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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th November 1873.

No. 146. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th November 1873, No. 2,279 :—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nannagaram, 25th October 1873, No. 573 :—

On the 25th December last a gang of labourers while engaged on cutting a channel connected with the Strivaiguntam Anicut Project came upon a large copper pot filled with gold ingots and coins. The pot was of large size capable of holding six Madras measures of grain, and from the marks inside it must have been filled with treasure.

2. The probable value of the treasure is estimated at a lakh of Rupees.

3. The labourers divided the spoil and made off with it, but the matter soon became public and the Tahsildar succeeded in recovering Rupees 8,000 worth of coin and ingots. This was mostly recovered from a little girl who ran away from her house with a chatty which fell, broke, and scattered the gold in front of the officials who were coming to search.

4. The rest was quickly buried or melted down, and all traces of it were lost. I am told, however, that the share of one of the labourers, which he deposited with a kavalgar, who afterwards denied having received it, was worth 900 Rupees, so, as there were twenty labourers besides headmen to share the spoil, the find must have been very extensive.

5. On hearing of the discovery I notified the course to be pursued under the Act, but nothing was given up. The treasure recovered was deposited with the Civil Court, and the case was inquired into after due notification. The Court has decided, as per proceedings enclosed, that the terms of the Act were sufficiently observed and that the treasure should be restored to the finders.

6. This treasure was buried in the sandy tract between the Coast and the large town of Alwartirunagari, some fifteen miles from the mouth of the Tambrapurni. It was found near an old avenue leading inland from what was once the city of Kayal, and this treasure was probably buried some hundreds of years ago.

7. The coins are principally Arabic, but one is European. This, as far as can be ascertained, is a coin of Joanna of Castile A.D. 1236. Some of the Arabic coins are still older; one* bears the impress of the Mahomedan year 71, and another† bears the name of Sultan Salaudeen, who may be the Saladin of history.

* Without name. † Without date.

8. I enclose a sketch of the obverse and reverse of these coins, and, if the Board think fit, will buy duplicate specimens for the Madras Museum. I have requested the finder's vakeel to arrange for the purchase.

Enclosure No. 1.—Copy of Proceedings of Civil Court.

Enclosure No. 2.—Sketch of Coins.

Submitted for the information of Government, and communicated to the Superintendent of the Government Museum, who will be requested to see if it is desirable to secure any of the coins for the Museum.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th November 1873.

No. 147. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1873, No. 1,302.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government await the report of the Superintendent of the Museum.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Rev: 1873. Dept
A. 3673

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 10TH NOVEMBER 1873, No. 2,279

Dept 3 Nov 1873.

Encl.
Rets.

Received 14th Nov
No. 1302 - 26 Nov.

NOVEMBER.

No. 2,279.

Hidden treasure—composed of gold ingots and coins.—Report from Collector of Tinnevelly of discovery of— by a gang of labourers in Tenkarei Taluq and recovery of a portion of it by Tahsildar, submitted to Government, and communicated to Superintendent of Government Museum. Latter to see if it is desirable to secure any of the coins for Museum.

Wilkinson

No. 1302
The Collector will submit the report called for to the Board of Revenue.
26 Nov. 1873

To the Collector of Tinnevelly
Dy. No. 27 Nov.

C 15 Nov/73. R 19 Dec.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November 26th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 26th November 1873, No. 1,302.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 146-147.

Hidden Treasure recovered in Tenkarei Taluq, Tinnevelly District.—Awaiting the report of the Superintendent of the Government Museum on the desirability of securing for the Museum any of the coins forming part of the —.