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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1176	Press.
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Dated	26-7-1878	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1176
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

26th July 1878, No. 1,176.

Read the following paper :—

No. 350. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 22nd December 1877, No. 2,445.

Read the following letter from G. H. M. BATTEN, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Minerals and Geological Survey,) to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 17th December 1877, No. 53.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompanying extracts from correspondence which has

The prospects of the Alpha Gold Mining Company in Madras are improving, for a special telegram to the Madras Mail from Devalah on the 3rd instant, says: "Sixty-two tons of Alpha stone from Wright's level has produced over thirty ounces of rich gold averaging nine penny-weights per ton. Messrs. P. Orr & Sons have bought the gold. Specimens of quartz are about to be forwarded to the Duke of Buckingham. The Commissioner has visited the works. A proposal to work the Alpha on an extensive scale is mooted. The capital proposed is fifteen lakhs."

passed between His Excellency the Viceroy and the Secretary of State on the subject of the gold deposits in the Nilgiri Valleys. The Viceroy's attention has also been attracted by a statement published in the Madras Mail, and which is reproduced in the margin for ready reference.

2. I am now to request that the Madras Government will take steps to collect any requisite information on the nature and extent of these deposits; the conditions under which they are worked; the interest, direct or indirect, which

Government may have in them; their prospects of success and the assistance which Government may, with propriety, afford in developing them; and that when this information is collected, a report on the subject may be submitted to the Government of India.

Lord LYTTON's letter to the Secretary of State, No. 35, dated the 20th September 1877.

20. I left Ootacamund early on the morning of the 16th September and reached Mysore late in the evening of the 17th, after inspecting some large Cinchona and Coffee plantations on my way thither. A considerable portion of the Madras territory through which I have passed is largely auriferous; and I was informed by an experienced expert who has, for two years, been investigating its mineral resources, that neither in California nor in Australia, all parts of which he had previously visited, do there exist gold deposits more capable of being remuneratively worked. This statement appears to me an important one, and I may perhaps take an early occasion of addressing to your Lordship a special communication on the subject of it. Meanwhile, I may mention that silver is also found as well as considerable quantities of small diamonds in the Wynnad.

Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 83, dated 8th November 1877.

4. The statements made to your Excellency as to the mineral resources of the Wynnad and the adjoining country, and especially as to the auriferous character of the soil, are of high interest, and are well deserving of the attention which your Lordship proposes to devote to them.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department for disposal.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

No. 351.

ORDER THEREON, 26th July 1878, No. 1,176.

Miscellaneous.

The points on which the Government of India have called for information are—

- (1) the nature and extent of the gold deposits in the Nilgiri Valleys;
- (2) the conditions under which they are worked;
- (3) the interest, direct or indirect, which Government may have in them;
- (4) their prospects of success, and the assistance which Government may with propriety afford in developing them.

2. On the first point, it is observed that the pamphlet entitled "Correspondence regarding gold mines in Wynaad, Malabar District," published at the Government Press in 1874, copies of which have already been supplied to the Government of India, contains an account of former discoveries, while the more recent report* of Mr. W. King, Deputy Superintendent, Geological Survey of India, gives a full description of the gold-bearing rocks of South-East Wynaad now attached to the Nilgiri District.

3. As to the conditions under which the gold deposits are worked and the interest, direct or indirect, which Government may have in them,—the second and third points of inquiry,—the correspondence already referred for the consideration of the Government of India with letter, dated 23rd January 1877, No. 320, comprising† two reports from Mr. King, and communications from the Collector of Malabar, the Advocate-General, and Board of Revenue, show that no distinct policy on the subject of mineral rights or levy of royalty has as yet been laid down for the Madras Presidency.

4. Pending a decision on the question, permission has been given to certain projectors to prospect until the assignment of a definite area in due course under such terms of rent and royalty as may be determined.

5. Some information on the previous practice in the Madras Presidency as to mineral rights was submitted to the Government of India with letter, dated 11th January 1872, No. 69, but it is noted that in the "precis†" furnished by the Board of Revenue no reference was made to the correspondence with the Collector of South Canara on his proposal to put to auction the right to work a certain spot believed to contain gold. The decision then§ passed was in accordance with the Secretary of State's instructions in despatch, dated 8th January 1866, No. 1, Public, forbidding the grant of any monopoly to dig for gold to individuals in any shape, such as a lease would afford, or to seek for royalty or other direct revenue for Government.

6. The Government of India inquire, fourthly, as to the prospect of success in working these deposits and the assistance which Government may, with propriety, afford in developing them.

7. Mr. King's opinion on the profitableness of exploration is unfavorable as regards alluvial deposits, but more hopeful in the case of quartz-mining. His judgment seems borne out by the accounts which have appeared in the public prints of the results of quartz-crushing. The general tendency of the notices in the newspapers is favorable to the enterprise, and the "assay certificate,"* quoted at page 184 of the "Indian Agriculturist" for July 1877, shows that, in some instances, the output has been exceedingly good. The subject of gold-mining in the Wynaad is noticed in the marginally-noted pages† of the "Indian Agriculturist." The last entry alludes to the failure of negotiations with Messrs. Nicol & Co., of Bombay, for working the gold mines in Wynaad. This, so far as it goes, tends to show that, in the opinion of the mercantile world, the prospects of the venture are not very encouraging.

* Certificate, dated 26th April 1877.
Assays for Gold and Silver of three boxes of Gold Quartz, marked P.W.G. P.C.I. 2 and 3, ex-Avondale.

	Average fine Gold per Ton of 20 cwt.			Average fine Silver per Ton of 20 cwt.		
	OZ.	DWTS.	GRAINS.	OZ.	DWTS.	GRAINS.
No. 1.	1	12	12	0	7	12
" 2.	3	10	0	0	2	12
" 3.	0	12	12	0	2	12

(Signed) JOHNSON & SONS,
Assayers to the Bank of England,
H.M.'s Mint, &c.

	PAGES.		PAGES.
† April 1876 ..	106	March 1877 ..	62
May " ..	119	July " ..	184
July " ..	184	November " ..	364
" " ..	192-193	January 1878 ..	27
August " ..	220	February " ..	64
January 1877.	11	March " ..	103
February " ..	35	June " ..	209

† "Nilgiri Courier" (noticed at page 364 of the "Indian Agriculturist").

paying quantities. Action in this direction has already been taken by the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

No. 53.

1176
3

FROM

G. H. M. BATTEN, ESQUIRE,
 Officiating Secretary to the Government of India,
 Department of Revenue, Agriculture
 and Commerce,

To

The Chief Secretary to the
 Government of Madras.

Calcutta, dated the 17th December 1877.

Minerals and
Geological Survey

SIR,

I am directed to forward for the information of His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompanying extracts from correspondence, which has passed between His Excellency the Viceroy, and the Secretary of State on the subject of the gold deposits in the Nilgherry valleys. The Viceroy's attention has also been attracted by a statement, published in the Madras mail,

The prospects of the Alpha Gold Mining Company in Madras are improving, for a special telegram to the Madras Mail from Devalah, on the 3rd instant, says: "Only two tons of Alpha stone from Wright's level has produced over thirty ounces of rich gold, averaging nine penny weights per ton. Messrs. P. O. and Sons have bought the gold. Specimens of quartz are about to be forwarded to the Duke of Buckingham. The Commissioner has visited the works, & a proposal to work the Alpha on an extensive scale is mooted. The capital proposed is fifteen lacs."

and which is reproduced in the margin for ready reference.

I am now to request that the Madras Government will take steps to collect any
 requisite

No. 4-40 II

G.O. of (1878) 22000

REVENUE.

Dated July 28th.

Recd.

G.O. 2014 July 1878, No. 1176.

Recd.

JULY.

Nos. 350-351.

Gold deposits in the Nilgherry Valleys.—Passing observations on letter from the Government of India, requesting to be furnished with information on certain points relating to the subject of—

requisite information on the nature and extent of these deposits, the conditions under which they are worked, the interest direct or indirect which Government may have in them, their prospects of success and the assistance which Government may with propriety afford in developing them and that when this information is collected, a report on the subject may be submitted to the Government of India.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

J. M. Batten
Officiating Secretary to the Govt of India

Paragraph 20.

Lord Lytton's letter to the Secretary of State No. 35
dated the 20th September 1877.

20. I left Ootacamund early on the morning of the 16th September and reached Mysore late in the evening of the 17th, after inspecting some large cinchona and coffee plantations on my way thither. A considerable portion of the Madras territory through which I have passed is largely auriferous; and I was informed by an experienced expert who has, for two years, been investigating its mineral resources, that neither in California nor in Australia, all parts of which he had previously visited, do there exist gold deposits more capable of being remuneratively worked. This statement appears to me an important one, and I may perhaps take an early occasion of addressing to your Lordship a special communication on the subject of it. Meanwhile I may mention that silver is also found as well as considerable quantities of small diamonds in the Wynad.

Paragraph 4.

Secretary of State's Despatch No. 83 dated 8th
November 1877.

4. The statements made to your Excellency as to the mineral resources of the Wynad and the adjoining country, and especially as to the auriferous character of the soil, are of high interest and are well deserving of the attention which your Lordship proposes to devote to them.

No. 2445

Transferred to the Revenue Department
for disposal.

Hort St. George
22nd December 1877

To the Revenue Department
Chief Secretary

D. Nam

Chief Secretary

Public (1877) Report
Notes in regard to

the Government

Department of Revenue
Hyderabad Commission

Sept 17th
Nov. 22nd Dec 17th
No. 53

Requesting to be furnished
with information on the
subject of the Gold Deposits
in the Kilgiri Valley

No. 2353

Transferred

Revenue Department

No. 1176

11/6/5

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 26th July 1878

Read the
following letter from
Govt of India requesting
to be furnished with
information on the subject
of the Gold Deposits in
the Kilgiri Valley dated
17th Dec 1877 No. 53 & transferred by
instrument by the Chief Secy

1. The points on which
the Govt of India have
called for information are:

1. The nature & extent
of the Gold deposits in the
Kilgiri Valley.

2. The conditions under
which they are worked.

3. The interest, direct
or indirect which Govt
may

MR
6/7.

S. S.

I think the newspaper address
is addressed to the Government
with the published report
of the failure of the association
to the House of Commons
(? March 1878) & with the
Expenditure of the Government

1. Their prospects of success, & the assistance which Govt may, with propriety afford, in developing them.

2. On the first point it is observed that the pamphlet entitled

"Correspondence regarding Mining Gold Mines in Wynnad Malabar District" published at the Govt Press in 1874, copies of which have already been supplied to the Govt of India, contains an account of former discoveries while the more recent report of Mr. W. King, Dy. Supt. Geological Survey of India gives a full description of the gold-bearing rocks of South-East Wynnad

now

Recollect. Tind
Show that in the opinion
the Government have
prospects of the district
not encouraging

See especially the 1st
Call: letter of 10 Jan
(P.P. 1-4) and the
of the Committee appt
by Govt. to examine
Gold mines of 25 &
(P.P. 23-26)

Thank Mr. King
for his report on the
gold mines of the
district of South Malabar
Dated 11 March 1875
in Gp. 2^d April 1875
and forwarded to the
India with the letter of
January 1877 No 3.

now attached to the
Kilgiri District. 1176
8

3. As to the conditions under which the Gold deposits are worked and the interest, direct or indirect which Govt may have in them, the second & third points of enquiry - the correspondence already referred for the consideration of the Govt of India with letter dated 23 June 1877 No 320 comprising two reports from Mr. King, and communications from the Coll: of Malabar, the Advocate Genl and the Board of Revenue show that no distinct policy on the subject of mineral rights or levy of royalty has as yet been laid down for the Madras Presidency.

4. Pending a decision on

Gp. 2^d April 1875 No 512
Gp. 2^d June 1877 No 319

Lopau

on the question permission
has been given to certain
projectors to prospect until
the assignment of a de-
finite area in due course
under such terms of rent
and royalty as may be
determined.

5. Some information
on the previous practice
in the Madras Presidency
as to mineral rights was
submitted to the Gov^t of
India with letter dated

11 January 1872 No 69
but it is noted that in
the "process" furnished
by the Bd of Revenue
no reference was made
to the correspondence
with the Coll^r of S. Canara
on his proposals to put
to auction the right to
work a certain spot be-
lieved to contain gold.

The decision then passed
was in accordance with
the

Gp. 31 May 1875 No 854.
" 7 July 1875 No 1027.
" 19 July 1876 No 249
" 27 Nov^r 1876 No 1820.

+ Gp. 11 Jan'y 1872 No 68.

+ Gp. 6 June 1868 No 1583 A.D.

From Gov^t of India 21 July
1866 No 1736 in Gp. 6 March
1866 No 576

Vide para 30 of Mr. King's letter
in Gp. 2 April 1875 No 512
published at page 14 of the
Indian Aqueductist for Jan'y
1878.

the Secy of State's in-
structions in Despatch
dated 8 Jan'y 1866 No 1
Public forbidding the
grant of any monopoly
to dig for gold to indi-
viduals in any shape
such as a lease would
afford, to seek for royalty
or other direct Revenue
for Government.

6. The Gov^t of India
enquire fourthly as to the
prospects of success in
working these deposits
and the assistance which
Gov^t may, with propriety
afford in developing them.

7. Mr. King's opinion
on the profitability of
exploration is unfavorable
as regards alluvial de-
posits but more hopeful
in the case of quartz-
mining. His judgment
was borne out by the
accounts

accounts which have appeared in the public prints of the results of quartz-crushing. The general tendency of the notices in the newspapers is favorable to the enterprise, and the "Assaying Certificate" quoted at page 184 of the "Indian Agriculturist" for July 1877 shows that in some instances the out-turn has been exceedingly good. The subject of gold-mining in the Wynnaad is noticed in the marginally noted pages of the Indian Agriculturist.

8. Until the decision of the Govt of India is received upon the expense already made to them it does not seem feasible to suggest any method of

eg. Madras Mail 5 Feb 1878

+ Certificate dated April 26, 1877
assays for Gold and Silver of three bars of Gold Quarts marked P.W.G. P.C.P. 2 and 3, &c. "Assayable".

	Average fine Gold per ton of ore				Average fine Silver per ton of ore		
	oz	Dwt	Gr		oz	Dwt	Gr
No 1...	1	12	12	-----	0	7	12
No 2...	3	10	0	-----	0	2	12
No 3...	0	12	12	-----	0	2	12

(Signed) Johnmann & Sons
Assays to the Bank of England
A. M. Smith &c.

April 1876	p 106
May "	" 119
July "	" 184
August "	" 142-193
January 1877	" p. 11
February "	" 35
March "	" 62
July "	" 134
November "	" 364
January 1878	" 27
February "	" 64
March "	" 103
June "	" 209

* Nilgiri Courier (reduced at page 364 of the Indian Agriculturist)

Mr B. Smith is actually on route

The last entry alludes to the failure of negotiations with Messrs. Mead & Co of Bombay for working the gold mines in Wynnaad - This, so far as it goes, tends to show that in the opinion of the mercantile world the prospects of the venture are not very encouraging

of direct Govt assistance in the way of developing the industry. Perhaps the most practicable mode is that which was suggested in Nov. last of getting an expert with proper machinery from Australia to settle the question whether gold can be produced in paying quantities. Action in this direction has already been taken by the Govt of India.

QW

2004

The slopes into the Payla the
 labor - and also the foot
 of the Maikurt & Siaspura
 Camps. I have seen some
 but there are auriferous
 possibly more so than
 Myaditilly - No 'terrible
 feverish.

It is not attach a
 Gray civilian to Mr.
 Bodnick? and thus
 make the best of our
 opportunities.

6/7 1867

I think the teller should
 be undoubtedly replied
 that one - that it is
 to be regretted it has been
 so long unanswered -
 by stating the
 facts as they exist
 shortly -

2/17

C. 4-7-78
 R. 2-7-78

Jan 10 1871

Question - Is it desirable
 to write a talk? Mr. Bodnick
 is en route to Madras. It
 were better to await his re-
 port. In the meantime the
 Coll. of Malabar must per-
 haps all correct. & that still
 - man & be requested to pre-
 pare his inspection of
 the lower ranges of Mysore

Gold Deposits
 in Nilgiri valleys

1176
 9

Princeton 1877 Sept 10
No 5348.

From
The Chief Secretary

Oct 22: } Dear Sir
Recd 26.

No 2445

Delaware 26 July 1878

Transferring letters
from Govt of India's request
- may be furnished with
information on the subject
of the 40000000 in
the Virginia Valley.

24-7-78
122-7-78
N 350