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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 5396 ~~Press~~ Mis.

Dated 2-12- 1884.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th October 1884, Mis. No. 9665:—

Read—the following letter from J. STURROCK, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Poonjalkatta, 22nd September 1884, No. 2167:—

I have the honor to forward, for the information and inspection of the Board, a specimen * of what I believe to be lignite or brown coal recently found when a well was being dug near Kásaragód.

* Sent separately by parcel post.

2. With regard to a small sample of the same sent to the General Agent of the Basel Mission, that gentleman writes: "The specimen first sent is real 'brown coal' which is equal in quality to that of real 'black coal' and may be used for any industrial purposes. It emits a fine gas-light flame. We have fully tested the specimen by carefully working and examining the same. * * * * I beg to observe that for our tile works at Mangalore alone we require annually about 1,500 tons of coal, which we now get from England. But, if we could get the coal like the first specimen in this country, we shall gladly use the same, provided it is sufficient to meet our demands at a cheaper rate or even the price comes to that of English coal."

3. From enquiry it appears that the deposit found in digging the well was of little depth and no more was found below it. It is very likely that the presence of the small deposit found is no indication of the existence of a larger field of lignite, but, as the subject is one with regard to which I have no knowledge, I have thought it right to report the matter for the information of the Board. Any practical geologist will probably be able to say at once whether it will be advisable to incur any expense on experimental borings in the neighbourhood.

Resolution—dated 11th October 1884, Mis. No. 9665.

The specimen of coal will be forwarded to Mr. Bruce Foote, and the Board will be much obliged if he will kindly favour them with any remarks upon it.

2. The district of South Canara has not been geologically surveyed, but, as far as is known to the Board, is only alluvium with lateritic hills. It is not, therefore, probable that this lignite is in any great quantity.

3. The Collector ought to have mentioned the nature of the superincumbent soil or rocks, the depth below the surface at which the seam was found, and the thickness of the seam.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To R. Bruce Foote, Esq., F.R.G.S., Yercaud, with a parcel.
„ the Collector of South Canara.

READ—also the following letter from R. BRUCE FOOTE, Esq., F.G.S., Deputy Superintendent, Geological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Gooty, 4th November 1884, No. 491:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Mis. No. 9665, dated the 11th October 1884, together with the copy of a letter from

the Collector of South Canara about a discovery of lignite near Kásaragód and a specimen of the mineral in question. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that I have examined and tested the lignite, which is of fair quality though rather ashy.

2. If a large supply of it could be found, it would be valuable as a fuel and gas-producer, but the information given in Mr. Sturrock's letter, though but very scanty, shows there is little room for hoping that any important quantity of the mineral is to be found in the locality. Lignite generally, and in India especially, occurs in small lenticular patches or nests, not in continuous and extensive seams, and, as the Kásaragód sinking showed the deposit to be of only trifling thickness, I would not recommend the expenditure of money on experimental borings in so unpromising a locality.

3. If the Collector of South Carara has been able to obtain further particulars as to the actual thickness of the lignite, and the depth at which it was met with, I would suggest that they may be communicated to me for record in my office as they may be of use when the geological survey of South Canara comes to be made.

RESOLUTION—dated 18th November 1884, No. 3935.

The Board thank Mr. Foote for the information given. It will be communicated to the Collector of South Canara, who will be good enough to report in pursuance of the request made in paragraph 3 of Mr. Foote's letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To R. B. Foote, Esq., F.G.S., Deputy Superintendent, Geological Survey of India.
" the Collector of South Canara.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. C. Venkatasubbaiyar.

Revenue Department

No 8094

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1884.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Printed November th.

Proceedings, 18*th Nov.* 1884, *No.* 3935.

Thanking Mr. Bruce Foote for the information furnished regarding the *lignite* said to have been found in Kásaragód Taluk, South Canara District, and requesting the Collector to furnish the further information required by this gentleman on the subject.