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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1702, Revenue. Press.
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 21st October 1878. 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Archives I—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

21st October 1878, No. 1,702.

Read the following papers :—

No. 232. From R. BROUGH SMYTH, Esq., Mining Engineer, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Devalah, 5th October 1878.

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council that I have been chiefly employed during the past month in testing quartz and pyrites from the reefs and in constructing a map of the district on which my observations can be recorded. Several plans of estates, which a gentleman resident in the district has been so good as to lend me, are being reduced to a scale corresponding with that of my Survey-map.

2. Very little progress has been made with the survey of the reefs and gold-workings, the dense fogs and heavy rains which have prevailed almost without interruption since the date of my last report, preventing the use of instruments in the field; but I have visited several localities which present features that are encouraging.

3. Near Needle Rock, Korumbars have been employed in ground-sluicing and the quantity and character of the gold obtained by them when I was present and witnessed their operations justify me in incurring a small expenditure for timber, in order that boxes may be constructed for treating the earth with the object of tracing the gold to the reef.

At the spot where about five pennyweights of gold were obtained, the bed-rock is not more than two feet and a half from the surface, and the earth on the slopes could be easily sluiced as the supply of water at the present time is abundant.

The Korumbars worked assiduously, and in all their operations exhibited much skill. In using the wooden dish for washing the earth resulting from the sluicing the neatness and dexterity of an old Kocumbar, who alone undertook this, the most difficult part of the work, were remarkable.

Subsequently the "tailings" in the "tail-race" were tested by the miner who accompanies me, and by simply washing in an ordinary miner's dish he obtained gold.

It is certain that by the method employed by the natives a great deal of gold is lost; and any calculations as to the quantity of gold in a given area, founded on the results obtained by them whilst working in their own manner, would therefore be fallacious.

4. Samples of water-worn gold have been sent to me from several localities, and with as little delay as possible I shall seek to ascertain the position, character, and thickness of the veins from which each has been derived.

No. 233. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1878, No. 1,702.

Miscellaneous.

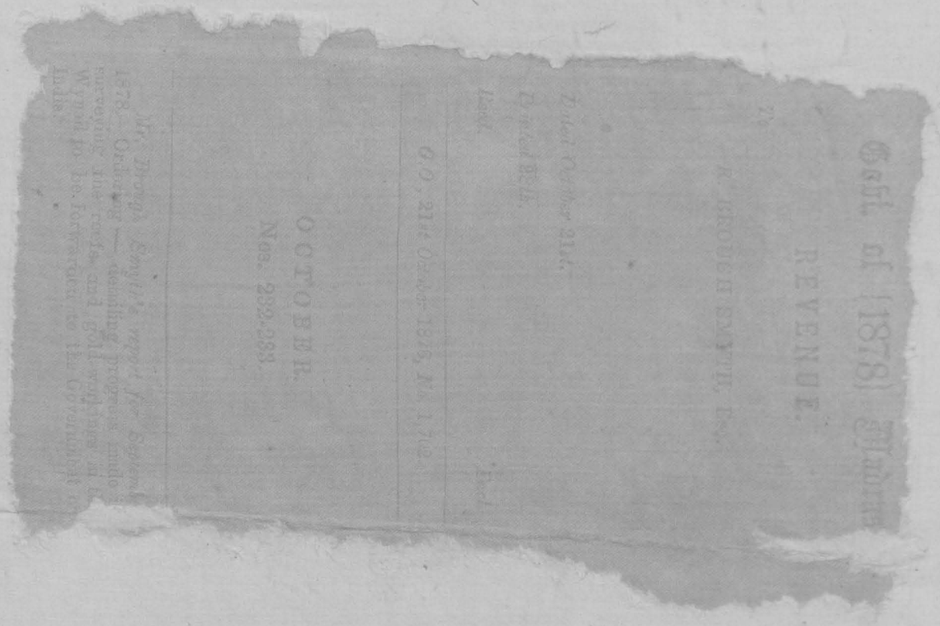
ORDERED to be forwarded for the information of the Government of India in continuation of letter, dated 17th September 1878, No. 1,512.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under Secretary to Government.

To R. Brough Smyth, Esq.

Exd. W. H. French.



Devalah,
5th Oct. 1878.

To C. G. Master Esq
Secretary to Government
&c &c &c

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council that I have been chiefly employed during the past month in testing quartz and pyrites from the reefs and in constructing a map of the district on which my observations can be recorded. Several plans of Estates, which a gentleman resident in the district has been so good as to lend me, are being reduced to a scale corresponding with that of my Survey-Map.

2. Very little progress has been

been made with the survey of the reefs and gold-workings, the dense fogs and heavy rains which have prevailed almost without interruption since the date of my last report, preventing the use of instruments in the field; but I have visited several localities which present features that are encouraging.

3. Near Needle Rock Korumbars have been employed in ground-sluicing and the quantity and character of the gold obtained by them when I was present and witnessed their operations justify me in incurring a small expenditure for timber in order that boxes may be constructed for treating the earth with the object of tracing the gold to the reef.

At the spot where about five pennyweights of gold were obtained the bed-rock is not more than two feet and a half from the surface and the earth on the slopes could be easily sluiced as the supply of water at the present time is abundant.

The Korumbars worked industriously, and in all their operations exhibited much skill. In using the wooden dish for washing the earth resulting from the sluicing the neatness and dexterity of an old Korumbar, who alone undertook this the most difficult part of the work were remarkable.

Subsequently the "tailings" in the "tail-race" were tested by the miner who accompanies me, and by simply washing in an ordinary Miner's dish he obtained gold.

It is certain that by the method employed by the natives a great deal of gold is lost; and any calculations as to the quantity of gold in a given area, founded on the results obtained by them whilst working in their

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their own manner would therefore be fallacious.

4. Samples of water-worn gold have been sent to me from several localities, and with as little delay as possible I shall seek to ascertain the position, character, and thickness of the veins from which each has been derived.

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

Revenue 1878 Deptt
No 4428

No 1702

Ordered to be forwarded for the information of the Govt. of India in continuation of letter dated 17th September 1878 No 1512.

21 October 1878

For Offg Secy Govt

No 1702

From
R. Brough Smyth Esqre
Mining Engr

Dated 5
Rec'd 8 } October 1878

Stating that during the past month he has been chiefly employed in testing quartz and pyrites from the reefs and in constructing a map of the district on which his observations can be recorded.

No 1702 21 October 1878

Mr Mc an order

C 9-10-78
R 21-10-78

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