M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2014-2015 Press Mis.

479.481

Dated 28-8-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th August 1865.

No. 479. Read again Proceedings of Government, dated 17th August 1865, No. 1,920, Revenue Department.

Read also the following letter from Mr. H. L. STERNE, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 21st August 1865 :—

SIR,

1. I beg to acknowledge receipt of the Government Order of the 17th August, from the purport of which I gather that the Government has not fully understood the object of my Petition, or the concessions which I wish to obtain.

2. The Order simply gives me permission to search for gold, but gives me no guarantee that, in the event of my establishing the fact that a payable gold field exists, I shall be allowed the exclusive right of working it for a certain number of years, &c., to re-imburse myself for my outlay and exertions.

3. My request now is that an Order may be passed, granting me the exclusive right of working such gold field as I may discover for a period of, say, fourteen years, from the date of the Order, paying to Government a royalty of 5 per cent. on all gold I may obtain.

4. Similar concessions have, I am aware, been made to Iron Companies and others, and as it will probably be some years before gold working, prospecting, &c., could be sufficiently developed to become remunerative, I trust that the above-mentioned period may not be considered excessive, when the vast importance of developing such a resource in the country is considered.

5. Should the Government object to such a monopoly, I would then stipulate that I be granted the sole right of searching for gold. And that in the event of my coming to the conclusion that a payable field exists, I may be allowed to select 2,000 acres of land in one block or in blocks of 500 acres, as I may deem fit, and that such land be made over to me entirely on condition that 5 per cent. of all gold found on it be royalty to Government.

No. 480. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1865, No. 2,014.

Miscellaneous.

On re-consideration of the subject, and as Mr. Sterne wishes the former Order to be modified, the Government are of opinion that it is desirable to make a reference to the Supreme Government in order to ascertain their views on the several points.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched :—

(Here enter 28th August 1865, No. 2,015.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To Mr. H. L. Sterne.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.
,, the Do. of Malabar.
,, the Do. of South Canara.
,, the Do. of Tinnevelly.
,, the Do. of Madura.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
28th August 1865.

No. 481. No. 2,015.

From

W. HUDLESTON, ESQ.,

Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Miscellaneous.

1. I am directed to forward to you the papers noted in the margin* for submission to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, and to request that this Government may be favored with an expression of the views of the Supreme Government as to the general question of encouraging efforts to find gold in this country in remunerative quantity, and if favorably disposed so far, then as to the terms which the Supreme Government may consider it advisable to concede.

* Proceedings, 17th August 1865, No. 1,920.
Do. 2th do. ,, ,, 2,014.

2. It will be observed that a Mr. Sterne has applied to this Government for such a limited monopoly as may enable him, in the event of his discovering a remunerative gold field, to exclude others from its immediate neighbourhood for a term of years, or that a definite grant of land in such field may be made to him to the extent of 2,000 Acres, or in blocks of 500 Acres, as he may select.

3. Mr. Sterne has submitted to this Government papers which shew that in 1859 he and others obtained permission from the Government of India to search for gold in any part of British India, provided he did not interfere with private property.

4. This Government in their Proceedings of 17th August 1865 offered him a similar concession, and in view to secure him to some extent in the fair enjoyment of the results of his labors, they stated that they would not grant any similar permission to any other person in the same District in which he might be prosecuting his search. They guarded themselves from undertaking to *prevent* others from so searching.

5. Mr. Sterne, however, wishes for further concessions, and before disposing of his application, this Government desire to be in possession of the present views of the Government of India on the subject.

6. Of the existence of gold in the mountains of India and in this Presidency there is no question. That the search for it can ever be remunerative to an extent that will encourage extensive or expensive operations has often been denied.

7. The existing gold washings in this Presidency are carried on by persons few in number, who seldom long continue a pursuit that produces most insignificant results.

8. Whether such trifling results would follow more systematic and intelligent operations may be fairly deemed open to question, but this Government are very doubtful of the expediency of encouraging efforts to bring the question to a decision, or that may lead to sanguine expectations of success but be doomed to disappointment.

9. His Excellency Sir William Denison, from personal experience in Australia, can testify to the enormous evils that would be likely to attend any unfounded rumour that a remunerative gold field had any where been discovered, and even supposing such a rumour should prove to be well-founded, this Government are by no means satisfied that the fact would be cause for congratulation.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Lincoln

Land Office
Ev. C. 17. Aug. 65
No. 1920. L.D.

Lincoln

Land also the
following letter from
Ex. N.L. Steves Esq
Aug. 21. 65.

In modification
of the order of
Ex. in Ex. Steves
former letter. the
Ex. will undertake
to concede him
the exclusive right
of working the
particular locality
in Ex. in ques-

discover Gold - if
it be Govt. Land -
& that such limited
area as in their
opinion the requirements
of the case may fairly
demand - and in
determining the area
they will be much
guided by the Australian
rules -

It will be for Mr. Stone
& state the exact locality
and to show that the
Land for wh. he may
apply is reasonable —

The Govt. do not consider
it necessary for them
& limit the duration

of the concession -
but they reserve
& themselves the
right of cancelling
it in the event
of it being left
unexercised - or
of the Experiment
in any locality
being abandoned.

~~in Australia~~
~~& that each~~ -

The Govt. are
willing to accept
the proposed rate
of Royalty - 2½
& premium
all Gold found.

Their orders
will be comm.

C

5.

The Commissioners
wish department
as to Engineering
to forward
their

E.K.

22.8.65

No. 2014

Lieut Basset

Recommendation
of the Subject- and
as H.S. Stores wishes
the former order to be
modified - the Govt
are of opinion that it
is desirable to make
a reference to the Govt.
in order to ascertain
their views on the general
point - H.S. Office that the following
letter be despatched

28 August 1865.

E.K.

1 Lt Col Alexander Augd
1 Capt Campbell 5
1 Lieut Malcolm 5
Paul Dawes 5
Kennedy 5
MacDonald 5
Ogle "
1 Lt Col Hall Adjutant 5
1 Capt Rollestone 5
1 " Malcolm 5
1 " Dawes 5
1 " Kennedy 5
1 " MacDonald 5
1 " Ogle "
14

Received 28th August 1865

Cro. No. 295-296
17-8-65

Received 1865 [illegible]

Proof Govt. Sa. August

No. 2011

Proof the Madras Govt

Dy 28th August 1865

Proposing to refer to Govt of India letter from Mr Sterne, a Gold digger requesting certain concessions with reference to permission granted to search for Gold.

No 1179 & 1180

quantity
and if ~~that~~ he favourably disposed to grant
him such the terms &c
the Lieut. Govr. may consider
it advisable to concede -

It will be observed that
a W. Stone has applied
& his Govt. Friends
limited monthly as many
quarter lines, in the event
of his discovering a remunerative
Gold field, & exclude others
from it immediately adjoining
for a term of years. or
that a definite grant
of land in such field
may be made to him &
the extent of 2000 Acres or
in blocks of 500 Acres as
he may select -

W. Stone has submitted
to this Govt. papers & plans
stated in 1854. he & others
obtained permission
from the Govt. of India
to search for gold
in any part of British
India provided he
did not interfere
with private property

His Govt. in their
Dep: of 17 August 53
stated that as
similar applications
from persons in
England for permission to
search - they
should think it
premature

I feel most strongly
impressed -
That Steam Launches
for surveying purposes &
upon discovering the
application the Govt. desire
their possession of the present
views of the Govt. of India
on the subject -

Of the existence of Gold in
the Mountains of India
in this Presidency there
is no question - That the search
for it can be remunerative
has not yet been proved -
Experience only can determine
how far such Enquiries & Explorations
as may be undertaken -

The existing Gold workings in this
Presidency are carried on by persons
few in number - She seldom
if ever continues a pursuit that
produces unsatisfactory
results.

Whether such Explorations
would follow more systematic
intelligent operations must be
left a mere open question

but the Govt. may
be assured of the
expediency of
encouraging & promoting
& bringing to a
decision - or that
may lead to
sanguine expectations
of success but
the Govt. to
its disappointment

I. Sir William
Sinclair from
personal Experience
in Australia can
testify to the enormous
Evils that would
be likely to attend
any unfounded
rumour that a
remunerative Gold
field had anywhere
been discovered
& how distressing

Such a number of Men
have to be told founded
this Govt. on Legislamens
Let's find that the fact would
be cause for congratulation

V.H.

26-8-05

Revenue 1865 Despatch
Govt of Govt for August
No 2015
To the Secretary to the
Govt of India.
Dy 28th August 1865
Letter from the Govt of India
No 3003.

Referring letter
from Mr Stennet, a Gold
Mayer requesting certain
concessions with reference
to permission granted to
search for Gold.

No 1481