$\frac{O}{9}$ 3,000—5-6-98.

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3210

DATED 2nd August 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communication to the Govt of Ceylon letter from the Secretary of State forwarding Copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State forwarding Copy of Correspondence with reference to the appointment of the Commissioner of Lands to inquire into the results of the Land Settlement

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
5th Feby 98		Ex. & Jud.	2 Dec 97				

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18 4,000—12-7-97.

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1096

Dy 4/2/98

From

The Government of India
Rev. & Agric. Dept.

Order/Issue No. 3210 dated 2nd August 1898

Communicating to the

Board of Revenue.

No. 11995-11-6

Dy 4/2/98

Dated 4 July

Received 12 "

Registered 12 "

Enclosures /

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for information a copy of Govt. letter No. 1 dated 1st Dec. 1897 forwarding a copy of a correspondence with Messrs. Begg &c. on the subject recently forwarded by the Board to Govt.

To the Board of Revenue C.R. dated 4th July 1898

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

India Office,
London, 26th May 1898.

Revenue,
No. 90.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor General of India in Council.

My Lord,

Supply of Steatite to Messrs. Sugg.

With reference to previous correspondence, ending with your letter No. 56 (Revenue and Agriculture—Geology and Minerals), of the 10th March last, regarding the supply of Indian Steatite to Messrs. William Sugg and Company, I now forward a copy of a correspondence* with Messrs. Sugg from which your Excellency will observe that the Steatite recently forwarded by the Madras Government has proved to have been badly selected, only about 2 per cent. of the material being fit for the purpose for which it was required. Under the circumstances I have decided that Messrs. Sugg and Company should not be asked to repay the cost of its collection and despatch to England.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed.) George Hamilton.

* Messrs. Sugg to India Office, dated 22nd April 1898.
India Office to Messrs. Sugg, dated 10th May 1898.
Messrs. Sugg to India Office, 11th May 1898.

ENCLOSURES.

No 1.

Vincent Works, Regency Street, Westminster,
Sir, 22nd April 1898.

With reference to previous correspondence with your Department, we beg to inform you that we have now examined the whole consignment of steatite (17 tons) received from Madras on the 20th of January last, separately piece by piece. Almost the whole of the consignment turns out to be utterly bad. This work involved a good deal of labour which could only be done when we had fine weather, and that is the cause of my not being able to send you the report earlier.

Out of the whole consignment we have only succeeded in getting a very small quantity, viz., about 2 per cent. of good stuff, which proves that the steatite we want is actually to be found at the place from whence this consignment was taken. The only thing which has led to this bad result is, that no care seems to have been taken in collecting the stuff, to ascertain whether it was fit for sending or not. It should have been tried with a knife or chisel, as we have constantly explained, each piece by itself, previously to its being sent, then we should have avoided the expense of transport of unsuitable stuff, not at all in accordance with the sample that we sent out for their guidance.

I am much disappointed with the result of this shipment. I feel that the Indian Government has taken a great deal of trouble to ensure getting the quality of steatite required, and have actually found it, but it appears to be only the carelessness of the natives in selecting the right material that has led to this unsuccessful result.

The steatite of which I complain is flinty, and has pyrites in large quantities. In cutting, it sparks and destroys the edges of the saw, and when worked in our lathes it removes the edge of the tools at once. I forward with this report some of the good steatite and some of the bad.

The good stuff which I have found fortunately amongst this consignment is exactly what we want, and of excellent quality equal to any we have ever obtained from Germany, but is unfortunately only about 2 per cent. of the bulk.

I send with this report samples of burners made from the good stuff, and samples from the bad stuff of which I complain.

I am sure that if care is taken in the selection so that we did not have such an enormous amount of waste, we should be able to give a higher price for the selected article. We are quite certain, as I have said in my former letters, that it will be next to impossible to prevent getting some bad steatite in a consignment, but when we have such a large percentage as we have received, it brings the price of the small quantity of good steatite above what we could possibly pay. There can be no manner of doubt, as you will see by the samples which I send you, that there is really good and proper steatite to be obtained from the place from which this particular consignment was taken. The sooner we can get a consignment of good material the quicker we shall be able to make progress in the use of it, and so start a trade in it.

We may mention also, that a certain portion of it, not inconsiderable, is so small that it is useless for any purpose and ought not to have been sent.

We should be glad to be informed of the charges we have to pay for the consignment the Government of Madras have been good enough to

send to us, and as the consignment examined proves that steatite of the kind we require exists in Madras, we should like to receive as early as possible 10 tons of similar quality to the sample marked A. sent with this letter.

I propose, in order to avoid the sending of steatite not suitable for our purposes, and thus as much as possible to avoid the loss thereby incurred, to have the steatite sent to us sawn up into blocks of the size or not less than half the size of the piece of wood which I sent with this letter. By this means if the miners come across a piece with pyrites in it, they will at once discover it and not send it. We do not expect, even with these precautions, that we shall obtain all of the blocks good, but the greater portion will be certain to be good. The extra expense of picking and sawing it up we should be quite willing to pay. Being sawn into blocks, it will pack better and be less likely to be broken in transport. We should not, however, expect that the blocks would be quite so accurately cut as the model, but we should like them to be as near to this as they can cut them with their hand saws. I have marked across the model wooden block the size of the piece the smallest which should be sent.

We beg to thank the Indian Government for the great trouble they have already taken in the matter, and feel sure that success will attend on a little more care in the picking of this stuff.

We have, &c.,
WILLIAM SUGG,
Managing Director.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

No. 2.

R. & S. 928. India Office,
Sir, 10th May 1898.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd April, reporting on the 17 tons of steatite sent to you, at your request, by the Government of Madras in January last, and to express regret that so small a proportion of the consignment received has been found suitable for the purpose for which it was intended. It would certainly appear from your report that steatite of the quality required exists in Madras, and it is suggested that you should now avail yourselves of the services of the agency the Government of Madras have arranged, and obtain the further supplies of steatite you desire directly from the native traders of Kurnool through Messrs. Woodroffe and Company.

With reference to the charges incurred in the collection and forwarding to your address of the 17 tons of steatite already supplied, amounting to a sum of 75*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, I am to state that as the consignment "has not turned out well, the Secretary of State will not ask you "to repay the cost thereof; but, as good or even excellent steatite has "been proved to exist in Kurnool, he hopes that your firm may be able "to establish there a steatite industry through the local agency "indicated."

I am, &c.,
A. GODLEY.

William Sugg, Esq.

No. 3.

Vincent Works, Regency Street, Westminster,
Dear Sir, 11th May 1898.

We are directed by Mr. Sugg to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favour of the 10th instant, and agreeably with your request he will immediately put himself in communication with Messrs. Gordon Woodroffe & Co. in order to obtain further supplies of steatite from India.

Mr. Sugg is pleased to learn that the Secretary of State for India has kindly decided not to ask him to reimburse the cost of the consignment because it did not turn out well, and to say that he is very much obliged for all the courtesy and kindness extended to him over this transaction.

We have, &c,
W. S. BROWN, Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

No. 1777-17-6.

FROM

E. MACONOCHIE, Esq., I.C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

OFFICE SECRETARIAT
11 JUL 1898
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Simla, *the* 4th July 1898.

Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
(Geology and Minerals)

SIR,

With reference to the correspondence ending with the Honourable Mr. Forbes' letter No. 888. A dated 21st February 1898, I am directed to forward, for information, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 90, dated 26th May 1898, and enclosures, and to state that the Director of the Geological Survey has been asked whether the consignment of Steatite forwarded to Messrs Sugg and Company was inspected by one of the Officers of the Geological Survey Department, as directed by the Government of India.

Please see G.O. dated 5.9.96 No. 940

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

E. Maconochie

Under-Secretary.

B. B. D.

Please see the G.I. letter in G.O. No 64: 24 dy 15.12.97.

Letter from the Govt of India
No 1777-17-6 dy 4.7.1898
(C. No 4890)

To the Under Secy :-

The Govt of India forwards with its letter read above a despatch from the Secy of State in which he states that the steamship forwarded to Messrs Keff and Co in November last has proved to have been badly selected only about 2 p.c. of the material having been found fit for the purpose for which it was required and that in these circumstances he has decided that Messrs Keff & Co should not be asked to repay the cost of its collection and despatch to England which it will be seen from the statement attached with G.O. No 888 dy 21.2.98 amounted to Rs 1139-4-10.

2. In requesting the issue of the necessary instructions for the collection and despatch of the steamship the Govt of India state that the Director Geological

Survey

C.

G.O. No 940 dy 5.8.98

C 2617/98

Survey dep.t would be asked to instruct an officer of his dep.t to inspect the consignment before despatch. In his letter no 585 of 5. 3. 96 the Director Geological Survey stated that he had instructed Mr Middlemiss to inspect the consignment and the Board of Revenue was also duly requested in G. O. no 1191 of 24. 3. 96 & price intimation to Mr Middlemiss so that he may have an opportunity of inspecting the consignment before its transmission to England.

3. The work of collection was entrusted to a contractor and on intimation that 28 tons had been collected Mr Middlemiss on inspection reported as follows:-

I am ... of opinion from information received at Betumcherla that the contractor either through ignorance or carelessness has done his work extremely badly. The blocks extracted from the mine should have been drawn into

cubes

G. O. no 1191 of 24. 3. 96

G. O. no 1856 of 6. 4. 96

Mr Middlemiss was ordered by the Bd to inspect the Steatite selected but it is not clear whether he did so: Vide Bd's 1668 of 16/6 in G.O. 1856 of 6. Apr 97 (G)

G. I. letter in G.O. no 6434 15. 12. 97

B

Memo
No 64:

3

cubes immediately they were obtained and the whole packed in cases or crates. As it is, the stuff has been picked out apparently by unskilled labour in an entirely unsystematic way and discharged like so much rubbish into a godown where it lies like a mixed heap. It is evident that a valuable mineral like steatite requires some skill in extraction not possessed by the natives of the locality who have done their best to evolve what might have become a promising trade".

The above mentioned recommended that a selection of 15 tons of the best fragments might be made and despatched.

4. Accordingly a selection was made and despatched to Messrs Jugjee on the 8th November last and enquiry was made of the Govt of India as to how the charges incurred in the collection and despatch of the steatite are to be met. In its letter no 43-21 the Govt of India stated that

the

the cost incurred presumably be recovered from the firms and requested that information might be supplied as to the details of the total cost. This requisition was complied with in the letter to India No 888 A dy 21. 2. 98.

5. It is presumed that no action is now necessary beyond communicating the decision of the Secy of State to the Board of Revenue. The Govt of India has asked the Director Geological Survey to report whether the consignment was inspected by one of the officers of the Geol Survey.

Kay
24/7/98

Secy

Messrs Griffiths have been told by the Secy of State to get further consignments. Messrs Gordon Woodroffe & Co were told nothing more had to be done by this Govt. The total cost of the stuff sent was Rs 1129-0-0. Of this, Rs 298-5-8 was

In G.O. No 502 dy 31.1.98

Ex. 888 dy 1.2.98 Kay C

28.7.98

paid to the contractor the rest being by freight cartage packing & freight to England.

It seems hardly worthwhile trying to try & recover anything from the contractor.

Ille
25/7/98

H.M.

There is nothing to be done but communicate the correspondence to the Board.

If there has been any negligence on the part of Middlemiss the Govt of India will presumably deal with it, as they have called on the Director of the Geol. Survey to report.

The ~~Director~~ papers are sent for H.M.'s perusal. H.B. will also like to see.

H.H. 26/7/98

When given for copying ____
When copied ____ } 189 .
When examined ____
When signed ____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING WANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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