M.R.O. 4—30,000—15-10-48.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2 dated 6-12-57

Press

Dated 6 December 1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th September 1869.

No. 90. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel F. APPLEGATH, 33rd Regiment, Native Infantry, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Vizianagram, 10th July 1869 :—

I have the honour to request you will do me the favour to submit, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the following letter.

2. The fact of large and valuable beds of coal having been made public in the *Friend of India*, dated 1st July 1869, at Chanda on the Wurdah, has induced me to make a further representation regarding coal in the Kistna District, as it would appear that even Professor Oldham himself has now declared in his recent Annual Report that, "It is probable that the extension of the Chanda coal deposit will be traced to the south, away into the Nizam's territory;" at the present state of the enquiry the above admission is most important.

3. For the last two years I have had frequent correspondence with my friend Captain L. Smith, the Deputy Commissioner of Chanda, who made his discovery four years ago, and I have received several collections of rocks and specimens from him, and I am glad to take this opportunity of stating that one rock, an altered sandstone, or as it is styled by the Geological Survey, a quartzite, is the constant recurring and even main rock covering the ground under which the coal is found throughout the Chanda district.

4. It will be remembered that Professor Oldham ignored the idea of coal being found with quartzite, he also omitted, in his report to the Government, any mention of having had burnt-out-crops of shale or coal pointed out to him on the Kistna. Dr. Oldham acknowledged to me at that time that they were burnt-out-crops of shale. He was more communicative to Mr. Stuart, Head Assistant Collector, Kistna District, as he told that gentleman, it was shale that had been burnt by coming in contact with red hot iron ore, and as I know there were nothing but ashes visible, it was quite plain that the combustion had been very complete, and that even such shale was valuable to a considerable degree. Still no mention of it was made in his report to Government; surely such a course of procedure was the extreme of caution, or something most unlikely to forward the end in view.

5. After the public exhibition of the very extensive coal fields on the Godavery, it is not unreasonable to expect some similar deposit on the Kistna; but it appears unfortunately that our minds have been biased by some one who has chosen to draw an imaginary line across the peninsula, below which no coal was to be found, nor can the opinion be too strongly deprecated, that coal can only be found under one particular class of rock.

6. In Vol. 2, Part 1, Geological Survey Report, Mineral Statistics, page 12, Professor Oldham stated there was no coal in Madras, and no coal on the Godavery, or any of its feeders; as yet nothing but black shale, which will not support combustion; now this report requires considerable modification as even on the Kistna the black shales do support combustion, for I have burnt them myself in large open heaps, and Professor Oldham himself has seen them, and has acknowledged they can be burnt by coming in contact with red hot iron ore.

7. I do hope that some practical enquiry, such as a small working party of Sappers, who are most intelligent workmen, will be allowed to be sent to the Kistna district to open out the burnt-out crops and other rocks at places in the Government territory, though close adjoining the Nizam's dominions. At my last visit to the Kistna, there were no Sappers available, nor was there one rupee forthcoming on the spot where the rocks required to be opened out; so I hope the Government will not hesitate to adopt some such proposal, for it is not impossible but that some little of the Kistna district may eventually prove to be as valuable in mineral wealth as that of the Godavery.

No. 91. Order thereon, 4th September 1869, No. 2,500.

Miscellaneous.

The Right Honourable the Governor in Council is unable to view favourably Lieutenant-Colonel Applegath's proposal, that expenditure should be incurred for the purpose of making further search for coal in the Kistna District under non-professional direction.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Gen. of 1869 Indians.

REVENUE.

To

Lieut.-Colonel ALLEGAN.

Dated September 4th.

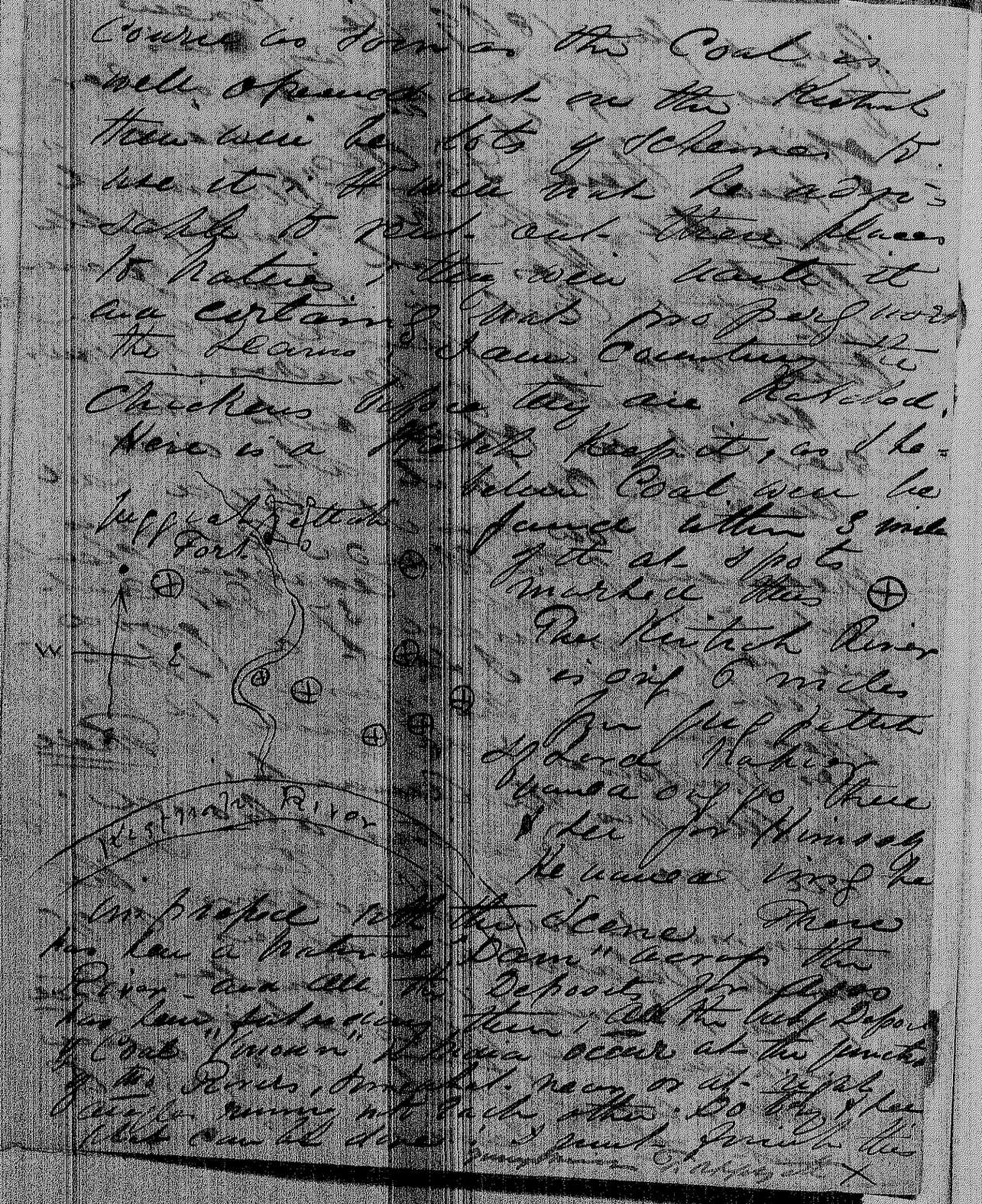
Read. 5th

C. Cr. 4th September 1869. No. 2,500.

CRUDDEN.

Nos. 90-91.

Lieut. in Eskimo District.—Colonel Allegan's proposal to form corporations for the purpose of looking further search for coal, &c.—



REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2385

From Lieut. Col. G. H. Applegarth, 38th Regt. N.I.

Dated 16th July 1869.

FOR ORDERS.

Sir,

Col. Applegarth has had full opportunities of learning for himself, the value & worth of the Theories, and Theodolite each Lady pack with that he does & learns them use for the service.

Recorded with Surveyors Diary, copies of the pass books, also the Sub. of these Lines & extended copy of them despatched, & that I would be glad to have Col. Applegarth's valuable assistance -

7 Aug. 69

GDM

Secy.

...ing further sanction
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3. Colonel Applegath's
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...ment has for or the
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...since to Address the Court
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[illegible]

No. 2609.

The Rt. Hon'ble the Gov. in Council is unable to view favourably the Application proposed that expenditure should be incurred for the purpose of making further search for coal on the Kistnah District under Prof. Oldham's direction.

Dept. Jurs. Judcl

Copy to Lieutenant Colonel Applegath
Secy. P.W.D.