

1129

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th July 1872.*

No. 237. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th July 1871, No. 3,085 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nizampatam, 27th June 1871, No. 1,844.

I AM desirous of drawing the Board's attention to the mineral resources of this district. Some time ago I pointed out to a merchant of Cocanada, Mr. W. Bowden, the existence of Corundum in large quantities in this district, and suggested the advisability of his sending samples home to test the market. Mr. Bowden accordingly entered into arrangements with some Inamdars of the Narsaraopett Taluq to excavate in their lands, and sent home a quantity of a mineral which he mistook to be Corundum, but which is really Garnet; the two being quite distinct. The small consignment sold well, and Mr. Bowden has made a larger shipment this year. He informs me that the Garnet fetches £8 a ton in the English market. I have been in communication with Mr. E. G. Balfour, Acting Inspector-General of Hospitals, who informs me that he was not aware of Garnets ever being used as a substitute for Emery like Corundum, and that Garnets have hitherto only been brought into the market in small quantities as gems. I have sent Mr. Balfour specimens of the Garnet from different places in this district, and think it possible that they may prove hereafter an important item of trade.

2. I may further mention that Mr. Bowden has found a vein of Plumbago at Bezwada. Dr. King, Chemical Examiner, pronounced a specimen of it sent to Dr. Balfour, the Inspector-General of Hospitals, to be of a good character. The same authority has reported favourably on a specimen of *Galena* (sulphuret of lead) that I sent down, procured from the neighbourhood of Karunpudi.

3. The mineral resources of this district are very rich. The once famed Diamond mines of Golcondah (at Partiyal, etc.,) are now supposed to be exhausted, but there are indications of the Diamond-breccia in various places that would encourage further careful research. There are also inferior gems of various kinds: Carbuncle, Crysoberyl, Amethystine quartz, and beautiful crystals and pebbles found at Kondapillay, Madgol in the Palnad, and other places. In the Palnad Taluq also there is much marble of a superior as well as of an inferior description; and of metals, there are found Copper, Lead, and Iron. The existence of these mineral resources is not, I apprehend, generally known, and I would suggest whether something might not be done to explore this field and to make known the results, in order that private enterprize may be encouraged to do the rest. I would also, at the same time, suggest the desirability of a royalty being fixed on the excavation or exportation of mineral-products.

THIS letter bringing to notice the extraordinary mineral wealth of the Kistna District will be submitted for the information of Government, who will perhaps lay it on the Editor's table.

2. The Board do not think any royalty should be charged at present where excavations for marble or ores are made in Government land.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th July 1872.*

No. 238.

ORDER THEREON, 26th July 1872, No. 1,129.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to
Dr. Oldham, the Superintendent of the
Geological Survey, for any remarks he
may wish to make.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

Rev 1871. Sept.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH JULY 1871, No. 3,085.

Received 4 Aug

Encl.

*I think them and some
 of the minerals in the
 district of Kistna. I have
 also the late S.O. on*

JULY.

No. 3,085.

*Mineral resources of Kistna District.—Letter
 from Collector, reporting on, and suggesting
 desirability of a royalty being fixed on excava-
 tion or exportation of mineral products, sub-
 mitted to Government, with expression of
 Board's opinion that no royalty should be
 charged at present where excavation for marble
 or ores is made in Government land.*

*With order
 No 1129 - 26 July 1872*

Ref 8000

14th the Board of Rev Dec 2 Aug 1872.

No. 3,085.

26 July 1872

No 237-238

*Board to Council of S. D. Altham - the
 Director General of the Geological Survey
 having forwarded the very kind & useful*