M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2047 Press ~~Mis.~~

85.86

Dated 7—11— 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 85. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st October 1864, No. 6,951 :—

Read the following letter from C. O. OLDHAM, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th October 1864, No. 81c :—

1. I have only just received on my arrival in Madras, the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 6,380, dated September 29th, 1864, with two enclosures. First, an abstract forwarded by the Collector of Bellary, of localities in that District in which the want of water has been most felt; and second, a Memorandum from the Executive Engineer on the subject of the water supply of the District.

2. The long list of localities abundantly shows how generally throughout the District the want of water has been felt, and how very desirable any additional or more permanent supply would be.

3. From want of personal acquaintance with the District, and in the present defective state of our information regarding its geological conditions, I feel that I can add but little if any practical value to the observations in the Memorandum of the Executive Engineer.

(*a*) With reference to the first locality in which Captain Fischer proposes a deep boring, viz., in the open plain above the Darogah tank, the comparatively abundant rain-fall, the rapid flow of the water down the steep hill sides and subsequent absorption in the valley, from which, as described, the outfall, at least the surface outfall is comparatively insignificant, seem to indicate a probability of water being found: and if the porous subsoil of sand gravel boulders, &c., should prove to be continuous under the more retentive surface soils, and there is, as it appears, no natural outlet for the water which must percolate into and circulate through this subsoil, there would seem to be a high degree of probability, sufficient to justify the experiment being made, specially as it appears that it would not be needful to incur any great expense.

(*b*) The second locality indicated by Captain Fischer seems also to present features rendering a successful boring probable. In this case however, judging from the data given, I think the available store is over estimated at 180,000,000 cubic yards. One third of this amount, or 60,000,000 appears to be as much as could be relied on. This, however, would be a most valuable reservoir, if it exists and can be reached.

4. But I would point out, that as far as we are acquainted with the character of the rocks underlying the subsoil, there is much to check over-sanguine anticipations, as the numerous joints and fissures, in all probability occurring there, as elsewhere in similar rocks, are so many hidden causes, or possible causes of failure.

5. Considering, however, the immense importance of an increased or more constant supply of water, and the urgent want of it, and that the expense of the proposed operations would not be great, while, if successful, the result would be of incalculable advantage, I think there is ample ground to justify the experiment being made in one at least of the localities proposed.

6. As Captain Fischer has well suggested, the experiment, even if unsuccessful in procuring the desired supply of water, might be of great value, "if only as a means of adding to our knowledge," and supplying more definite grounds upon which to form an opinion in similar cases. With a view to this most important result being attained, as effectually as possible, I would suggest that means be adopted to have a careful and detailed record kept of the nature of the soils, subsoils, and other strata passed through in the boring, if carried out; the depth to which each extends; the thickness, variations, and mineral character of each successive layer or deposit, with any other remarks of interest, which might suggest themselves to the officer superintending the boring; and specimens of the rocks met with, and I should be much obliged by being favored with a copy of such detailed record, from which perhaps some more definite conclusions might be drawn as regards the probabilities and causes of success or failure in this and similar cases.

7. I may remark that any artesian effect is highly improbable.

8. I return the original enclosure No. 1.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th November 1864.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter be submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings quoted by Mr. Oldham, and with the Board's renewed recommendation that the proposed borings be sanctioned. The Board also request that instructions may be given for recording all the ascertained facts, as proposed by Mr. Oldham, and communicating them to that gentleman with a complete series of specimens of the soils passed through by the boring.

2. Copy of Mr. Oldham's letter will also be furnished to the Collector of Bellary for his information and for communication to Captain Fischer.

3. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Oldham for this letter.

No. 86.

ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1864, No. 2,047.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be communicated to the Public Works Department in continuation of the Proceedings dated 14th October 1864, No. 1,895. Instructions will be issued from that Department to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to adopt the suggestions made in paragraph 6 of Mr. Oldham's letter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 6,951.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st October 1864.

Read the following letter from C. O. OLDHAM, Esq., Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th October 1864, No. 84C:—

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2. The long list of localities abundantly shows how generally throughout the District the want of water has been felt, and how very desirable any additional or more permanent supply would be.

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6. As Captain Fischer has well suggested, the experiment, even if unsuccessful in procuring the desired supply of water, might be of great value, "if only as a means of adding to our knowledge," and supplying more definite grounds upon which to form an opinion in similar cases. With a view to this most important result being attained, as effectually as possible, I would suggest that means be adopted to have a careful and detailed record kept of the nature of the soils, subsoils, and other strata passed through in the boring, if carried out; the depth to which each extends; the thickness, variations, and mineral character of each successive layer or deposit, with any other remarks of interest, which might suggest themselves to the officer superintending the boring; and specimens of the rocks met with, and I should be much obliged by being favored with a copy of such detailed record, from which perhaps some more definite conclusions might be drawn as regards the probabilities and causes of success or failure in this and similar cases.

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proposed borings be sanctioned. The Board also request that instructions may be given for recording all the ascertained facts, as proposed by Mr. Oldham, and communicating them to that gentleman with a complete series of specimens of the soils passed through by the boring.

2. Copy of Mr. Oldham's letter will also be furnished to the Collector of Bellary for his information and for communication to Captain Fischer.

3. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Oldham for this letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

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

Copy to A. Hathaway, Esq., Collector of Bellary.

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

Esd, J. Wright.

Pro 14 October 64 N 165-166

No 85 & 86.

7th November 1864. Rec'd 9th 2047.

Ordered to be communicated to the Public Works Dept^t in continuation of the Bo: dated 14th Octr 1864, No 1895.- Instructions will be issued from that Dept^t to the Suptg Engineer, 3d Division to adopt the suggestions made in para 6 of Mr Oldham's letter.-

To the Bd of Revenue

14/3/64

Rev: 1864. Department.

Pro: of Govt for Nov.

No. 2795.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21st October 1864.

No. 6,951.

Submitting letter from the Deputy Superintendent Geological Survey of India, and recommending that the borings proposed to be made in the Bellary District, by the Executive Engineer, be sanctioned.

Rec'd 7 Nov.

With an order