

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	590	Press Mis.
⁶⁶⁻⁶⁷ Dated	5 - 3 -	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th March 1868.*

No. 66. Read the following letter from T. OLDHAM, Esq., Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Camp at Puddoogooralla, Datchapully, Guntoor District, 12th February 1868:—

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, that leaving Calcutta, as previously announced, on the 15th of January, I landed at Cocanada on the 20th of that month. From thence I proceeded to Rajahmundry, and devoted a couple of days to the examination of that neighbourhood. I was there joined by Colonel Applegath, and we at once proceeded to Bezvara, where I met Mr. A. J. Stuart, third Assistant Collector. I had also ordered Mr. C. Oldham, the Deputy Superintendent of the Geological Survey, to march from the northern part of the Kurnool District, where he was working, to join me at Bezvara.

2. From Bezvara we lost no time in proceeding by Condapilly, Nundigamah, &c., to Juggiahpett, where we remained some days, visiting all the localities in the vicinity, which Colonel Applegath thought deserving of examination, and seeing all the places where he had originally excavated. From Juggiahpett we proceeded to Moogetalah, where we remained two days; thence to Vadadry, and so on to Chintapilly. In this way, by frequent and long traverses, I was enabled to see every part of the so-called field, and I omitted no single spot which Colonel Applegath indicated as either interesting or important.

3. After this careful examination, I regret to report that, in my opinion, there is no ground for any hopes whatever of coal being found within this area. The rocks are all of types well known, and covering a very large area of the Cuddapah and Kurnool Districts, and in no respect that I could see do they, in this part of the country, offer any feature which would induce one to suppose that there was a greater probability of coal being found here than at a thousand other localities within the very extensive area over which similar rock extend to the south, and at some one of which it would, I think, certainly have become known did it exist.

4. With these convictions, I should not have felt justified in expending a single rupee in sinkings or blastings. Nor was such necessary, for the sections are well exposed, and there is little difficulty in tracing out the successive beds. Colonel Applegath did, in part, open out the old sinkings, but without result.

5. I shall not here enter on any detailed description of the area. It is, in its geological structure and relations, essentially a part of the Kurnool area, and it will, therefore, be mapped in detail, and described with that district.

6. Nor do I think it needful to discuss the point as to what the substance burnt by Colonel Applegath in 1851 really was. I do not hesitate to accept in its integrity the statement that something was brought to him, which burnt freely. It is by no means a novel trick for persons employed to make sinkings for coal to endeavour to stimulate the research, and so increase their own profits by themselves providing the coal, which they subsequently raise from the pit in presence of their employers. Or it is just possible that, at some depth in the thick deposit of fine muds, which fill the bottom of the gorges, through which the smaller

The Secretary, Mr. C. Stuart

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th March 1868.

streams pass to the Kistna river, some mass of sub-fossilized vegetable matter may have been found, analogous to those which have often occurred at depths in peat bogs. It was on the immediate banks of the Palair that Colonel Applegath's pits were sunk.

7. But whatever the substance may have been (and as no more of it could be found, I am unable to offer an opinion on this point,) I have no hesitation in saying it would be utterly throwing away money to make any further search for coal in this neighbourhood, which I feel certain does not exist. The rocks are all without exception of formations long anterior to the age of the coal-bearing rocks of India, and they are of lithological types, and in mineral condition (highly metamorphic) inconsistent with the idea of coal occurring with them.

8. I have to record the great obligations I am under to Mr. Stuart for his very friendly and most efficient aid in the examination of this field. Mr. Stuart's clear appreciation of the facts of the geological structure had already led him to very sound conclusions as to its relations, and his local knowledge of the ground was of essential service. From Colonel Applegath also I experienced the most hearty and zealous assistance, and I very sincerely regret that I am compelled to differ from his conclusions, and am unable to see any ground for his sanguine anticipations.

No. 67.

ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1868, No. 590.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government regret to learn from the above report that the non-existence of coal in the valley of the Kistna is proved beyond all doubt. The examination of this locality has been useful in so far as it has disposed of a question of much importance which has for many years been pressed upon the notice of Government, and the thanks of Government are due to Mr. Oldham and the several officers mentioned by him for the interest taken by them in the enquiry.

2. A copy of Mr. Oldham's report will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India.

.. Colonel F. Applegath.

Edw. S. T. Augustin.

The Superintendent of the Geological
Survey of India.

The Secretary to the Government of
Madras.

Dated 15th February 1868.

Where?

I have the honor to report for the
first time of the discovery of the
Madras. That leaving Calcutta on
Monday, arrived on the 15th of January
landed at Cocanada, on the 20th of
January. From thence, I proceeded to
Kumbhly and devoted a couple of
days to the examination of that neighborhood
as there joined by Col. Applegath, and
at once proceeded to Bezerra,
where I met Mr. A. J. Stuart, Head
Collector. I had also ordered
C. N. D. to join me, the Deputy Superintendent
of the Geological Survey, to march
the northern part of the Kurnool
district, where he was making his journey
to Bezerra.

From Bezerra, we proceeded to

in proceeding by Condapilly, Mundayam
to Juggiapett, where we remained
some days, visiting all the localities in
the vicinity, which Col. Applegarth thought
deserving of examination, and seeing
all the places where he had previously
excavated. From Juggiapett, we
proceeded to Mergatukh, where we
remained two days; thence to Vadady,
and so on to Chintapilly. On this way,
by frequent and long traverses, we
enabled to see every part of the so-
called field. And I omitted no
single spot which Col. Applegarth
indicated as either interesting or
important.

After this careful examination,
I regret to report that in my opinion
there is no ground for any hopes of
ever of Coal being found within this
area. The rocks are all of types well
known, and covering a very large area
of the Hindupur and Kurnool Districts.

84-590
The Govt report I learn from the above
report that the non-existence of coal
in the valley of the Krishna is
proved beyond all doubt. The exami-
nation of this locality has been useful
in so far as it has disposed of a
question of much importance which
has for many years been pressed upon
the notice of Government, and the
thanks of Govt are due to Mr. Olham,
the several officers mentioned therein,
take of them in the enquiry.

2. A copy of Mr. Olham's report will
be forwarded to the Secretary of
State for India.

3. The report of the Geological Survey of India
on the subject of the coal fields of the
Hindupur and Kurnool Districts.

W. H. 15
5c. March 73/88

Q. No. 128-8
2nd 1871/8

Report to the

No. 13
17/3/8