

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4529

DATED 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording despatch from the Rt. Hon'ble the  
Secretary of State for India re: the deputation of  
Mr. McNeill by Messrs. Dumas and Macfarlane  
for the investigation of Selam iron ore.

# Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 763

Read letter from the Asstt. Secy. (P)  
Rev. Statistics Dept., India Office  
d. 30.9.98 No. R.S. 2215 (C. No. 7213)

Read also despatch from the Secy. Despatch  
the Secy. of State for India (P) From the Rt. Honble the  
d. 13.10.98 No. 13 Revenue (C. No. 7634). Secretary of State for India

Order Min. No. 5297/194 No. 13/98

Recorded

No. 13 Revenue

Dated 13-10-98  
Received 8-11-98  
Registered 8-11-98  
Enclosures 1  
Spare copies

From Min.

to the Board of Rev. Land Rev.  
des. 23-11-98

## SUBJECT.

Re: the deputation by Messrs. Turner and Macfadyen of Mr. Hugh C. McNeill to examine, and advise them as to, the deposits of Iron ore and other minerals in Salem and in neighbouring districts.

R. & S.1786

WINCHESTER HOUSE,

OLD BROAD STREET,

LONDON, E.C., 21st September 1898

The Under Secretary of State for India,

India Office, WHITEHALL.

Sir,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter R. & S.1786 of the 26th August 1898, with the enclosures which tell of the unsatisfactory result of the tests and experiments made at Middlesborough with Bengal Coal and Salem Iron Ore.

We do not feel ourselves in a position to offer any criticism of Mr. Evans' opinion of Sanctoria Coal. We are under the impression that coke made from this Coal is used by some firms to smelt Bengal Iron Ore, and their views on the subject would be of value.

As to the adverse opinion on the suitability of the Iron Ore to make merchantable pig iron, we hold to the opinion that some error has been made in the selection of the two tons sent to Middlesborough, as typical of the Iron Ores of Salem.

There

3  
There are several official reports that ores of superior quality and of unlimited quantity do exist in South India, and there is also certainty that pig iron of good quality made from the ore has been manufactured and sent to the English Market.

We consider that the question cannot be left in its present unsatisfactory position, and, while, we respectfully affirm that it is for Government to throw light on the obscurity by further investigation of the discrepancies between these and those official reports - published, we may say, for the benefit of commercial enterprise - yet we are ourselves willing to persevere at our own expense in the investigation we have undertaken.

Believing that a correct estimate of the quality and quantity of the South Indian Iron Ores can only be formed by a person who is, in some measure, acquainted with the similar class and extent of ore which occurs and is being worked in Sweden we deputed a gentleman, who came to us with excellent credentials from the School of Mines, to proceed to that country. He has just returned after two months spent in visiting the Iron Ore deposits around Stockholm and also those in Swedish Lapland. He has studied the conditions

which

4 (4)  
which accompany these deposits, the method of working them, the financial results of manufacturing pig and of exporting ore.

This gentleman, whose name is Mr. Hugh C. McNeill has now entered into an engagement with us to proceed to India to examine and advise us on the deposits of Iron Ore and other minerals in Salem and in neighbouring districts.

We solicit the countenance and assistance of the Government of Madras in prosecuting these investigations and we hope that the India Office may be pleased to advise the Government of Mr. McNeill's advent. He leaves England on the 29th of this month.

The Mining Rules do not insist on licenses to search unoccupied and unreserved land which is the property of Government. We understand that the Kanjamalai Hill, where Mr. McNeill will commence operations, is reserved land under the Forest Rules, and no doubt other deposits are in a similar predicament. We trust, therefore, that the Collectors of Salem and other Districts may be requested

to

5  
to permit such relaxation of the Rules as may seem to them  
an advisable to enable Mr. McNeill to enter upon such lands.  
is There is, also, a stipulation in the Mining Rules that, under  
or an exploring license, the licensee may turn up lands to a depth  
not exceeding two feet. We need hardly point out that it is  
u impossible to ascertain the area and value of any field for  
t mining unless permission is given to sink shafts and to make  
f excavations of greater depth than two feet.

a Mr. Turner recently inspected the Kurunavaara Iron Ore  
b deposit in Swedish Lapland in company with Mr. McNeill.

w The Government of Sweden are particularly interested in  
w the development of this immense deposit, for they have  
undertaken to construct a Railway of 100 miles long to convey  
the Iron Ore to a Port on the Norwegian Coast to enable the  
Company who own the mine to ship ore at all seasons of the  
year from an ice free port. Before the Government sanctioned  
this undertaking they deputed an official to examine into the  
quantity and quality of the ore. Mr. Turner has had the  
advantage of going over the field with their officer, and he  
made us acquainted with the excavations, borings, surveys and  
tests

6 ③  
tests which he undertook before he was in a position to  
advise the Government on the subject. We feel convinced  
that no correct estimate of the value of a field can be found  
without similar operations.

We have arranged for the analyses of the ore being  
undertaken by Mr. Dains, the Chemist attached to the  
Manganese Mines in Vizagapatam. He has very great experience  
in such work.

In conclusion we respectfully hope that we may receive  
from the Government all possible assistance in an  
undertaking which is costly and from the most recent  
reports, anything but promising.

Our Agents in Madras are Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. and  
we request that any intimation connected with Mr. McNeill's  
expedition, which the Government of Madras may see fit to  
make, may be addressed to that Firm.

We have, &c.,

(Sd) H. G. Turner

P. Macfadyen & Co.

N<sup>o</sup> 15.

Copy letter from Messrs  
Turner & Macfadyen dated  
21<sup>st</sup> Sept 1898.

1158.

REVENUE,

No. 23.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR IN  
COUNCIL FORT ST. GEORGE.

Sir,

Referring to my despatch, No. 148,

dated 25th August, 1898, and to your

No. 9, of the same date, I forward a

copy of a letter from Messrs. H.G.

Turner and P. Macfadyen, who, it will

be seen, have deputed Mr. Hugh C.

McNeill to examine, and advise them

as to, the deposits of Iron Ore and

other minerals in Salem and in

neighbouring districts.

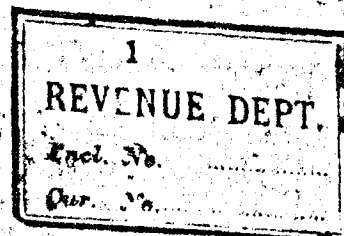
2. I shall be glad if you will direct

that all reasonable facilities be

Dated 21st September, 1898.

Referred to in Madras  
Revenue Despatch No. 13  
dated 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1898.

para: 1.



8

given to Mr. McNeill; but the question  
whether a license can be granted to  
prospect in reserved land will be one  
for the discretion of your Government.

I have the honour to be,

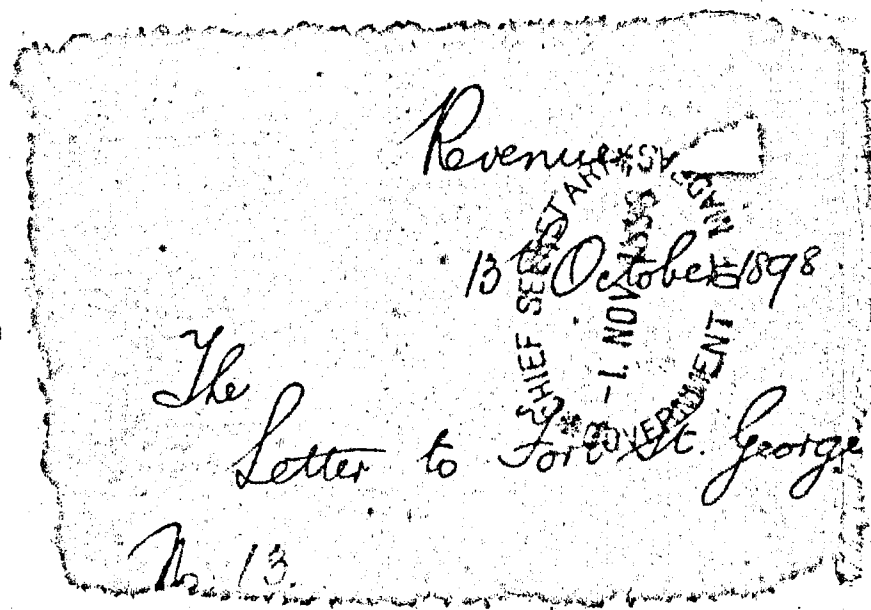
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

George Hamilton

Revenue (1898) Department.

80 CURRENT No. 1/5



Order

From

The Hon'ble Mr. J. Sturrock  
J.C.S.

No.

Dated 25<sup>th</sup>  
Received 25<sup>th</sup>  
Registered 26<sup>th</sup> } Oct. 98

Enclosures -

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Re: the ~~prospecting~~ <sup>prospecting</sup> license  
for Kanjai Malai.

Revenue Board Office  
(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1898.

My dear Forbes,

Mr. McNeill from  
the school of mines has come  
out on behalf of Messrs Macfarlane  
and Munro who desire to  
purchase 2 or 3 acres of land.  
acting if we have received any  
instructions in connection  
with a communication which

asking to afford to the  
all reasonable facilities.

11  
The Secretary of State is  
believed to be sending for  
the Madison Park on the subject.  
As we have heard nothing  
I have told Mr. M.: well  
that he had better go and  
see you - I have given him  
a copy of the I.O. saying  
that Sect 2 & are to  
have the first choice  
of a prospecting license.

12  
for Kanihi-makui. but has  
also pointed out that under  
the post-note to para 17 of I.O.  
he is any one may "explore"  
freely on any land unreserved  
land.

Yours sincerely

Sturges

# Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1213.

From  
The Assistant Secretary,  
Rev. & Statistics Dept.  
India office,  
London S.W.  
Ats No. 2215.

Order

Communicated to the  
Board of Revenue.  
The further communications  
promised will on receipt  
be also forwarded to the B. of  
Revenue.

Dated 30 Sept  
Received 20 Oct  
Registered 21 Nov  
Enclosures  
Spare copies

## SUBJECT.

Informing Govt. that  
Messrs. Forbes & Macfadyen  
have deposited Mr. Hugh B.  
McNeill to proceed to  
India for the purpose of  
examining the deposits of  
Iron ore & other minerals in  
Salim & neighbouring dists. as  
that a copy of their letter will  
be sent shortly to Govt. of Madras  
asking to afford to Mr. McNeill  
all reasonable facilities.

The B. of Revenue (L. R.)  
24/11

It is requested that in any further communication  
on this subject the under-mentioned letter and  
number may be quoted, and the reply addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,  
India Office,  
Whitehall,  
London, S.W.

R. & S. 2215.

14 12  
India Office,  
Whitehall,

London, S.W.

30<sup>th</sup> September 1898.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that Messrs. Turner and Macfadyen,  
who are not satisfied with the result of the reports  
forwarded to the Government of Madras with Lord George  
Hamilton's despatch No. 148, of 25th August, have deputed  
Mr. Hugh C. McNeill to proceed to India for the purpose of  
examining the deposits of Iron ore and other minerals in  
Salem and neighbouring districts. A copy of their letter  
will be sent shortly to the Government of Madras, who will  
be asked to afford to Mr. MacNeill all reasonable  
facilities.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H.H.M.

Asst. Secretary,

Revenue and Statistics Department.

The Secretary to the  
Government of Madras,  
Revenue Department.

15

(13)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Cur

No. 7213

of 1898

7634

Also D.O. from Mr Sturrock

From The Asst Secy Rev & Statistical Dept  
of the Rt Honble Mr Secy of State for India

Dated 30- Sept

1898.

& 13- Oct

FOR ORDERS.

Secy

The Secy of State has  
Communicated to Messrs  
Turner & Macfadyen the  
results of the experiments  
made with Bengal coal  
& Salem iron.

These experiments  
are described in the  
papers printed with  
No. 5488 22-9-98.

A

The results were briefs  
that <sup>the</sup> Sanctoria coal  
sent to England  
would not coke; and  
that the iron sent  
was of poor quality  
containing not more than  
40% of metallic iron.

Messrs Turner  
& Macfadyen do not  
accept these experiments  
as final; and have

sent out a representative  
Mr H MacNeill to  
examine & advise  
them as to the deposits  
of iron ore and other  
minerals in Salem  
and the neighbouring  
districts.

Messrs Turners  
& Macfadyen solicit  
the countenance &  
assistance of the Govt  
of Madras in prosecuting  
these investigations  
They also make the  
following somewhat  
indefinite request:-

"The Mining Rules  
not insist on licenses  
to search unoccupied  
unreserved land which  
is the property of Govt.

We understand that the  
Kanjimalai Hill where  
Mr MacNeill will commence  
operations is reserved  
land under the Forest  
Rules & no doubt other  
efforts are in a  
similar predicament

FOR ORDERS.

Mr MacNeill has been called  
on me in office

S.P.

17 " We trust therefore that  
" the collectors of Salem  
" & other districts may  
" be requested to permit  
" such relaxation of the  
" Rules as may seem  
" to them advisable to  
" enable Mr MacNeill  
" to enter upon such  
" lands. There is, also,  
" a stipulation in the  
" Mining Rule, that,  
" under an exploring  
" license, the licensee  
" may turn up layers  
" to a depth not  
" exceeding two feet.  
" Need hardly point  
" that it is impossible  
" to ascertain the area  
" and value of any  
" for mining ~~mineral~~  
" permission is given  
" to sink shafts & to  
" excavations of great  
" depth than 2 feet.

The Secy of S.  
States <sup>generally</sup> that he will  
gladly if the Govt  
will direct that

reasonable facilities, to  
given to Mr McNeill; but that  
question whether a  
lease can be granted  
to prospect in reserved  
land will be one for  
the discretion of this  
Govt.

In our letter No  
196 & 18 July 1898 the  
Govt of India was asked  
to sanction the grant  
of a prospecting license  
over one half  
(about 5 sq miles) of  
the Kanjamalai Hills  
with a ~~concession~~ promise  
a mining lease  
the <sup>entirety</sup> of the prospecting license  
is any two square  
miles of the area  
covered by such license.  
No reply has yet  
received.

If Mr McNeill  
merely to explore  
surface of any land  
which the Govt has  
not to mineral, he  
is an explorer license

Vide para 7 of the  
Mining Rules. Pamphlet  
not of.

19/ from the Collector  
fee for such a license  
is 10 Rs per annum.  
If however, as Messrs  
Turner & Macfadden's  
letter indicates  
Mr McNeill wishes to  
"mine, quarry, bore, dig  
& search for, win, work  
& carry away" any mine  
he must apply for  
& obtain a prospect  
license under the  
page 8 et seq. of the  
pamphlet.

Submitted that  
the paper may be  
forwarded to the  
Board & that the  
may be requested to  
draw supply Mr McNeill  
with a copy of the  
Mining Rules & draw  
his attention to the  
matter & specifies above.

Mr Turner has already been  
given a certificate of approval  
for an application  
for a prospecting license  
in Salem (or Bellary). It is for  
consideration whether a full  
certificate need now be issued.

~~to Messrs Turner & Macfadyen.~~

20

Mr McNeill  
could no doubt act  
under such a certificate  
provided he holds a  
power of attorney  
from Messrs Turner  
& Macfadyen.

Ull  
10.11.98

C/HY  
(C/H E)

we  
we have no specific ap-  
plication before us. Mr MacNeil  
has the rules & so far as  
stated in conversation  
understand them. He had  
been seen Mr Sturrock  
had explained the  
generally about ex-  
plaining licenses; & he  
knows that the Collector  
is the person to apply to  
in the first instance.

It is enough to record  
the despatch & send a copy  
the Board for information

22

9/10/98

Ull

20.11.98 (in field)

D.O. No. 162

My dear Sturrock,

With reference to your  
letter of the 25th Oct. re-  
garding the deputation  
of Mr. H.C. McNeill by  
Messrs. Turner and Macfadyen  
for the investigation of  
the Kanjamalai iron de-  
posits, I am directed to  
~~send you~~ <sup>send you for perusal</sup> a copy of a des-  
patch from the R. Honble  
the Secy of State on the  
subject as well as of the  
letter from Messrs. Turner  
& Macfadyen which ~~was~~  
~~accompanied it~~ ~~accompanied it~~ An  
official communication  
will follow.

Yours sincerely,

Int. Secy. Genl.  
19th November 1898

Mr. J. Sturrock  
S. C. S.

Depatched  
29.11.98

Ull  
10.11.98  
19/11/98