No. 13. Read the following letter from Dr. T. OLDHAM, Superintendent, Geological Survey of India, to the Under Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Calcutta, 9th August 1872, No. 345:—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,130, dated 26th July 1872, giving cover to correspondence relating to the mineral resources of part of the Kistna District, and requesting me to state whether "the geological features of the country are such as to "warrant the expectation that private capital might be remuneratively applied to the development of these resources, and, therefore, to justify offers of any special encouragement on the part of Government."

2. I presume that Mr. Boswell's letter refers only to the western and northern parts of the Kistna District, beyond and outside of the great alluvial flat, formed by the deltas of the Kistna and Godavery. In this more hilly country the occurrence of garnets in local abundance, of corundum and of emery, (both varieties of the same mineral,) has been long known. I have little doubt that there was some admixture of the latter mineral in the broken garnets which are stated to have been worth £8 per ton in London. I have never seen precious garnets or carbuncles (the two varieties used as gems) in the rocks of that country. They may, however, occur.

3. I am disposed to think that the working of these minerals would not repay the employment of any large capital, while at the same time it is more than probable that a considerable amount could be procurable in smaller parcels by purchase from the native proprietors, and profitably exported.

4. The value of metallic veins or lodes depends so much on a combination of circumstances, position, supply of water, faciltiy of communication, and of labour, that it is utterly impossible to give any opinion on this point without an actual examination of the ground. The mineral sent in small specimens for analysis may prove very rich and good, and yet it may occur in such a way that far more money would be required to extract it than the ore would be worth when obtained. I am, therefore, unable to offer any opinion whatever as to the prospects of working the lead or copper ores noticed.

5. The collection of the inferior stones noticed would never repay any regular establishment for the purpose.

6. The Diamond mines at Partiyal, in the Kistna District, have been, I fancy, very thoroughly exhausted, and I believe all belong to His Highness the Nizam.

7. I would deprecate the charging of any royalty on any mines that might be opened, or attempted to be opened, for some years after the commencement of the work. I would rather be disposed to encourage, in every possible way, any such attempt to establish the mineral wealth of the district. It would be useless to attempt the working of the metallic ores without a distinct organization for the purpose. But I think more could be done with the other minerals noticed than has been done, and probably to a very considerable extent. This would probably be most economically and effectively accomplished by offering a fair price for the collection of the minerals according to sample.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th September 1872.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 5th September 1872, No. 1278.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Board of Revenue. Under the circumstances stated by Dr. Oldham the Government consider that it would be inexpedient to endeavour to encourage private enterprise in a direction which would very probably lead to disappointment.

2. The field is open if private parties think it worth their while to operate in it. The Government are obliged to Dr. Oldham for his report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Superintendent, Geological Survey of India.

The Superintendent Geological Survey of India

The Under Secretary to Government of Madras, Revenue Dept.

Dated Calcutta Aug 9th 1872.

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1130, dated 26th July 1872, giving copies to correspondence relating to the mineral resources of parts of the Kistna District, and requesting me to state whether the geological features of the country are such as to warrant the expectation that private capital might be remuneratively applied to the development of these resources and therefore to justify offers of any special encouragement on the part of Government.

2. I presume that Dr. Bowell's letter refers only to the western and northern parts of the Kistna District beyond and outside of the great alluvial flat formed by the deltas of the Kistna and Godavery. In this more hilly country the occurrence of Garnets in local abundance of Corundum and of Emery (both varieties of the same mineral) has been long known. I have little doubt that there was some admixture of the latter mineral in the broken garnets which are stated to have been worth £8. per ton in London. I have never seen precious Garnets or Carbuncles (the two varieties used as gems) in the rocks of that country. They may however occur.

3. I am disposed to think that the

nothing of these minerals would not repay the employment of any large capital, while at the same time it is more than probable that a considerable amount could be procurable in smaller parcels by purchase from the native proprietors, and profitably exported.

4. The value of metallic veins or lodes depends so much on a combination of circumstances, position, supply of water, facility of communication, and of labour, that it is utterly impossible to give any opinion on this point without any actual examination of the ground. The mineral sent in small specimens for analysis may prove very rich and good and yet it may occur in such a way that far more money would be required to extract it than the ore would be worth when obtained. I am therefore unable to offer any opinion whatever as to the prospects of working the lead & Copper ores noticed.

5. The collection of the inferior stones noticed would never repay any regular establishment for the purpose.

6. The Diamond Mines at Partiyal in the Kistna District have been I fancy very thoroughly exhausted, and I believe all belong to H. H. The Nizam.

7. I would deprecate the charging of any royalty on any mine that might be opened or attempted to be opened for some years after the commencement of the work. I would rather be disposed to encourage in every possible way any such attempt to establish the mineral wealth of the district. It would be useless to attempt the working of the metallic ores without a distinct organization for the purpose. But I think more could be done with the other minerals noticed than had been done and probably to a very considerable extent.

This would probably be most economically and effectively accomplished by offering a fair price for the collection of the minerals according to sample.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Supt. Geological Survey of India.

Geological Survey Office,
11 Hastings Street,
Calcutta.

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