

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1583	Press Mis.
Dated	6-6-	11-1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th June 1868.*

Read the following :—

No. 154. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1867,
No. 6,255.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 14th September 1867,
No. 178.

Circular Order No. XIX. of 1867, Standing No. 151-3. 1. In pursuance of the Standing Circular Order marginally quoted, I have the honor to report that an application has been made to me for a piece of land containing gold, the object of the applicant being to secure the sole privilege of working it.

2. I have declined to give the land as sought, but made it known that retaining the land as Government property, I should raise no objection to its being freely worked for the present by anybody.

3. This I did, because it was an easy way of using the petitioner and others as pioneers to show me how and where they worked, and to what profit, and I thought it not unfair that these pioneers should thus reward or ruin themselves till the Government desired to step in.

4. I find that some ten or fifteen people repair to the spot daily, and earn about two Annas a day each more or less, and that petitioner, with the help of one cooly and a simple washing apparatus, collects from eight Annas to Rupees 3 worth of gold a day. They can only wash in the monsoon, for at other times water is not available.

5. I have been to the spot; it is about two miles from Mijar, a village on the road between Gurpur and Mudbidry. The gold is found in small particles by washing the soil of a little patch of ground at the base of a hill, as well as by breaking up stones which appear to be ferruginous. I send by banghy a few of these stones,† as well as a little of the gold‡ in the form in which it is found.

6. I see that Sir R. J. Murchison has laid it down that such patches of detritus are, as a general rule, the most productive of gold; but it does not seem to be here in any quantity worthy the notice of Government. There was very little quartz observable, and more of what I have taken to be iron stone. At Karkal I noticed less iron stone with an unlimited amount of broken quartz. Petitioner said he could shew me more places where gold was to be found, but he knows no more about the matter scientifically than I do, and I can find no one in the district able or competent to judge of the indications of what quantity is likely to be found. A thousand Rupees worth is said to have been surreptitiously collected last year, but I imagine the amount has been exaggerated by speculative cupidity.

7. This small patch of about one acre might, I think, be given to petitioner as applied for on the usual land tenure by putta, with the proviso that Government will reserve to itself the right of resuming the land at any time after one year's notice.

	RS.	A.	P.
† Cost of conveyance	0	6	0
‡ Price... ..	8	5	4
Total charge ..	8	11	4

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8. If the Board are in a position to help me, I should like to be able to supply petitioner with an ordinary gold-finder's washing cradle in return for his information, and to encourage him by enabling him to use his energies to more purpose.

9. I request the Board will be pleased to authorize my including the above-mentioned Rupees 8-11-4 in my Contingent Bill.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Packets.

Forwarded to C. O. Oldham, Esq., who will be requested to favor the Board with his opinion of the specimens, and with any observations which may occur to him on the subject of the foregoing letter.

No. 553. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th April 1868, No. 2,921.

Read the following letters :—

From the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated on Circuit at Buntwal, in Mangalore Talook, 18th October 1867, No. 196.

1. In continuation of my letter, No. 178, dated 14th September 1867, I have the honor to report that, since it has become thoroughly known and believed that the hill was temporarily thrown open freely to all gold-finders, it has gradually become more frequented, till at last there were as many as 300 diggers a day, and some of them having apparently been successful, a little local gold mania has sprung up, and different applicants have offered as much as Rupees 200, 300, and 500 rent per acre for the liberty of working one acre for one monsoon, together with the few remaining months in this year in which water will be available.

2. I cannot venture to say how much of sound sense, and how much of speculative mania there may be in these applications, but as I am told that others, too, are likely to come forward, if the matter is published, I am issuing a notice in my next *Gazette*, and, after the date therein fixed, propose to address you again on the subject. Before that date, I hope I may be supplied with a copy of Mr. Oldham's report and suggestions to the Board.

3. Meanwhile, I have stopped all working, excepting only my one pioneer, the original petitioner, and as yet, the highest bidder, to whom I have taken upon me, in return for his services, to allow the privilege of working gratis, with only one servant for the present. Such limited operations cannot be exhaustive, and will probably be useful in finding for us new localities, if there are any, and that without expense to Government, for which his minor temporary profits will not be too liberal a remuneration.

4. Though I am not by any means sanguine myself, some of the people clearly are so; therefore, I have thought it right to ventilate the matter here, and inform you in accordance with the Board's orders.

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From the Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 19th October 1867, No. 177(c).

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, under date 30th September, forwarding copy of a letter and specimens* of stone and gold sent by the

* Returned herewith.

Collector of South Canara, and requesting my opinion on the specimens.

2. I regret to say that I have no personal acquaintance with the district, nor have the operations of the Geological Survey extended to that part of the country, so that I can only speak with reference to the specimens sent and the data supplied.

3. I can see nothing, either in the specimens of stone, in which I do not notice any gold, (though it may exist in small quantity, or in the statement of the amount said to be realized daily by washing, namely, 8 Annas to 3 Rupees, to indicate that it could be worth while at present for Government to undertake the search; and it is hardly my province to say, whether I should consider it more desirable to allow individuals, as pioneers, to adopt the Collector's language, to wash or dig on payment of a fixed rent, irrespective of the amount of gold they might obtain, or to allow the work to be carried on under supervision, a certain per-centage of the profits being secured to Government. Probably, at least as a temporary measure, the former plan would be least troublesome, and most desirable.

4. Of the specimens forwarded, two consist very largely of a highly magnetic iron, a mineral so commonly found to accompany gold, that some miners have called it "the mother of the gold;" another is a fragment of quartz, which has been contained in an earthy matrix, some of which still adheres to it; while the others are gravelly conglomerates, with small fragments of quartz and other minerals cemented by a ferruginous matrix, very similar to the gravels from which gold is washed elsewhere.

5. The gold appears to be of good quality, tolerably free from admixture of any other metals.

6. But while the occurrence of gold, and apparently good gold, is thus undoubted, and I think it highly probable that more will be found, both in the locality from which these specimens were obtained, and in the alluvial detritus elsewhere; still, if these are fair average specimens of the gravelly soil and rock to be worked, and the amount mentioned above, an approximate estimate of the probable proceeds, I cannot see any reasonable prospect of a fair return for any considerable outlay.

7. There can be little doubt that if some simple but efficient washing apparatus, and some means of amalgamating with mercury, could be placed in the hands of some one disposed to experiment, and with sufficient intelligence, the produce of gold might be largely increased. Probably, one-fourth, possibly much more of the gold, occurring in very minute particles, is lost in the process of washing, and most of this might be recovered by amalgamation. But even this would probably be done with most advantage by some speculative pioneer personally interested in the result.

8. I may remark that gold has long been known to occur in greater or less abundance in almost all the streams of Malabar, but in quantity insufficient to allow of its being worked with profit.

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9. The attempt to trace the gold in all these localities to its source, (which is doubtless somewhere in the crystalline rocks,) would very probably be futile, and, even if successful, would most likely prove unremunerative; as the matrix, already pulverised and partially sifted by natural agencies, probably affords a richer yield, than the rock in situ would do, even if discovered.

10. I wish to express my regret that a temporary absence from Madras has delayed my reply to the Board's communication.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 30th September 1867.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Specimens of stone and gold.

The foregoing papers have been overlooked for some months. Mr. Thomas will accordingly now be requested to report on the further search for gold, and the result of the publication of his notice in the *District Gazette*, in order to enable the Board to come to a decision on the matter.

No. 156. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1868, No. 3,718. Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 30th September 1867, No. 6,255, and 20th April 1868, No. 2,921.

Read also the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 1st May 1868, No. 435:—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,921, dated 20th April 1868, I have the honor to report that no fresh gold has been found.
2. The number of offers to work the present hill, with the conditions proposed, are given below.

ANNAPA ACHARI—Offers 600 Rupees for working the whole hill for a period of one and a half year, or 300 Rupees for working one particular spot, measuring one acre, for the same period.

JELGAR KRISHNA CHETTI—Offers 500 Rupees for the whole hill for two years, or Rupees 250 for half an acre, to be selected by himself and worked till 30th June 1869.

PARMESHRA KARANTA—Offers 200 Rupees for one particular spot for one year. DEVAPPA ACHARI—Is prepared to pay a higher rent than all other applicants, but does not specify the amount.

3. I would seek to be allowed to put up to auction, at an early date, the liberty to work the present hill for one year. The extent of ground at present known to contain gold is but limited, and it will be an advantage to throw the whole hill open to an interested search, and not to make terms which would confine the workers to the one or two known acres, whereas more fruitful spots may possibly be found if searched for all over the hill.

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6th June 1868.*

4. The monsoon is approaching, and I would solicit early orders; the wet weather being the best for washing.

1. Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The land is of the nature of that alluded to in paragraph 3 of the Resolution of the Government of India, in the Home Department, dated 15th March 1867, and it is there ruled that such land should form the subject of special agreement.

3. The Board recommend that the right of mining in the one-acre lot, for which 300 Rupees have been offered, should be sold for a year to the highest bidder, and that the Collector should be instructed to adopt the same course regarding any other one-acre lots that may be applied for.

No. 157.

ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1868, No. 1,583.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board are referred to the instructions of the Secretary of State, conveyed to them by G. O. 6th March 1866, No. 576.

2. The present case should be treated in accordance with those instructions, which forbid the grant of any monopoly to dig for gold to individuals in any shape, such as a lease would afford.

3. The field for operation should be left free to all, and if any special police arrangements are required, a small tax for license to dig should be levied to cover the additional expense to the State.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

to the Board of Revenue.

Ed F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

N^o 1583.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 6th June 1868.

Read the following
Pro: of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting for orders letter
from Collector of South Canara,
stating that no fresh gold has
been found, & requesting early
orders on the offers made for
working the hill, as the monsoon
is approaching.

(Here enter 19th May 1868)
N^o 3718

The Board are re-
ferred to the instructions
of the Secretary of State
conveyed to them by G. O
6th March 1866, N^o 576.

The present case
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cordance with those instruc-
tions which forbid the grant
of

W. N.

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The field for operation
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pense to the State.

L.B.

14 Copies For the Office of the Secretary

Ed. A. Hall

23/7/88. ✓

Requiem 1868 Dep't
No of Court for same

12/5/83

No of the Masters Court
of 6th June 1868.

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