M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 296 Press Mis.

25-26

Dated 2-2- 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 296

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd February 1867.

No. 25. Read the following letter from the Superintendent Geological Survey of India, to the Secretary to Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 9th January 1867, No. 549 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your docket No. 251, dated 14th December, referring to me an extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, relative to a Memorial from Major F. Applegath, dated 27th August 1866, and requesting me to favor the Government with my views on the subject.

2. In reply, I would beg to submit that the reported existence of coal in the lower part of the valley of the Kistna has not now come before me for the first time. Years since the same statements were made, and on every occasion since then, on which it was practicable, I have taken the opportunity to procure specimens of the rocks, and any further information regarding the district referred to.

3. So far as anything is known of the geological structure of that part of the country, the evidence went strongly to disprove the existence of coal bearing rocks there. This, *a priori* conviction, was strengthened by every specimen I have ever seen of the rocks, in which I could find no resemblance to such rocks as accompany coal in India.

4. I would add, too, that if "burnt out crops" do exist, as supposed by Major Applegath, they are particularly easy of recognition, and that it is extremely improbable that coal occurs there in any quantity, without shewing itself somewhere at the surface.

5. Major Applegath recommends boring. To put down borings, however, at random, seems to me both a very costly, and, I must add, a very useless procedure. Major Applegath states that he has himself not only found detached pieces of coal, which might have been brought from a distance, but he repeats it in two places, that he has "quarried the coal which he burnt." It would appear only reasonable to expect that this Officer should be able to shew where he had quarried the coal, and the expenditure of very few Rupees, not one-hundredth part of what borings would cost, would in a few hours prove the existence or non-existence of any bed of coal.

6. My own conviction, from the most careful enquiry and examination of all the specimens I could get access to, was so strong, that coal in any workable bed did not exist in this part of the valley of the Kistna, that I have not up to the present considered myself justified in diverting, from the systematic progress of the Geological Survey, any of the staff for the special examination of the Kistna. As it is, however, highly desirable to set at rest all such reiterated statements, and to determine whether they be, as I anticipate, based on some misunderstood resemblances, in color, &c., of the rocks, or whether they be, as I sincerely hope they may be, entirely supported by facts, I have now made arrangements that this part of the country should be visited, if not this season, certainly next working season, by one of the staff of the Geological Survey (possibly myself), who is familiar with the coal rocks of India.

7. Meanwhile, I do not think there is anything to justify the expenditure which would be incurred by boring, which would in all probability be mere waste of time and money. I would suggest, in preference, that small rewards be offered

to the inhabitants of the place, to induce them to make known any deposits of coal, which, if they really occur, they are certain to be familiar with.

8. As the entire staff of the Survey have, for some time past, been engaged in the field, each on their own allotted work, it may not be practicable to visit the Kistna for a little time, but I would solicit that if Major Applegath can be spared, he may be permitted to visit the localities with the Geological Surveyor, and to point out what he considers such favorable indications as to lead to the very sanguine anticipations he has formed.

9. I shall have the honor of communicating with you again, when I shall be able to state, with more certainty, the probable time of such visit.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1867, No. 296.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be communicated to Major Applegath and to the Collector of the Kistna District with copy of the Proceedings of Government under reply.

2. The Government will arrange for Major Applegath accompanying the Geological Surveyor, as requested by Mr. Oldham, so soon as they are informed when the exploration will be made.

3. Meanwhile, the Government resolve to place the sum of 500 Rupees at the disposal of the Collector for distribution in rewards for information, as suggested by Mr. Oldham, and request that gentleman to communicate with Mr. Thornhill as to the best means of employing the money usefully for the object in view.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To Major Applegath.
,, G. Thornhill, Esq., Collector of Kistna District.
,, T. Oldham, Esq., Superintendent Geological Survey of India.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2

Meanwhile I do not think there is any thing to justify the ..... expenditure which would be incurred by boring,- which would in all probability be mere waste of time and money. I would suggest in preference that small rewards be offered to the inhabitants of the place,- to induce them to make known any deposits of Coal, which, if they really occur, they are certain to be familiar with.-

As the entire Staff of the Survey have for some time past been engaged in the field, each on their own allotted work,- it may not be practicable to visit the Kistna for a little time,- but I would solicit that if Major Applegath can be spared he may be permitted to visit the localities with the Geological Surveyor, and to point out what he considers such favorable indications as to lead to the very sanguine anticipations he has formed.

I shall have the honor of communicating with you again, when I shall be able to state with more certainty, the probable time of such visit.-

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed^t Servant
T. Oldham
Sup^t Geol Survey of India

To
Col. Thornhill
Kistna

Ro. 14 Dec 1866 Nos 250 & 257

Reported to England
Dy 17th March No 13 of 1865
Mis:

A. 25 & 26

Revenue 1867 Sept
Pro of Govt for February
No 197

Drafted under
order in Council
29.1.67. L.K.

From
Thomas Oldham
Esqre Supt Geo-
logical Survey
of India

No 296 dd 7 February

Dated 9th January
Received 22nd 1867

No 5 Rev
No 296 dd 7th Feby 67

Submitting his views on Major Applegath's Memorial relative to the existence of coal in the lower part of the valley of the Kistna, and requesting that Major Applegath may be permitted to accompany the Geological Surveyor who will visit that part of the country for which he has made arrangements.

L

Read Memorial
of Major Applegath &c.
to the Govt of the Kistna &c. with
copy of the Govt of Ind. under reply.

The Govt with arrange
for Major Applegath accompanying the
Geological Surveyor as suggested
by Mr Oldham. Lo communicate
can be found within the Presidency
tion will be made.

Forwarded to the Govt
Madras & please the terms
for Standard Engines & the
disposal of the Govt proprietors
in Steam Vessels in Ind as suggested
by Mr Oldham & request that
Government will communicate
to Mr Howlett as to the
best means of employing
the Survey Vessels for the
object in view.

2nd Feby 67.

Read to Council
Major Applegath &c.
Govt of the Kistna &c.
copy of the Govt of Ind. under reply.
Govt with arrange
Major Applegath accompanying the
Surveyor as suggested
Oldham. Lo communicate
found within the Presidency
will be made.
Forwarded to the Govt
Madras & please the terms
Standard Engines & the
of the Govt proprietors
Steam Vessels in Ind as suggested
Oldham & request that
Government will communicate
Mr Howlett as to the
means of employing
Survey Vessels for the
in view.
2nd Feby 67.