

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1482

Press

~~Mis.~~

56.58

Dated

3

7

1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd July 1867.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 56. From Major F. APPLEGATH, Madras Staff Corps, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Vizianagrum, 12th June 1867.

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, dated 31st May 1867, and venture to offer a few remarks on Mr. Stuart's description of the country around Juggiapetta. Mr. Stuart has favoured me with a copy of his Memorandum that he has sent to Professor Oldham.

2. Having visited the above locality more than once, and having carefully made and kept my notes, I trust that it may not be considered presumption on my part to do so.

3. In a word, I believe Mr. Stuart's views are gathered solely from a surface inspection of the country, as no apparatus for boring or blasting accompanied that gentleman; and that we are quite uninformed as to the nature of the rocks beneath the surface.

4. On perusing the report at paragraph 12, a deposition of sedimentary rocks is suggested, followed by an outburst of trap which has hardened all the rocks in the neighbourhood, turning the shales and clays into schists and slates, which is then followed by an enormous denudation, carrying away for 100 miles strata 200 to 300 feet thick, this I take to be the gist of the report.

5. Having myself once quarried and burnt coal or coal shale on this identical spot, I take a more hopeful view of the case, and knowing from actual personal experience that the following rocks, shales, &c., are to be found beneath the surface, I am not discouraged by the well-known fact that the strata in that neighbourhood has been somewhat invaded by an igneous intrusion.

6. The rocks, I have seen there, are shales of all colours, sandstones, flagstones, clays, &c., &c., that have never been in contact with trap, and that they, moreover, contained fossils, which would not have been the case had they been covered by such a great outburst of trap as suggested in the report; so fossiliferous were some of the shales, that fossils were found between each laminae of the shale.

7. The fact of the unconformity of the strata on the surface with that beneath, I think proves to demonstration that they could not both have been disturbed at one and the same time from the same cause.

8. The Indian coal-bearing rocks and their fossils have been clearly and plainly laid down in the Geological Survey Memoirs. The fundamental rock being gneiss, upon which rest fine mudstones, boulders set in fine silty beds, fine sandstones, coarser towards the top, containing numerous pebbles mainly of quartzites, coarse shales and shaley sandstones.

9. In my former letter I have stated, and now beg to report that I am quite prepared to point out the whole of this series of strata on the Kistna and Palair rivers.

10. The rocks mentioned in paragraph 8 are found beneath Indian coal in the Ramigunj, Cuttack, and Nagpore districts, and I believe very recently on the Wnrda river at Chanda. The strata I have attempted to describe in paragraph 6 are certainly not metamorphic, for reasons therein stated; but at present I speak with greater diffidence about the rocks that may absolutely contain coal near Juggia-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd July 1867.*

pettah; the great difficulty I found in opening pits to decide that question, was the great prevalence of water. Nowhere in Mr. Stuart's report is there mention of any pit to any depth being made, but I believe he did commence one or two, but after four or five feet excavation he gave them up in despair.

11. One important feature in Mr. Stuart's report is the tessellated quartzite or tessellated sandstone he mentions having met with, in paragraph 10, which is a constant accompaniment of, and is invariably found in close proximity, to coal in India in the above-named districts. I believe that a trap dyke runs down the south bank of the Kistna, but whether there is a dyke there or not, it does not affect the existence of coal, although it may deteriorate its economic uses.

12. The sum of Rupees 500 was originally sanctioned to prosecute a preliminary enquiry for coal, out of which Mr. Stuart has been allowed to expend 100 Rupees to collect specimens on the Kistna. If the Government would considerately bear in mind my previous services in this matter, and would place the sum of Rupees 500 at my disposal solely with the view to enable me personally to visit the Calcutta Museum, and then proceed to the coal fields at Raniganj, where I can make a collection of rocks and fossils for useful reference on the Kistna, for though I have deeply studied the published report on the coal fields of Raniganj, still it would be far better to inspect the rocks *in situ*, which I fully purpose doing immediately the favour I now ask is conceded.

13. I would beg most respectfully, in conclusion, to urge the importance of the enquiry regarding coal on the Kistna, which has been year after year postponed without any sufficient cause; the subject is fraught with importance to Madras itself, and will, I hope, eventually interest the whole of Southern India. The existence of coal on the Godavary (specimens of which are now before me) must eventually turn out a real substantial benefit, and no doubt will speedily open up that river by a steam flotilla; yet not very long ago the highest authority in India on this subject publicly pronounced, no coal on the Godavary, still we now see that that dictum was at least premature, if not absolutely wrong. I would most earnestly beg that the investigation of the Kistna and Palar rivers for coal may meet with the cordial support of the Government.

No. 57. Memorandum from the Officiating Superintendent Geological Survey of India, to the Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Calcutta, 13th June 1867.

In reply to No. 493 (Miscellaneous) regarding researches for coal in the Kistna district, a copy of a Memorandum upon Mr. Stuart's report is herewith forwarded.

(Signed) H. B. MEDDACOTT,

Offg. Supt. Geological Survey of India.

From the Officiating Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, to the Acting Head Assistant Collector, Kistna District, dated Calcutta, 18th May 1867, No. 652.

1. I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 82, of 3rd May 1867, forwarding a Memorandum on the geology of the country in the neighbourhood

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd July 1867.*

of Juggiahpettah, Kistna district. The map and sections, noted in your third paragraph as sent, were not in the cover.*

* Since received.

Your paper is, however, sufficiently intelligible without those documents.

2. Assuming that the terms you make use of are employed in the sense I attached to them as generally current among Geologists, I am quite unable to see upon what grounds a hope was ever based of finding coal in the area you describe. Until some positive indication of coal be found in the district, it seems a vain expense to sink holes at random in search for it. Your observations, however interesting independently, throw little or no light upon the special object of search. As far as this is concerned, the inquiry may, I opine, be suspended, until the method of rewards (by far the most likely one) lead to the discovery of an actual out-crop of coal. I do not think the rock specimens need be forwarded.

No. 58.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1867, No. 1,482.

Miscellaneous.

1. The above papers will be communicated to the Acting Collector of the Kistna District, who will make it generally known in the localities indicated by Major Applegath that rewards will be given for information leading to the discovery of any deposit of coal. The Government are not satisfied from Mr. Thornhill's letter of 27th February last, that this has yet been done, and they consider that this method of employing the sum placed at the Collector's disposal is more likely to produce some practical result than that suggested by Major Applegath.

2. The Government trust that ere long the question may be investigated on the spot by some competent member of the Geological Survey.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Collector of Kistna District.
,, the Superintendent Geological Survey of India.
,, Major Applegath.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Ezd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1482.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 3rd July 1867.

Read the following

papers.

From Major F. Applegath
Offering remarks on
Mr Stuart's description of the country
around Suggiaetta in the Kistna
District with reference to the
supposed existence of coal and
requesting the support of Govt.
towards the investigation of this
important subject.

Here enter 12th June 67

From Mr. Medlicott 25th Sep 68
Forwarding copy of
a memorandum upon Mr Stuart's
report regarding researches for
coal in the Kistna District.

" 13th June 67

W.D.

The above papers
will be communicated to
the Mining Collector of the
Kistna District who will
make it generally known
in the localities indicated
by Major Applegath that
rewards will be given.

for information leading
to the discovery of any de-
posit of coal. . . .
The Government
are not satisfied from Mr.
Shanley's letter of 27th

February last that this
has yet been done, and they
consider that this method
of employing the sum
placed at the collector's
disposal is more likely to
produce some practical
result than that suggested
by Major Applegarth.

The Government
trust that ere long the
question may be investigated
on the spot by some com-
petent member of the
Geological Survey.

[Signature]

1 Copy Letter to Major Applegarth 24th
1 do. to the Geographical Survey of India
1 do. to Major Applegarth
11 Copies to the Secy of the Govt

Reported to England
21/11/44. On or about 24/3 of 1948

Chair

Mar 4 97.458

31/3/67

Received 18/6/44 Debit
to of Court from July

18/6/44 82

No. of the National Court
8/3/44 July/67

on 11/11/44

to Court on 11/11/44 from
reception of 11/11/44 and
Superintendent Geo.
Logical Survey as well
to his opening towards
for information on
the subject of 11/11/44
existence of coal in
National District.

11/11/44