapully. Here I should expect that a well, or wells sufficiently deep to reach the bottom of these slates, would yield a considerable supply of water. And although the artesian effect could scarcely be sufficient to raise the water to the surface, it would probably rise to some extent, I would estimate from 80 to 100 feet as the utmost depth to which a boring would be required, and probably less than this would suffice. (2) In the neighbourhood of Shetticonda, and between it and Codoor in the Rajampett Talook of the Cuddapah District, somewhat similar conditions prevail, and here, too, I should anticipate that a well of less than 100 feet in depth would yield a tolerably copious supply of water. In both these localities I know that the want of water has been at times keenly felt.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
4th August 1864.*

5. Upon receipt of information as to the localities in which the want of water have recently been most felt, I shall, as far as possible indicate the probabilities of success in endeavouring to supply the want.

1. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Oldham for his letter, which will be communicated to the Collectors of North Arcot and Cuddapah for report whether the localities indicated are so circumstanced as to render it desirable that Government should incur the cost of experimental well-borings.

2. The Board regret that Mr. Oldham cannot hold out more satisfactory expectations of success to the artesian system in this Presidency; but success would in some localities be of such inestimable value, that the Board are unwilling to abandon the proposal. They will communicate to Mr. Oldham any reports they may receive as to the exact localities in which the want of water is most frequently and seriously felt, and will be much obliged for any further information as to localities in which the ascertained geological formation may be promising for the experiment.

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, 4th August 1864, No. 1,396.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

*Deputy Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 4,162.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th July 1864.

Read the following letter from the Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, dated 27th June 1864, No. 71C:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 3,833, dated 22nd June 1864.

2. I regret that I failed to understand paragraph 3 of the letter of the Board, forwarded to me by the Madras Government, dated 25th April 1864, as conveying the meaning which the Board intended.

3. In my former letter to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 28th May 1864, I have pointed out in the District of Cuddapah, a considerable area, comprising portions of the Taluks of Cuddapah, Dhoor (or Podatoor), and Jummalmudgoo, as affording throughout some prospect of success; though even there, I should rather expect an additional and more constant supply of water to be obtained, by the deeper sinking of ordinary wells, than any strong artesian effect. In a subsequent letter to Government dated 11th June 1864, I have indicated some other localities in the Kurnool District as affording a chance at least of a more constant and fuller supply than is at present obtained.

Feeling as I do, the extreme importance for an additional and more continuous supply of water, I much regret that I am unable to point out any other localities in which the geological features of the country warrant any expectation of successful artesian borings. Nowhere in those parts of the Presidency with which I am acquainted, have we the basin-shaped arrangement of alternate porous and non-porous strata, such as in the typical examples of the London and Paris basins, which would render success highly probable, indeed almost certain; rarely have we anything even approaching to this; and the plains of Southern India do not, as far as I know, present characteristics similar to those occurring in some cases in the Northern and North West Provinces, where even in the absence of a basin-like structure, the features of the country would apparently justify expense being incurred, on the chance even of success, when the results of success would be so inestimable.

Unfortunately, too, our experience of artesian borings in India is so limited, that we have few or no data to depend upon. The only experiment with which I am acquainted was that made in Fort William Calcutta about twenty-five years since, when a depth of 481 feet was reached, but without success, and the particulars of the section obtained in that case, which have been carefully recorded, while they are perhaps only applicable in illustration of borings in similar delta deposits, go far to show that our anticipations or prognostications, must always be very uncertain.

4. Although not affording prospect of artesian effect, and therefore, perhaps, beyond the scope of the present inquiry, I venture to point out one or two localities, in which I should expect a considerable and tolerably constant supply of water to be procured by sinking wells of some depth. (1) In the neighbourhood of Mannundoor, in the District of North Arcot, we have a considerable area covered by clay-slates, overlying the altered sand-stones which, I believe from the base of the somewhat basin-like valley, extending from a little north of Kurkumbady to near Balla-pully. Here I should expect that a well, or wells sufficiently deep to reach the bottom of these slates, would yield a considerable supply of water. And although the artesian effect could scarcely be sufficient to raise the water to the surface, it would probably rise to some extent, I would estimate from 80 to 100 feet as the utmost depth to which a boring would be required, and probably less than this would suffice. (2) In the neighbourhood of Shetticonta, and between it and Codoor in the Rajampett Taluk of the Cuddapah District, somewhat similar conditions prevail, and here, too, I should anticipate that a well of less than 100 feet in depth would yield a tolerably copious supply of water. In both these localities I know that the want of water has been at times keenly felt.

5. Upon receipt of information as to the localities in which the want of water have recently been most felt, I shall, as far as possible indicate the probabilities of success in endeavouring to supply the want.

1. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Oldham for his letter which will be communicated to the Collectors of North Arcot and Cuddapah for report whether the localities indicated are so circumstanced as to render it desirable that Government should incur the cost of experimental well borings.

2. The Board regret that Mr. Oldham cannot hold out more satisfactory expectations of success to the artesian system in this Presidency, but success would in some localities be of such inestimable value, that the Board are unwilling to abandon the proposal. They will communicate to Mr. Oldham any reports they may receive as to the exact localities in which the want of water is most frequently and seriously felt, and will be much obliged for any further information as to localities in which the ascertained geological formation may be promising for the experiment.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

*[Signature]*

Secretary.

To J. D. Robinson, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, with copies of Government Orders dated 17th and 24th June 1864, Nos. 1,044 and 1,091, and Board's Proceedings thereon, dated 22nd and 28th June 1864.

„ H. G. Smith, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah.

Copy to J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

„ C. O. Oldham, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India.

Ed. J. Wright.

*Recd. 17 June/64 No. 215-219  
" 24 " " 518-519  
" 8 July " 148-149*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

No. 1847

Department

Dated 5th July 1864.

No. 4162

Communicating to the Collectors of North

Arcot and Cuddapah for report Mr. Oldham's letter stating the localities in which water may be had by sinking wells of some depth, and regretting that Mr. Oldham cannot hold more satisfactory expectations of success to the artesian system in this Presidency.

RECORDED.