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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue.....DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

191

Press
Mis.

Dated

22. 7. 1874

1906

Not to be folded or roughly handled

128

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd July 1874.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 28. From W. KING, Esq., Departmental Superintendent, Geological Survey of India, care of Messrs. ARBUTHNOT and Company, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 6th June 1874, No. 20.

As my working season in the Godavery District is now over, and as I have recommended Mr. Vanstavern (through the District Engineer) to cease work at the borings in the Beddadanole Coal Field in consequence of the approach of the rainy season, I think it is well to give you any immediate information as to the success of these borings, which you will please report to the Madras Government.

2. In accordance with the Government Order, (14th May 1873, No. 502,) borings for coal in the Godavery District were commenced by Mr. Vanstavern under my direction, on or about the 17th February last, which borings have been carried on until now.

3. I pointed out four sites for boring, which Mr. Vanstavern has explored with the apparatus at his disposal.

4. Until within the last few days the results of our explorations were eminently unfavourable, there having been only a thin seam of *Carbonaceous shale* found in one bore hole, and 7 inches of "*coal in shale*" in another.

5. However to-day I have received a letter from Mr. Vanstavern, dated 29th of May, in which he reports that he had got 3 feet of *coal* at a depth of 183 feet 4 inches in No. 4 bore hole.

6. Mr. Vanstavern seems from his letter to imply that he had not then got through this seam and that it is possible it may be of greater thickness. This bore hole is at the eastern edge of the field, and as the strata spreads out to the westward, we are thus possibly only on the shore edge of what may be an extensive seam.

7. So far the results cannot be looked on as very promising, particularly as nothing can as yet be said regarding the extent of the seam or the quality of the coal. The extent cannot be known until further borings are made. The quality shall be given when the assays are made, and shall be reported with the other details of the field which I shall give in my proper report to Government after receiving Mr. Vanstavern's notes, etc., of the work. Still it is satisfactory to know that there is *coal* in the Madras Presidency; and as, in the first instance, I argued as to the possibility of its occurrence in this field, it may on the details being studied in the end be possible to hold out hopes of its occurrence in some quantity.

8. We have found that all the borings have been attended with considerable difficulty and delay owing to the presence of thick beds of clay and muddy deposits intercalated with the sandstone beds of the field. These clays and muds are continually falling, and choke up the bore hole for several feet, and when such slips occur a good many hours of each day are consumed in clearing out this rubbish. The only way of meeting this difficulty is by having piping of sufficient length; but there is only a very short length of this supplied with the present apparatus which was thus of no use, as most of the clay beds are more than 100 feet down the bore hole.

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9. The question as to the continuance or discontinuance of this exploration in the Beddadanole field will have to be discussed after I have received Mr. Vanstavern's details, but I may state that in case of continuance of operations it will be necessary that the Government should adopt means for procuring a supply of piping. At the same time, from what I have heard of the state of the tools from Mr. Vanstavern, all the boring rods, etc., will have to be refitted at the workshops. These matters of piping and repairs are however more properly questions which can be dealt with by the District Engineer and Mr. Vanstavern.

10. I am now leaving Madras for about a month prior to my going for the remainder of the recess to Calcutta but I shall take the earliest opportunity of sending in my full report on the season's work.

11. The address given above will always be that by which I can be communicated with most quickly.

No. 28A. Telegram from Major BEATTY, R.E., Dowlaishweram, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Ootacamund, dated 15th June 1874 :—

FIFTY-FOUR inches of coal found at one hundred and eighty-five feet.

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1874, No. 1,777.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 2.

Mr. KING's letter will be communicated to the District Engineer of Godavery, who will arrange with Mr. Vanstavern for the refitting of the boring rods in readiness for next season's work, which should be commenced as early as possible after the rains, as recommended by Mr. Vanstavern in a communication to the Chief Engineer. The District Engineer will also, in communication with Mr. Vanstavern, prepare and submit with as little delay as possible an indent for the necessary piping, as there can be no doubt of the propriety of resuming boring operations after the rains. A regular estimate must now be sent in, based on and including the cost of operations in April and May to cover the charge for coal explorations in the current official year (with all establishments, tools, etc.,) in order that a regular grant may be obtained from the Government of India for prosecution of the work.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council awaits with interest further detailed reports.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Godavery.

Public Sept

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Order

Order in the Public Sept. 13 July 1874 No. 785.

Copy furnished to the Revenue Department, and to the Collector of the Godavery District.

True Extract /

Wm. Scott Major R.E.

*Under Secretary P.W.D.
for Ag. Chief Secretary.*

*To the Revenue Department,
Collector of the Godavery District.*

G. G.

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PUBLIC WORKS.
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THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, GODAVERY

Dated July 2nd.

Recd. 17 Encl.

G. O., 2nd July 1875. No 1,777

JULY

Nos. 28 29

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Coal, Godavery District.—Letter from
Mr. W. King, Geological Survey of India,
reporting on the coal borings, communi-
cated to the District Engineer with
instructions.

N^o. 2460.
21821 ✓

Prussia 1874 de J. D.

Me

Proc. Pub. de J. D.

Dates 13. } July 194
Feb 17. }

Me 185

Furnishing copy

of J. D. D. H. D. on the

subject of Coal & Iron

in Germany 812 12

N^o. 191 / Communications

to the 13th of Prussia

22 July 1874