

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 181-182.

Dated 25th March

[Despatch Abstract.]

Unwired Iron ores

Stating that the Govt. will not press for the immediate investigation of the —, nor for the early inspection of the mica mines in Nellore; and requesting the Director, Geological Survey of India, to be good enough to state whether the survey of the South Canara district has been completed by Mr. Holl and and, if so, to furnish this Govt. with a copy of that officer's report on the subject.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Department.	Date.	No.	Department.	Date.

FORWARD PAPERS.

No.	Department.	Date.	No.	Department.	Date.
CNo 3097/98 S.O. 1875 Ad 28488					

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18 4,000 19-7-97.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 10085.

Order

From

The offy Director,
Geological Survey of India
Calcutta.

No. 1205.

Dated 16 Novr.

Received 22

Registered 23

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Informing the Govt of Madras
that the programme of employ-
ment of Messrs Middlemiss and
Kellard for the coming season has
been already arranged & sanctioned
and that it would be inconvenient
now to change them.

K.9
25/11

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



No. 1205.

FROM

R. D. OLDHAM, Esq.,
OFFG. DIRECTOR, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,

To

*The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.*

Dated Calcutta, November 16, 1897.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 847, dated the 6th October 1897, I have the honour to inform you that ^{as} the programme of employment of Messrs. Middelmiss and Holland for the coming season has been already arranged and sanctioned, it would be inconvenient now to change them. Apart from this consideration, I would offer the following remarks with regard to the desires expressed in your letter under reply.

2. With regard to the investigation of the Kurnool iron ores I am still of the opinion that it would be advisable to defer this till the experiment of smelting the 300 tons of Salem iron ore, which you have in view, has been tried. I have seen no estimate in which the Madras iron ores were shown to be workable at a profit which did not show some serious omission. It must be remembered that there is probably no industry where competition is so keen and profits cut so close.

as in iron manufacture, and experience has proved that it can only profitably be carried on on a large scale and in places where the natural advantages of cheap fuel, ^{ore} and transport, and proximity to a large market are combined. In these circumstances it is on the face of it improbable that a profitable industry could be established in Madras, but the matter can only be settled by actual trial.

3. On the other hand Mr. Middelmiss expects to be able to complete the survey of the Coimbatore district during the next working season, and it would be more profitable that the examination of the iron ores be postponed till the completion of the work in hand.

At the same time I would point out that it would be of little service for Mr. Middelmiss to be despatched on this investigation unless your Government is prepared to provide or procure for him, assistance in making excavations which would enable samples to be obtained of sufficient size and sufficiently unaffected by weathering to enable a true estimate of the quality and quantity of ore to be made. This assistance might be of the same nature and on the same scale as was rendered in the investigation of the corundum deposits at Palacod in Salem, without an assurance that this will be done I do not feel myself able to submit your proposal to the Government of India with a recommendation that it be adopted.

4.

With regard to your second proposal

my position is totally different. I observe that your Board of revenue have no misgivings as to the existence of mica in quantity, and in this I am in perfect agreement with them. Nor does it appear that they desire the extension of the mica bearing rocks to be surveyed; this too is I consider undesirable as in the absence of better maps than are at present available it would be impossible to make a survey which would be of real service to the mica miners who are probably quite capable of finding the mica bearing rock for themselves.

5. Either of these services would be within the province of the Geological Survey, but it is different with the demand actually made on me, that Mr. Holland be deputed to advise the miners as to how to improve their methods of mining. I am prepared to accept your statement that the methods at present in vogue are crude and wasteful, though it is my experience that methods which appear to be imperfect to the outsider have often some real reason when they are fully investigated. I also believe that Mr. Holland, or any other member of the survey, if deputed to the task and given funds and time, could devise improvements in the methods of working the mica; but I am still more strongly convinced that in such a matter he would not be accepted as an authority by the men actually engaged in the industry. It does not even appear that

any request has been made for assistance or advice, and we may take it as certain that the suggestions made by him would be rejected, if not resented, on the score of his want of experience. For this reason I cannot support the proposal that any member of the Geological Survey should be deputed for the special purpose referred to by you.

6. I have to add that in the orders of the Government of India communicated to this Department there is no mention of Mr. Holland being deputed to the Madras Presidency till the end of 1898, and that in accordance with the scheme drawn up by me last year, he will be employed during the coming working season on the survey of the Province of Coorg.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. B. Oldham

Offg. Director, Geological Survey of India.

(1) H. 14
(2) H. 8. the Governor

Letter No 564 D, 26.6.93. A

* In order to make widely known these mineral products, it is proposed to publish a list of the economic value of the minerals.

* G.O. 3551 D, 25-9-93. H

A separate report has been submitted, which involves the absence of a scientific control.

To conduct a practical inquiry.

G.O. No 987 D, 16.11.93. B

C. 10/10/93
R. 11/10/93
R. 12/10/93
R. 13/10/93

Lead again No. 846.7
C. 10085 of 97

For orders

In 1893, the Govt of India was asked to move the Secretary of State to sanction the appointment of a skilled petrologist on a salary of Rs 800-1000, for five years, to carry out a systematic mineralogical survey of the whole Presidency. It was stated that if the Govt of India should object to pay a moiety of the cost from the Imperial Revenues, the Govt was prepared to bear the whole cost. The Govt of India however, declined to recommend the appointment of a special officer for this Presidency, but asked the Director, Geological Survey of India, to ^{depute} ~~send~~ one of his subordinates ^{at first} ~~for~~ for two ^{seasons} ~~years~~. Mr. Middleton was accordingly came to this Presidency in November 1893 was engaged in the geological survey.

of Salem & Coimbatore till April 1896 when the Govt of India enquired if the preliminary investigation conducted by him justified the deputation of a mining specialist to carry out a thorough practical enquiry. The Govt. answered the query in the affirmative and also informed the Govt of India that the mining specialist, Mr. Anderson who was proposed to be deputed to Madras for a limited period, should primarily confine his attention to the ^{practical} investigation of the corundum areas of Salem and Coimbatore and of the Chro. Mite and other deposits of the Chalk Hills, which had been surveyed by Mr. Middlemiss, and that he should also, if possible inspect and report on the mica mining industry in the Nellore District.

Mr.

As was to work at the corundum deposits in the District.

Letter No 9822-22-3 dt 18.4.96
printed in page 19 of No. 3072
1.8.96 C

Letter No 3073 dt 1.8.96 D.

Exo. 4140 dt 19.10.96 N

& the telegram therein.

also letter from the Govt dt 23.10.96

No 3997 dt 72-11. in page M

of G.O. 4803 dt 25.11.96.

To work under Mr. Middlemiss for one season & then go to Coorg & P. Coorg area

Exo. 3638 dt 11.9.96 G

B.D. in Exo No 1568
22.3.97 H

Report flagged J in

Exo. No 2160 dt 28.4.97

3
Mr. Anderson, the mining specialist ^{however having} subsequently resigned his appointment, the Govt of India, after consulting this Govt. approved of the proposal of the Director Geological Survey, to allow Mr. Middlemiss to continue to work in this Presidency till ~~1897~~ the year 1900, and to depute Mr. Holland also for two years. The work of the practical investigation of the corundum deposits which was intended for the mining specialist was therefore entrusted to Mr. Middlemiss himself, ^{with the Director} and the local Govt. allotted Rs 2000 out of the Provincial funds for expenditure in connection with blasting &c. Mr. Middlemiss ^{was} engaged in trial excavations ^{at Palacod in the Salem} from the 1st November 1896 to the 15th March 1897 and the result was that the cost of extracting

Extracting one cwt. of Corundum
 was found to be Rs 15/-, while
 the market price of the best
 quality was only Rs 4/-
 Mr. Middlemiss, not being
 a specialist, was not aware
 of the cheapest and best
 methods of extracting the
 mineral. He said that
 if the extraction of Corundum
 was attempted on a large
 scale, the adoption of machi-
 nery as a substitute for
 hand work would be a
 desideratum, and he con-
 cluded his report saying
 that samples of the corun-
 dum and matrix would
 be sent to firms in England
 for testing and valuation
 and that if the reports
 be favourable, he would
 make further trial ex-
 tractions at other places.
 The officiating Director of
 Geological Survey, Mr
 Oldham, however, recom-
 mended to this Govt the
 continuance

As reported by Mr. Middlemiss
 & Co. W. - have not heard what
 the price in England is

para 14 of report in page 4

L.O. no 2160 dt 28.4.97 J.

para 2 of his letter in L.O. no
 2586 dt 20.5.97 flagged O.

The Director
 looked at it
 from the scientific
 pt of view.
 He wanted to know - practical
 work - what time in another
 locality

L.O. no 846 dt 6.10.97
 & para 2 of letter no 847 dt 6.10.97

R.

It had been decided that
 Mr. Howard should visit the place
 in 1900.

continuance of the practical
 investigation by Mr Middle-
 miss and added that he
 would send a subordinate
 to assist Mr Middlemiss
 in supervising the operations.
 The Govt, however, could not
 adopt the Director's recom-
 mendation. While reserving
 the expression of a final
 opinion pending the valua-
 tion at home of the sample
 extracted by Mr Middlemiss,
 the Govt arrived at the
 conclusion that the results
 of his experiments did not
 justify the conti-
 nuance of his practical
 investigation; and in
 intimating this fact to
 the Director, certain other
 matters were brought to
 his notice, to which it
 was thought that Mr
 the immediate attention of Messrs
 Middlemiss & Holland
 might be more profit-
 ably directed.

The

first thing was about the
Kurnool iron ores. In
September 1896, the Board
of Revenue observed that
there were other iron fields
in this Presidency, besides
Salem, which required
investigation and referring
specially to Kurnool, where
very large quantity of
charcoal could be had

from the Vallamalai
reserved forests, the
Board recommended that
Mr. Middlemiss might be
asked to collect speci-
mens of the best Kurnool
ores to be sent home to
the Imperial Institute for
analysis similar to those
made of Salem ore.

The Govt thereupon requested
Mr Middlemiss to pay
a visit to Kurnool, collect
specimens of ores found
there & send them home for
analysis (Go 48648, 30.11.96) * S
Mr. Middlemiss first
said

S. B. P. No 1441 in Go 4846
2.11.96 30.11.96

Salem has been
discovered. It is doubtful
whether iron can be
worked & still more so
as regards the conditions
of the

letter in Go 5338
24.12.96 T.

page 38 lag U in the
volume put up.

Said that he would go to
Kurnool in February 1897,
but in the meantime, the
Director, in para 8 of his
annual report for 1896, re-
ferred to the subject as follows:
"An application has
been made by the Govt of
Madras for the examina-
tion of the iron ores of Kur-
nool, but in view of the
report of Mr Jeremiah
Head addressed to Her
Majesty's Secretary of
State for India dated
2nd May 1896, which shows
that there is no possibility
of locally manufactured
charcoal iron competing
with the imported product
all special investigation
of the iron ores of in Madras
would appear to be a waste
of time. In the case of
the iron ores of Kanja
malai, near Salem, it has
been decided to send two
to London for

"trial on a large scale,
 "and until the results of
 "this are known, any special
 "examination of iron ores,
 "apart from what can
 "be done in the course of
 "regular survey, is to be
 "deprecated." Having
 "regard to the opinion thus
 "expressed by the Director,
 "Mr Middlemiss addressed a
 "letter to this Govt in March
 "1896 in which he said that
 "he had no opportunity of
 "going to Kurnool during the
 "past season, & that such
 "a proceeding would have
 "been inadvisable, as the
 "Director was against such a
 "course. The Govt of India
 "however, having in their
 "review of the Director's
 "report, remarked that
 "the statement in the
 "Report that all special
 "investigation of these
 "ores would be a waste
 "of time is premature,

I think Mr Middlemiss's
 memorandum at all conclusions, but
 I agree that we did arrest the course
 of the trial before doing more work
 regard to iron ores

x flag V in G.O. No 1747
 1.4.97

para 3 in page 2 of

Resolution
 Approved in G.O. No 1380
 11.3.97 W.

B.P. No 1428 of 14.4.97. V

in G.O. No 2387 of 12.5.97.

Paras 9 & 15 of B.P. in

G.O. No 221 of 30.3.97. Z

B.P. in G.O. No 2578

20.5.97

Illus. A

"as the subject is still un-
 "der enquiry," the Board
 of Revenue drew Mr Middle-
 miss's attention to this fact
 and also urged the importance
 of the speedy investigation
 of the Kurnool iron ore, in
 connection with the determina-
 tion of the question of working
 the practicality of working
 it with Barakur Coke. The
 Board was of opinion that
 if the Kurnool haematite
 iron ore was found to be
 satisfactory both as regards
 quantity and
 quality, it would be possible
 to find a suitable site
 at Berwada, which would
 be an important conver-
 gent railway site, with
 short canal communica-
 tion to the port of Masul-
 patam.

Mr. Middlemiss thereupon
 agreed with the Board of Rev-
 enue and said that he would
 give a report on the

Kurnool by the 15th June 97.

The Director however, to whom, he applied for permission, did not let him go but on the other hand blamed him for having ^{interfered} with the Govt & expressed his opinion on a matter which involved a change in the sanctioned and proposed programme of the Deptt.

The Hon^{ble} Mr. Sturrock then proposed in a. do. that the Govt of India should be addressed, and he added that if the question of the feasibility of working Indian ore with Barakar Coke was to be determined, it was important that ore supposed to be valuable and lying near the coal field than Salem should be thoroughly examined. The Director's attention

there was drawn

10
letter in BP No 1836 B,
19.5.97
in Ex. No 846 dt 6.10.97

D.O. No 104, flagged C,
in Ex. No 846
6.10.97

11
R.

this point in letter No 847 dt 6.10.97 and he was requested to depute Mr Middlemiss as early as possible to investigate the iron ores of the Kurnool District and also to aid in getting out some of the ore, if necessary.

In the Current read above, the Director has declined to comply with this request.

He says that it would be inconvenient to change the programme of employment which has already been settled, and that in his opinion, it would be advisable to defer the investigation of the Kurnool ore till the experiment of smelting the 300 tons of Salem ore has been tried. He however adds further on, that Mr Middlemiss expects to Cor. 14.10.97 to the Director.

Coimbatore District during
the next working season.
(15th June to the 15th Sep^r.
1898). it would be more
profitable that the exa-
mination of the iron ores
be postponed till then,
and that he would ^{then} be able
to recommend to the
Govt of India, the deputa-
tion of Mr Middlemiss
to Kurnool, provided he
is assured ^{by the Govt} that assistance
of the same scale as ~~that~~
was given in this course of
the trial excavations
at Palacod in the Salem
District, would be rendered
to him while in Kurnool.
As already stated, it has
been arranged that Mr
Middlemiss should work
in this Presidency till the
year 1900. & if he finishes
the ~~Geo~~ Survey of Coimbatore
by September next, there
will be still two years
of his time available for

Whether it is more profitable
or not is a matter of opinion. I
don't make a mere opinion
contrary ^{was O L Harris} and
carry weight into the Govt.

This must be considered ^{exp}
of course. ^{25 49H}

He will finish the out-door
work there, but the in-door work
won't be finished much before
the end of the season
20

other work. ~~As doubt the~~
~~practical investigation of~~
~~the Coimbatore deposits which~~
~~was conducted from 15th Novem.~~
~~ber 96 to the 15th March~~
~~1897 has ceased, but Mr~~
~~Middlemiss is now evident~~
~~Continuing, purely~~
~~ly, his Geological survey,~~
~~which is perhaps the legiti-~~
~~mate work in the Dept.~~
It is for consideration whether
the proposal reluctantly made
by the Director to depute
Mr Middlemiss to Kurnool
after the completion of the
Survey of ^{the} Coimbatore Dis-
trict, may be accepted &
the Director told that the
necessary assistance will
be given to Mr Middlemiss,
or whether the Govt of
India should be addressed
at once in view to Mr
Middlemiss being sent
to Kurnool during the
next field season (i.e.
15th June to 15th Septem-
ber.)

The

The second matter was
the inspection of the mica
mining industry in Nellore.

When the Board of Revenue
was asked to sketch out
a detailed programme of
work for the mining specialist.

Mr. Anderson, who was ex-
pected in 1896. the Board

of Revenue observed among
other things that it would

be well if Mr. Anderson

could arrange to inspect

and report on the mica

mining industry in the

Nellore District & also.

remarked as follows: — "The

"industry is one of daily

"increasing importance,

"as the demands for mica

"for electrical purposes are

"great and growing, and

"Mr. Anderson might be

"able to give suggestions

"both as to the conduct of

"mining operations and

"also as to places in which

"they might be conducted

"to the advantage. Suggestions

from

14
para 4 of B.P. No 31163, 24.6.96
in page 5 (flag #1) of Co
no 3072 of 1.8.96.

15
G.O. no 3072
1.8.96 H,

para 2 of B.P. No 1798
10.3.97 J,

in G.O. 2816 of 3.6.97.

"from him would be valuable
"which would tend to the
"more economical working
"of the mica mines, having
"special regard to reduction
"of waste in the process of
"extraction and tumming
"Any process by which mi-
"neral waste could be rendered
"useful for electrical ^{or other} ~~pur-~~
"poses should be brought
"to notice." The Govt.
also approved of the Board's
view and included the
work of inspection of the
mica mines in the program-
me of work to be done by Mr.
Anderson. The latter however
having resigned his appoint-
ment under the Govt of India
the Board asked Mr. Middle-
miss whose term of deputacy
to this Presidency was extended
till 1900, to report what
arrangements he had made
to inspect the mica mining
industry. Mr. Middle-
miss, however, said that

for
work

The proposed for Mr Anderson
th did not necessarily devolve
N on him & that the sanction
of the Director was necessary
to his leaving the District
of Salem or Coimbatore
wherein he was primarily
engaged. ~~When~~ These facts
having been brought to the notice of
Govt., the Director, Geolo-
gical Survey of India, was
told that the inspection
and advice of an expert
would greatly correct and
improve the crude and
wasteful methods in which
mining operations for mica
are at present conducted
in that District, and
that as Mr. Holland
appeared to be particu-
larly well qualified for
the work, by reason of his
previous acquaintance
with the district and his
practical knowledge of
mica, its uses, and the general
requirements of the market,
the

16
para 2 of letter in B.P. No
3151 dt 5.5.97 flag O, in
B.O. No 2816 dt 3.6.97.

para 4 of letter No 847 R.
6.10.87

17
Director was informed that
opportunities should, if
possible, be taken to
utilize Mr Holland's
services during the cold
season of 1887-88.

The Director however, says
that he cannot support the
proposal to depute an officer
of the Geological Survey Dept.
for the purpose & he gives
his reasons as follows:-

"I observe that the
"Board of Revenue have no
"misgivings as to the existence
"of mica in quantity, and
"in this I am in perfect agree-
"ment with ~~both~~ them. Nor
"does it appear that they
"desire the extension of the
"mica-bearing rocks to be
"surveyed; this too is I con-
"sider undesirable as in
"the absence of better maps
"then are at present avail-
"able it would be impossible
"to make a survey which
"would be of real service
to

to the mica miners, who
 are probably quite capable
 of finding the mica bear-
 ing rock for themselves.
 Each of these services
 would be within the pro-
 vince of the Geological
 Survey, but it is different
 with the demand actually
 made on me, that Mr
 Holland be deputed to
 advise the miners as to
 how to improve the methods
 of mining. I am prepared
 to accept your state-
 ment that the methods
 at present in vogue are
 crude and wasteful, though
 it is my experience that
 methods which appear to
 be imperfect to the out-
 siders have often some
 real reason when they
 are fully investigated.
 I also believe that Mr
 Holland or any other
 member of the Survey
 if deputed to the task
 and

Mr Holland had special
 qualifications as Mr. Medd
 has not. He is a geologist,
 a mining expert.

He is not here. Mr.
 Holland was here with Mr.
 Middlemiss during the
 working season of 97/98 &
 then proceeded to the Survey.
 He was in the Survey about
 then but because of the
 proposed survey of Scammon?

49
 and given funds, could
 devise improvements in
 the methods of working the
 mica, but I am still
 more strongly convinced
 that in such a matter he
 would not be accepted
 as an authority by the
 men actually engaged
 in the industry. It does
 not even appear that any
 request has been made
 for advice assistance or
 advice, and we may
 take it as certain that the
 suggestions made by him
 would be rejected, if pre-
 sented, on the score of
 "want of experience."

The Director also adds that
 Mr Holland has not been
 deputed to this Presidency
 till the end of 1898 and that
 he would be engaged in the
 Survey of Coorg during the
 next working season (probably
 June to September).

It appears that the Dir-
 has

20
misunderstood of the object
of Mr Holland's mission in
Mysore. ~~It is that Mr Holland~~
is expected to do is to inspect
the ^{Mica} Mines in the District &
to submit a report to Govt
embodying the results of his
inspection & the suggestions he
would make to improve the
~~existing~~ methods now adopted.
i.e. The Govt. will give
wide publicity to ~~the~~
the reports and it cannot
be that the people now
engaged in the mining opera-
tions would ~~therefore~~
take no heed of the instruc-
tions given or suggestions
made, because Mr Holland
has no experience; as the
Director says.

It is therefore a matter
for consideration whether
the Govt of India should
not be addressed on the
subject, & asked to depute
a specialist in Mica if
possible.

Lastly,

21
B. in No. 11987
16.11.93.

Report in pages 3-4 of No
113 3072871. 8.96. Q.

Lastly, the general question
of mineralogical investiga-
tion in this Presidency seems
to deserve consideration.
It will be seen that Mr.
Middlemiss who came to the
Presidency in November 1893
is still engaged in the
geological survey of
Coimbatore & Salem & that
he would be kept on in Coim-
batore till the end of the next
working season. There are
~~several~~ several other Districts
~~to be surveyed~~ besides Cuddapah & North
Arcot ^{where} to which specially
mentioned in para 4 of Dr
King's letter No 48, 10.10.93.
Moreover, several Mineral
occurrences ^(besides Corundum) which have been
surveyed by Mr Middle-
miss require practical
investigation before their
economic value can be
known. Mr Middlemiss
will have perhaps some
two years after finishing
Coimbatore, but it is
extremely

Extremely doubtful if all
the work that remains to
be done ^{could be done} by him during that
period. ~~It is therefore~~
~~submitted that the Director~~
~~may be asked to give a~~
~~programme of the work~~
~~which is proposed ^{for} to him~~
~~by Mr. Middlemiss before~~
~~he leaves the Presidency,~~
~~so that, such representa-~~
~~tions may be made in~~
~~time to include ^{in the programme} such of~~
~~the investigations as this~~
~~Dept may wish to be taken~~
~~up during that period.~~

Improbable
27
5.15

No doubt he will report at
me
27 5.15

It is also submitted that
Mr. Middlemiss may be
~~asked~~ asked to state if the
reports of the English firms
on the valuation & testing of
the samples sent have been
received.

M
12/2/98. Secy

Please see note
appended below

Wm
20/2/98

23

The current is the reply of the
Director of the Geological Survey of
India to our letter No. 847 dated 6-10-97
(Fl. R.)

A precis of the previous history
of the subject is given in G.O.No. 846 d/
6-10-97 page 12. (Flagged Q.)

It will be seen that the origi-
nal idea put forward by this Govt in its
letter No. 564 dated 26th June 1893 flagged
A was that a special officer should make
a systematic mineralogical survey of the
whole Presidency with a view to the dis-
covery and allocation of those mineral
deposits which would ^{be} likely to prove of
economic value. It was thought at the
time that such a survey could be complet-
ed in five years, three months being
given to each District.

The Govt of India negated the
proposal to employ a specialist indepen-
dent of the Geological Survey Department.
They recognised however the importance of

a practical enquiry conducted by a qualified officer of the Geological Survey Dept.

Under the advice of Dr. King, the then Director of that Dept., it was decided that the officer deputed to Madras should first take up for investigation the Corundum deposits of Salem.

The results of Mr. Middlemiss' labours (Mr. Middlemiss was the officer deputed) have been pronounced by Govt to be not very promising. Apparently the corundum examined and surveyed by him cannot be worked at a profit. At all events the results are not sufficiently promising to justify his spending further time over corundum. This Govt therefore suggested to the Director the two most promising fields in the Presidency for Mr. Middlemiss to work upon.

The first is the iron Kurnool iron fields. The iron deposits of Salem have been thoroughly examined and are well known. Those of Kurnool are not. Should they prove on examination to be as rich and as extensive as those of Salem it is clear that the prospects of establishing

74yB

40.846 & 6.10.87 R

letter 8.7.86 to 10.87 R

This is a very doubtful point in the calculation of the expense depending on it does on the distance of the iron pits from the railway?

ASH

+ Yes, they wd be brighter; but it is obviously best to await the report of the trial of Salem on the Indian coal now being made in England before undertaking the investigation.

ASH

Not purely. A thorough geological survey of the country will reveal many points of economic interest

25
ASH

25
establishing an iron industry in India could be much brighter owing to the greater proximity of the coal fields.

The second is the mica mines of Nellore.

The Director however prefers that Mr. Middlemiss should complete the survey of Salem and Coimbatore before taking up that of the Kurnool iron. The Director does not ~~express~~ ^{profess} that Mr. Middlemiss' further labours in Salem or Coimbatore will add anything to the practical value (which is apparently nil) of the investigations he has already made. The only object of continuing the examination of the corundum and other minor minerals in this locality is purely scientific. No doubt ~~it~~ ^{this object} is very desirable in the interests of science but Mr. Middlemiss was sent here to make practical enquiries and as already stated by this Government it is a waste of time for him to continue investigating fields which as far as we can see will never prove of any economic value.

Next as to Nellore the Director

I submit misunderstands this Govt. Govt

did not want Mr. Holland to instruct the mica miners. It wanted from him a report on the present state of the industry pointing out defects in the present methods of working, suggestions for improvement etc.

The publication of such a report prepared by Mr. Holland, a scientific expert, with a practical mind, would probably attract capital and enterprise to mica mining to the great advantage of a District at present dependent upon agriculture on a poor soil and ever liable to famine.

I submit there can be no doubt

of the importance of pushing practical investigations of the mineral resources of

this Presidency and widely publishing the

results. Mr. Middlemiss's report on corundum printed on pages 4 to 7 of G.O. 846

dated 6-10-97 is a poor result for three years' labour (1894, 1895 and 1896). This

is due no doubt to the fact that the practical object of his investigations has

been all along subordinate to the further-

He says the miners might refuse to act on Mr. Holland's suggestions. They would be as prone to do so if they were embodied in a report, as if they were made verbally to the miners.

29

Yes, probably: but commercial instinct is for stronger reasons of discovering a paying enterprise & we know that there is a large number of European speculators & miners on the coast.

J.H.

A great deal of scientific work may be put into a few pages J.H.

I don't think it is a poor result. It is as good a result as we could expect from geological work.

But practical geology must be based on scientific geology. The latter must come first in any ~~scientific~~ scheme of scientific survey

97

I don't think we have any new facts to lay before India, & the Govt. would alter their decision on facts we have been already brought to notice.

29

9.4.97

~~corundum~~

ing of purely scientific Geology.

I submit the Govt of India

should be addressed on the subject. If scientific geology in Madras is worth the deputation of an officer of the Geological survey a separate officer may be deputed for the purpose but Mr. Middlemiss (if we cannot have the more efficient officer, Mr. Holland) should it is submitted be set free for pursuing practical

investigations of those mineral products likely to prove of economic value. It

would be better however if a geologist who had some practical knowledge of mining

could be ~~engaged~~ employed on the work. A

list in order of importance of the minerals likely to prove of economic value &

localities where they are said to occur

might be prepared by the Board of Revenue in consultation with Mr. Middlemiss. Dr.

King's letter Tour No. 4-1 dated 10th

October 1893 printed in G.O. 987 Revenue

dated 16th November 1893 (F.L.B) mentions several ^{such} minerals and localities.

(initialed)

Mr. M. 20.2.98 P.T.

H.O. We may feel assured that as fast as scientific geology maps out the mineral construction of the country, the practical exploiter will have his eagle eye upon anything indication of anything that is likely to pay. It is he who brings out the practical mines to examine the deposits & see whether they are workable. European enterprise is keenly on the look out & if Govt. will supply it with accurate scientific information it is all that is wanted. It is far better to take up the districts methodically & thoroughly & publish the results as fast as possible

As the Director says the plans for the coming year are nearly settled, we need not trouble the Govt. further at present

I think it wd be of no use to do so. But what has become of the proposed survey of Cameroon? We want to know 3/21

S.H. - 5/4/98

Please enclose 15.00 note

Revenue Department.

Read again G.O. 846, d/6th Oct: '97 (P).

" letter 847, d/6th Oct: '97 (P).

" G.O. 1007, d/3-12-97. (P).

Letter No 1008 d/3.12.97 (P)

" G.No: 10085 of '97. (Letter from the

Director, Geological Survey of India, d/

16th Nov: '97, No: 1205.)

Order Press No: 187 d/ 25th Mar: 1898

In the circumstances stated in the letter from the Director, Geological Survey of India, read above, the Govt: resolves not to press for the immediate investigation of the Kurnool iron ores ~~not~~ for the early inspection of the mica-mining ~~industry~~ ^{for} in Nellore.

2. As advised by the Director in para 2 of his letter, the Govt: will await the results of the experiments to be made in England with the Salem iron ore and Bengal coal, before taking further action towards the ^{local} expectation of the Kurnool iron ores.

3. If it should

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Seen

done

g
H.H.

Government will consider the question of providing him with adequate professional assistance.

4. The Director will be requested to ~~be good enough to inform this for~~ the Survey of the South Canara

Dt: which was included in the programme

of work allotted to Mr: Holland in para

1 (b) of the Govt: of India's letter No:

3997/72-11, d/23rd Nov: 1896 has been

completed, and if so to furnish Govt: with

a copy of this Officer's report on the subject.

5. With reference to para 14 of his report on the trial excavations ^{at} ~~on the~~

Palacod printed in G.O.No:846, d/6th Oct:

1897, Mr: Middlemiss will be requested to state

if any information has been received on the

testing and valuation of the corundum

sent to England.

6. The following letter will be despatch-

ed to the Director, Geological Survey

India.

Double this

(Initialed) NEM
23.2.98.

8/6-5/488

Please send me 15.3.98

eco. 4803 M
25.11.96

page 7.

used for in 921
25/11/98

Letter No: 1828/25-3-98

To The Director, Geological Survey of India.

Sir,

With reference to para 3 of my

letter No:1008 d/3rd Dec: '97 wherein a

further communication on the subject of

future geological investigations in this

Presidency was promised, I am directed to

state that after a careful consideration

of the circumstances set forth in your

letter d/16th Nov: 1897 No:1205, H.E. the

Govt in council has resolved not to press

for the immediate investigation of the

Kurnool iron ores nor for the early inspec

tion of the mica-mining ^{es} industry in the

Nellore Dt.

2. In deference to the views expressed

by you in para 2 of ^{the same} ~~your~~ letter above

~~referred to~~, H.E. the Govt in Council has

decided to await the results of the ex-

periment to be made in England with Salem

ore and Bengal coal, before taking any

further action in the direction

plotted
restation of the Kurn

decided 12.6.98

Government (1898) of Madras.
REVENUE.

led next season, H.E. in Council
l consider the question of providing
with ~~the~~ professional assistance as
uggested in para 3 of your letter.
h reference to para 1 (b) of the ^{Letter of the} Govt:

India's ~~letter~~ d/23rd Oct: 1896 No:

97 in which it was stated that Mr:
-11.

lland was to undertake the Survey of

Canara and Coorg, I am to enquire

whether the survey of the former dis-

trict has been completed by Mr: Holland

and if so, ^{to} request that a copy of his re-

port may be furnished to this Govt:

Initialed NEM.
23/2/98.

Letter dated
15.4.98.

8/3
25/2/98

20/2

Rs 4803 M
25.11.96

Recd.

Regd.

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 181, 25th March 1898.

MARCH.

Kurnool Iron ores

Stating that the Government will not press for the immediate investigation of the —, nor for the early inspection of the mica mines in Nellore; and requesting the Director, Geological Survey of India, to be good enough to state whether the survey of the South Canara district has been completed by Mr. Holland and, if so, to furnish this Government with a copy of that officer's report on the subject.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again G.O., No. 846, Revenue, dated 6th October 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on the question of the continuance of the investigation of the corundum areas of Salem and Coimbatore, the investigation of Kurnool ores and the inspection of mica mines in Nellore.

Read—letter to the Director, Geological Survey of India, No. 847, dated 6th October 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting that Mr. Middlemiss may be deputed, at as early a date as possible, to investigate the iron ores of the Kurnool district, and stating that the services of Mr. Holland should, if possible, be utilized during the ensuing cold season in the inspection of the mica mines in the Nellore district.

Read—again G.O., No. 1007, Revenue, dated 3rd December 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on the subject of the despatch to Messrs. Bolchow, Vaughan & Co., of a sample of Salem iron ore and Indian coal for the purpose of determining by experimental manufacture the value and cost of production of pig-iron made from Indian ore with Indian coke.

Read—letter to the Director, Geological Survey of India, No. 1008, dated 3rd December 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting that Mr. Middlemiss may be deputed to assist the Collector of Salem in selecting two tons of iron ore to be sent to England for experimental purposes.

Read—also the following letter from R. D. OLDHAM, Esq., Officiating Director, Geological Survey of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Calcutta, 16th November 1897, No. 1205:—

In reply to your letter, No. 847, dated the 6th October 1897, I have the honour to inform you that, as the programme of employment of Messrs. Middlemiss and Holland for the coming season has been already arranged and sanctioned, it would be inconvenient now to change them. Apart from this consideration, I would offer the following remarks with regard to the desires expressed in your letter under reply.

2. With regard to the investigation of the Kurnool iron ores, I am still of the opinion that it would be advisable to defer this till the experiment of smelting the 300 tons of Salem iron ore, which you have in view, has been tried. I have seen no estimate in which the Madras iron ores were shown to be workable at a profit which did not show some serious omission. It must be remembered that there is probably no industry where competition is so keen and profits cut so close as in iron manufacture, and experience has proved that it can only be profitably carried on on a large scale and in places where the natural advantages of cheap fuel, ore, and transport, and proximity to a large market are combined. In these circumstances, it is on the face of it improbable that a profitable industry could be established in Madras, but the matter can only be settled by actual trial.

3. On the other hand, Mr. Middlemiss expects to be able to complete the Survey of the Coimbatore district during the next working season, and it would be more profitable that the examination of the iron ores be postponed till the completion of the

work in hand. At the same time I would point out that it would be of little service for Mr. Middlemiss to be despatched on this investigation unless your Government is prepared to provide, or procure for him, assistance in making excavations which would enable samples to be obtained of sufficient size and sufficiently unaffected by weathering to enable a true estimate of the quality and quantity of ore to be made. This assistance might be of the same nature and on the same scale as was rendered in the investigation of the corundum deposits at Palacod in Salem, without an assurance that this will be done, I do not feel myself able to submit your proposal to the Government of India with a recommendation that it be adopted.

4. With regard to your second proposal, my position is totally different. I observe that your Board of Revenue have no misgivings as to the existence of mica in quantity, and in this I am in perfect agreement with them. Nor does it appear that they desire the extension of the mica-bearing rocks to be surveyed; this too is, I consider, undesirable as, in the absence of better maps than are at present available, it would be impossible to make a survey which would be of real service to the mica miners, who are probably quite capable of finding the mica-bearing rock for themselves.

5. Either of these services would be within the province of the Geological Survey, but it is different with the second actually made on me, that Mr. Holland be deputed to advise the miners as to improve their methods of mining. I am prepared to accept your statement that the methods at present in vogue are crude and wasteful, though it is my experience that methods which appear to be imperfect to the outsider have often some real reason when they are fully investigated. I also believe that Mr. Holland, or any other member of the Survey, if deputed to the task and given funds and time, could devise improvements in the methods of working the mica; but I am still more strongly convinced that in such a matter he would not be accepted as an authority by the men actually engaged in the industry. It does not even appear that any request has been made for assistance or advice, and we may take it as certain that the suggestions made by him would be rejected, if not resented, on the score of his want of experience. For this reason I cannot support the proposal that any member of the Geological Survey should be deputed for the special purpose referred to by you.

6. I have to add that in the orders of the Government of India communicated to this department there is no mention of Mr. Holland being deputed to the Madras Presidency till the end of 1898, and that in accordance with the scheme drawn up by me last year, he will be employed during the coming working season on the survey of the province of Coorg.

ORDER—No. 181, Revenue, dated 25th March 1898.

Miscellaneous.

In the circumstances stated in the letter from the Director, Geological Survey of India, read above, the Govern-

ment resolves not to press for the immediate investigation of the Kurnool iron ores, nor for the early inspection of the mica mines in Nellore.

2. As advised by the Director in paragraph 2 of his letter, the Government will await the results of the experiments to be made in England with the Salem iron ore and Bengal coal, before taking further action towards the exploitation of the Kurnool iron ores.

3. If it should be decided to depute Mr. Middlemiss to Kurnool next season, the Government will consider the question of providing him with adequate professional assistance.

4. The Director will be requested to be good enough to inform this Government if the survey of the South Canara district, which was included in the programme of work allotted to Mr. Holland in paragraph 1 (b) of the Government of India's letter, No. 3997—72-11, dated 23rd November 1896, has been completed, and, if so, to furnish Government with a copy of this officer's report on the subject.

1898.

DIRECTOR, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

No. 181, REVENUE, 25TH MARCH 1898.

4
5. Paragraph 14 of his report on the trial excavations at Palacod No. 846, dated 6th October 1897, Mr. Middlemiss will be requested if any information has been received on the testing and valuation of the corundum sent to England.

6. The following letter will be despatched to the Director, Geological Survey of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
(Land Revenue).
„ C. S. Middlemiss, Esq.

From

The Government of Fort St. George.

Recd.

Regd.

1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

Letter No. 182, 25th March 1898.

MARCH.

Informing the Director, Geological Survey of India, that this Government has resolved not to press for the immediate investigation of the Kurnool iron-ores, nor for the early inspection of the mica mines in the Nellore district; and requesting the Director to be good enough to state whether the Survey of the South Canara district has been completed by Mr. Holland and, if so, to furnish this Government with a copy of that officer's report on the subject.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. G. S. FORBES, I.C.S.,
Ag. Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

THE DIRECTOR, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,

Dated Fort St. George, 25th March 1898.

SIR,

With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter, No. 1008, dated 3rd December 1897, wherein a further communication on the subject of future geological investigations in this Presidency was promised, I am directed to state that, after a careful

Miscellaneous.

consideration of the circumstances set forth in your letter, dated 16th November 1897, No. 1205, His Excellency the Governor in Council has resolved not to press for the immediate investigation of the Kurnool iron ores, nor for the early inspection of the mica mines in the Nellore district.

2. In deference to the views expressed by you in paragraph 2 of the same letter, His Excellency the Governor in Council has decided to await the results of the experiment to be made in England with Salem ore and Bengal coal, before taking any further action in the direction of the exploitation of the Kurnool iron ores. If it is decided to depute Mr. Middlemiss to Kurnool next season, His Excellency in Council will consider the question of providing him with professional assistance as suggested in paragraph 3 of your letter.

3. With reference to paragraph 1 (b) of the letter of the Government of India, dated 23rd October 1896, No. 3997—72-11, in which it was stated that Mr. Holland was to undertake the survey of South Canara and Coorg, I am to enquire whether the survey of the former district has been completed by Mr. Holland and, if so, to request that a copy of his report may be furnished to this Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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N.B. -

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