Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1426

DATED 15th March

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm.ᵍ to the B.ᵈ of Rev. letter from the Govt. of India requesting to be favored with a report of the action which is being taken to provide the land commissariat of Headside asked for on behalf of Messrs W. Sugg. & Co &c.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
I.C.	2916 of 97						

Secy Govt 15/3/97

Order mis No: 1426 dy 15th March 1897

Communicated to the Board of Revenue in continuation of G.O. mis, dated 16th Jany 97.

2. The Govt has not yet received information as to whether the trial consignment of steatite asked for on behalf of Messrs Sugg & Co has been got ready and if so, whether the Middlemiss has inspected it. The Board is requested to ascertain and report if there is any local trader who would be willing to enter into arrangement with the firm for the regular supply of steatite.

To The Board of Revenue (RS) with one en

From The Govt of India Dept of Rev & Agrc

A.S.P.

Verify reference

No. 507 dated 13.1.97 21-2

Dated 27th Feb 1897

Received 8th March 1897

Registered 8th March 1897

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Requesting to be favoured with a report of the action which is being taken to provide the trial consignment of steatite asked for on behalf of Messrs W. Sugg & Co. & enquiring whether there are any local merchants who would be willing to enter into correspondence with that firm for the regular supply of the mineral

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
			15-2-97
			14-1-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 14 (Revenue), dated India Office, London, the 21st January 1897.

FILE ... of 1897.
SERIAL No. 1.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 144* (Revenue) of the 19th December 1895, to which no reply has yet been received, I now forward a copy of a further letter from Mr. William Sugg, of the firm of Messrs. William Sugg & Co., in which he states that in consequence of German competition his firm experience considerable difficulty in obtaining supplies of steatite for the manufacture of gas burners, except at prohibitive prices. He again asks that your Government may be moved to place his firm in communication with local merchants and traders able to meet their requirements.

Dated 8th December 1896.

2. I shall be glad if Your Excellency can in any way further the objects which Messrs. Sugg & Co. have in view, as it appears to me possible that a trade in Indian steatite with this country could readily be established if once properly organised. It will be seen that Mr. Sugg has reason to believe that a firm in Austria is actually obtaining supplies of steatite from India.

I have, etc.,
GEORGE HAMILTON.

Dated Westminster, S.W., the 8th December 1896.

From—WILLIAM SUGG, Esq.,
To—The Under-Secretary of State for India.

FOR some years past I have been endeavouring to obtain steatite from India and Burma for the purposes of my business in manufacturing gas burners and other apparatus requiring a very hard fire-resisting substance from which they can be made. I am the only manufacturer of steatite in England, and I believe that in the course of our work during the past 25 years or more we have succeeded in very much improving the working of this material and cheapening the manufacture. Many years ago we could obtain steatite from India of a good and serviceable quality and at fairly low prices, but from the difficulty of getting the supply we were driven to obtain the material from Silesia. The result of not being able to obtain the supply from India is that the German manufacturers have forced up the price so much as almost to make it prohibitive and have within the past year or so endeavoured to crush out our business by combining against us and stopping the supply altogether.

Finding that to be the case I tried to get a supply from Vienna, but the article was not of good quality and the price very high. The Indian Government were good enough to obtain some specimens from various parts of India and we found some of these, obtained we believe, from Madras, very suitable for us, but we have not been able to obtain any quantity from Madras or Burma, although we tried two merchants who promised to send it, but from whom we have received nothing, although we have forwarded samples of the kind we want and offered good prices.

To my astonishment, however, I received from Vienna a few days ago some small samples which I have, from my knowledge of steatite, good reason to believe have come from India.

I enclose pieces of these samples marked F and 5 together with a small burner made from the sample 5 and a part of another burner made from F which being very veiny broke in the manufacture. These two samples are very hard, in fact too hard for working, without injury to the tools, which work at a high speed, *viz.*, about 2,500 revolutions per minute.

But we know that steatite is always somewhat variable in its quality—the best is soft as ivory in its natural state, but when manufactured into shape and fired at a high temperature 2,000° Fahr. it becomes harder than the hardest steel. Its use in commerce would be very great as for example for Electric Insulators, etc., besides gas burners, if it could be got at about £5 or £6 per ton delivered in London. India has certainly an inexhaustible supply of the best quality, and its value on the spot is practically *nil*.

I conclude my letter by asking if the Indian Government could put me in communication with a merchant or trader out in Madras or elsewhere who would get a quantity of 5 or 10 tons picked out—for which we would pay on delivery here or at docks—and sent to me so that, if good, which I think it will be, I might arrange for a continuous supply. The quantity at first would reach about 100 tons per annum, but if we were assured of a good supply at fair prices I am sure the trade would rapidly develop. We must always count upon some considerable amount of waste, probably from 25 to 30 per cent., but the price we could afford to pay if nearly the whole consignment was of good quality, would of course be better in proportion to the reduction of waste.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1512 R. & A.—1-3-97.—25.—J. N. D.

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FILE No. 21
OF 1897.

SERIAL No. 2.

1897.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. $\frac{507}{21-2}$.

Dated Calcutta, the 27th February 1897.

SUBJECT.

SUPPLY of steatite to Messrs. W. Sugg & Co.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1511 R. & A.—1-3-97.—66.—J. N. D.

No. $\frac{507}{21-2}$.

28 MAR 97

FROM

F. G. SLY, ESQ., C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
Geology and Minerals.
7 MAR
UNDER SECRETARIAT
27 MAR 7
PUBLIC (T) DEPT.

Dated Calcutta, the 27th February 1897.

SIR,

20 20 94
5-3-97

IN continuation of my letter No. 462—2-2, dated the 18th February 1896, I am directed to forward a further despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 14 (Revenue), dated the 21st January 1897, enclosing a letter from Mr. William Sugg, of the firm of Messrs. W. Sugg & Co., who represents the difficulties experienced by his firm in obtaining supplies of steatite for the manufacture of gas burners.

2. I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, the Government of India may be favoured with a report, for the information of the Secretary of State, of the action which is being taken to provide the trial consignment of steatite, asked for on behalf of Messrs. Sugg & Co. in His Lordship's Despatch No. 144 (Rev.), dated 19th December 1895, and that it may also be ascertained and reported whether there are any local merchants who would be willing to enter into correspondence with that firm for the regular supply of the mineral.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

F G Sly.

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.