M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1726 Press ~~Mis.~~

292.293

Dated 21—9— 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 21st September 1864.

No. 292. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th August 1864, No. 5,612.

Read the following letter from C. O. OLDHAM, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, dated 22nd August 1864, No. 79 (c) :—

1. I received yesterday Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th of August 1864, No. 4,989, communicating a letter from P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, indicating localities in which the want of water had been especially felt, and accompanied by a Sketch Map of the District.*

* Returned by Bangby.

2. In a former letter to Government, dated 28th May 1864, I have mentioned that the District of Coimbatore, with the exception of that part of it contained in the Neilgherry Hills, has not yet been examined by the Geological Survey.

Only small portions of it have been traversed; I cannot therefore speak from any very accurate knowledge of the localities indicated.

3. With the immediate neighbourhood of Bolamputty and Mootamputty I am unacquainted, but from their proximity to Coimbatore, Goodaloor, and Metapolliem, and the great uniformity of the rocks, over large areas, in that and adjacent parts of the country, I entertain little doubt, that the same or precisely similar rocks, and occurring in the same way, are found in all these places, and I fear there is no probability of an Artesian well being sunk with success. From the nature of the rocks, and the small average rain fall, noticed by the Collector, I cannot see any ground even for holding out a hope that wells deeper than the ordinary ones would reach a more deeply-seated supply of water; and even were this the case, I consider it, at least highly improbable, than any Artesian effect would exist.

Oodamulpetta is considerably further from parts of the District of which I have any knowledge. But I think there is reason to believe, from the immense extent of ground occupied by similar rocks, and their mode of occurrence, that the formation there is similar to or identical with that in the neighbourhood of Pulladum and Kangyam, on the road to Trichinopoly, and I should expect to find the water supply local, limited, and somewhat superficial.

4. I regret that I cannot speak, with more intimate knowledge, of the localities indicated which can only be obtained by having them surveyed. If it should seem desirable to Government I would endeavour to have the three localities mentioned, with a little of the adjacent country examined before the close of the year.

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1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Order, dated 17th June 1864, No. 1,044, and that copy be sent to the Collector of Coimbatore.

2. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Oldham for his letter, and only regret that the case is so unpromising. They do not think it necessary to interfere with his movements, but request that he will be good enough to bear the subject in mind, when his operations reach any of the localities indicated, and then to make such special explorations as he may deem conclusive, reporting the result. The Board will from time to time communicate to him the names and position of any other localities in which, when opportunity offers, it may be desirable to make special investigation with the same object.

No. 293. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1864, No. 1,726.

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. 4,989.

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

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 25th July 1864, No. 160 :—

1. I have received Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd June 1864, No. 3,833, communicating a letter from C. O. Oldham, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, and calling on me to indicate "the particular localities in which the want of water has been most painfully felt in recent years."

2. The crying misfortune of this District is want of water "from the heavens above, or the earth beneath."

3. The rain-fall within the last forty years has not exceeded 18 inches on the average per annum. The Palany and Annamallay Hills on the south and south-west; the Palghat and Manar Hills on the west; the Neilgherry, the Ballarungem, the Collegal and Shevaroy Hills on the north and north-east, seem to intercept all the rain, and to leave the intermediate country a parched and howling plain without trees and without grass. At this season of the year whilst the south-west winds are blowing, this description is literally true. The only rivers to be found in the District are the Cavery, the Bhowany, the Ambravutty, and the Noyel. With the exception of the last-named river which rises in the Bolamputty valley, the other rivers flow on the north, east, and south sides of the District, fertilizing a portion of the land on their banks and along a few channels led off from them, but leaving an area of several 1,000 square miles, with no river running through it except the Noyel, an insignificant stream, whose waters are all utilized ere it joins the Cavery at Kodenudy.

4. To make up for the want of rain and river water, the people have been obliged to have recourse to wells. From the nature of the sub-soil in many parts of the District, the sinking of wells is both difficult and expensive, and often ends in disappointment by the non-appearance of water. In the drought which took place two years ago, many of the existing wells ran dry. Water for domestic purposes became an article of sale at the ordinary village markets. This was more especially the case in the Oodamulpetta, Bolamputty, and Mootamputty parts of country marked with a red pencil in the accompanying sketch map of the District. In several of the villages situated close to the Hills in the Bolamputty valley, even in an ordinary hot season, the people have to go two, three, and four miles to the Noyel river for water; men, women and children get up at 3 or 4 A. M. to procure water for their daily use. Whether the District possesses the geological conditions necessary to ensure the success of Artesian Wells, I cannot say, but anything tending to increase the available supply of water must be looked on as a great blessing.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Sketch Map.

1. Ordered to be communicated to Mr. Oldham, with reference to his letter dated 27th June 1864, No. 71C.

2. The Board will be glad to hear from him in due course whether the geological conditions of the localities indicated afford promise of success to the Artesian Well system.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To C. O. Oldham, Esq., Deputy Seperintendent Geological Survey of India, with one Map.
Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Rd. J. Wright.

Communicating to Mr. Oldham letter from the Collector of Coimbatore indicating the localities in which the want of water has been felt in recent years.

No. 4,989.

Dated 5th August 1864.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1864. Department.

Rec'd 2332/64.

No. 5,612.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th August 1864.

Read the following letter from C. O. OLDHAM, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, dated 22nd August 1864, No. 79 (c) :—

1. I received yesterday Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th of August 1864, No. 4,989, communicating a letter from P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, indicating localities in which the want of water had been especially felt, and accompanied by a Sketch Map of the District.*

* Returned by Banghy.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with a Sketch Map, and copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 5th August 1864, No. 4,989.

Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.
„ C. O. Oldham, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India,

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro. 14th June/64 No 2332

Revenue 1864. Department.
Pro. of Govt for Coyst.

No. 2332.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 30th August 1864.

Dep Secy
Rec 2nd —
Ent Sketch chap.

No. 5,612.

Submitting with remarks letter from, Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India reporting as to the sinking of Artesian Wells in certain localities of the Coimbatore District. 21.1726.

RECORDED.

21st Sept for Secy Bd.

No. 292 & 293.

Ex. Letter to the Govt Rev. Dept. Coyst.

Dept. Letters Rec.

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