(1) Number of pages 7

(2) Date of repair 7.6.84

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No: 1316	Press. / Mis.
Dated 16.8.1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—6,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

16th August 1878, No. 1,316.

Read the following paper:—

No. 211. From R. BROUGH SMYTH, Esq., Mining Engineer, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Dévúláh, 6th August 1878.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, that I arrived at Ootacamund on the 17th July, and that I received a copy of the instructions issued for my guidance on the 18th July.

2. During my stay at Ootacamund I sought information from persons having knowledge of the localities where auriferous veins and deposits occur in the Wynaad, Nilgiris, &c., and I carefully studied the maps, reports, and correspondence placed at my disposal by the Government.

3. I would have sought His Grace's permission to leave Ootacamund for the Wynaad as soon as the necessary arrangements for my departure could have been completed, but I was advised that the rains would probably prevent me from doing much work in the field; and I was myself unwilling to leave Ootacamund until I had examined some of the rocks of the neighbourhood.

4. In this I also employed myself; and on the 22nd ultimo I visited the sites of old gold workings which lie about four miles south-westerly from Ootacamund. The natives appear to have expended much labor in several places both in opening the quartz-veins and in digging on the banks of the streams; and with the approval of His Grace the Governor I propose to have the ground explored.

5. On the 31st ultimo, I had the honor to take His Grace's wishes with reference to the investigations I have been appointed to make, and on the same day I left Ootacamund and proceeded on my journey to Dévúláh which I reached on the 2nd instant.

6. The character of the rocks between Ootacamund and Goodaloor is, as far as I was able to observe, tolerably uniform, but at Goodaloor there is a marked change, and near the bungalow belonging to the Department of Public Works a thick vein of quartz has been opened in the valley.

From Goodaloor to Dévúláh the numerous road-cuttings have exposed quartz reefs and "leaders" that are undoubtedly auriferous, and I shall "prospect" these as soon as possible.

7. I have examined the Alpha battery of fifteen stamps and the machinery, and it appears to me that the appliances for saving gold are defective, and that little importance can be attached to the results of "crushings," because the "tables," &c., are now arranged in such a manner as to lead to the loss of quicksilver and amalgam both near the stamp heads and in the troughs. Mr. Laing, the miner, who accompanies me, at once noticed the defects in the machinery.

I shall give close attention to these matters, and endeavour to ascertain whether, with the labor to be obtained here, a better arrangement of the tables can be made. Of course, nothing of this kind will be done without the consent and approval of the Directors of the Alpha Company.

Mr. Laing has already washed out rich amalgam from the trough at the lower end of the tables.

8. The skull reef, the continuation of it northerly and southerly, and the outcrops of rocks at various points have been inspected; and I have already tested some of the sulphides. Gold is to be seen in many places, and one part of the vein at "Wright's Level" is highly auriferous. I had several portions of it broken out under my own eye, and I have used my hammer in getting fair specimens from other places.

I have instructed Mr. Laing to open up a portion of the reef near the magazine at the Alpha Company's mine, and it will be ready for inspection probably by Thursday. In the mean time, I shall employ myself in examining the country; and as soon as I shall have gathered more information, I will be in a position to state my opinion of the reefs and the auriferous soils.

9. I have to express my great obligations to ministers and heads of departments for much valuable information and assistance given; and from all those interested in or connected with the mines in the Wynaad I have received help.

No. 212. ORDER THEREON, 16th August 1878, No. 1,316.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

13/6
2

Vide Env. 3929/78.

Govt. of [1878] Madras.

REVENUE.

Dated August 1878.

Received

Read

G.O. No. dated August 1878. No. 1916

AUGUST
Nos. 311-312.

Devalah,
6th August 1878.

126
1/3

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

R Broughton Smyth

1316/7

Revenue 1878 Despatch

№ 3441.

From
C. Brough Smyth Esq.
Mining Engineer

Dated 6
Rec'd 8 } August 1878.

~~Recorded~~

Reporting his visits to certain localities in the neighbourhood of Cotacan carried and the Wynaad, with reference to Mining operations

Do 1516

Ordered that the Secretary for the Secretary of the Govt.

11 August 1878

10-8-78
12-8-78
13-8-78
15-8-78