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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT

|          |        |       |
|----------|--------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 1708   | Press |
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

141

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
17th June 1875.*

No. 378. Read the following letter from Captain L. CONWAY-GORDON, R.E.,  
Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS,  
R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated  
Fort St. George, 4th June 1875, No. 1,157 :—

With reference to G. O., No. 1,433, of the 25th May 1875, I have the honor to  
request that you will be good enough to furnish me with a copy of the estimate for  
the Madras Harbour Works, and of the Secretary of State's Despatch and Government  
of India endorsement thereon communicating sanction to the project.

2. I have further to request that I may be informed from what funds the pay  
of the establishment referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Government Order under  
notice is to be disbursed.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1875, No. 1,708.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 43.

THE Controller will be furnished  
with copy of the estimate for the Madras  
Harbour and with the orders sanctioning  
the project.

2. Application has been made to the Government of India for an advance of  
five lakhs to enable the works to be put in hand, in anticipation of sanction of which  
the expenditure incurred by authority of Mr. Parkes may be passed.

3. The Controller will be requested to put himself in communication with  
Mr. May, who has been appointed Superintendent of Works, and to assist him in  
procuring the services of an efficient Office establishment as sanctioned in G. O.,  
No. 1,433, dated 4th May 1875; and also to arrange with Mr. May the forms of account  
which it will be necessary for him to keep, and which should be as few in number  
and as simple in character as possible.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,  
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts, with copy of Estimate.  
" Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies

36

London 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1874  
26<sup>th</sup> December 1874.

My dear Mr. May - I am sorry to hear of the confirmation of previous correspondence and personal communication on the subject. I have now to inform you that I propose in the name of the Secretary of State for India sanctioning my design for a Barlow at Madras to submit your name to him for the appointment of local Superintendant of the works. The salary proposed is £1500 per annum to be reckoned from the day of departure till the day of return to England with travelling & necessary hotel expenses to and from your destination. But the £1500 is to be understood to cover all

all your personal expenses while  
at Madras.

It is hoped that your engage-  
ment will continue for the whole  
duration of the work but I shall  
suggest that in the event of its ter-  
mination from any unforeseen cir-  
cumstances the Secretary of State  
shall decide upon the terms of its  
cancellation.

This proposal is made on  
the assumption that I shall myself  
hold the position of Engineer in Chief  
& you will of course be responsible  
to me in all matters of engineering  
but your own powers & responsibilities  
will of necessity be large & in  
cases of emergency, undisciplined  
in all local matters under the ex-  
ecutive staff will be under your  
direct control, subject of course

to the approval of the Local Au-  
thorities of Government.

I have understood that you have  
carefully considered the details of my  
design & I have satisfied yourself  
of their feasibility so that you can  
adopt them as your own. This being  
so the limits of your liberty to modify  
them must be very much left to your  
own discretion.

It is expected that you will not  
undertake other employment which  
shall in any way interfere with  
the important duties confided to you  
but in the event of your professional  
opinion being sought in reference to  
other matters you will be at liberty  
to give your services (subject to the  
approval of the Local Authorities to  
whom you may be immediately re-  
sponsible) and to receive remunera-  
tion for them. This liberty however

is not to let it apply to your taking  
any part in the execution of any other  
works than those of the Madras  
Harbour, but only to consulting in  
this case.

In submitting your name to  
the Secretary of State in this important  
appointment I have the strongest re-  
liance on your hearty co-operation  
with me to carry out this great work  
to a successful issue for the public  
benefit & our joint professional  
credit.

Believe me  
My dear Mr May  
Yours very sincerely  
Wm Parkes.  
James May Esq.

Charing Cross Dec 26 1874.  
My dear Mr Parkes

I have to acknowledge

the receipt of your letter of this day's  
date by which you inform me that  
in the event of the Secretary of State  
in India sanctioning your design for  
a Harbour at Madras you propose  
to submit my name to him for the  
appointment of local Superintendent  
of the works.

I very much regret to inform you  
in reply that it will afford me pleasure  
to accept this appointment if it should  
be offered to me that I shall be pre-  
pared to proceed to Madras when re-  
quired for the purpose of commencing  
the works & that should my health  
be cleared I will do my best to carry  
them out successfully with the conti-  
nuance named in your letter.

I am  
Very sincerely Yours  
William Parkes Esq.  
23 Abingdon Street  
Westminster.  
Sir.

India Office

17 March 1875

Enclosed letter dated 26 December last addressed to you by Mr. Parkes copy of which was furnished to this office. You were informed that in the event of Mr. Parkes design for a Harbour at Madras receiving the sanction of the Secretary of State he intended to propose you for the appointment of Local Superintendent of the works with a salary of fifteen thousand pounds (£15000) per annum to commence from the date of your leaving England.

The sanction referred to having now been given, I am directed by Lord Salisbury to offer you the appointment in question on a salary of fifteen thousand pounds per year & generally on the conditions specified.

Mr. Parkes letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. I am to request that if the offer be accepted you will make arrangements for starting at your earliest convenience for Madras where the presence of the Superintendent will be almost immediately required.

I am Sir, your obedient servant  
John Lubbock  
March 20<sup>th</sup> 1875

I have to acknowledge the receipt this evening of Sir Louis Mallat's letter of 17<sup>th</sup> instant in which he informs me that the Secretary of State for India has been pleased to offer me the appointment of Superintendent of the Harbour works at Madras on the conditions specified in Mr. Parkes letter.

letter to my address at 20, Dacca.  
Her last letter.

I beg to thank His Lord-  
ship for this offer, which I accept  
with pleasure & should my health  
permitted I will do my best in suc-  
cessfully carrying out the Madras  
works.

May I request you to inform me  
by letter or telegram, when I am  
required to leave England for India  
& whether I may be allowed to  
wait on you before leaving, that  
arrangements may be made  
accordingly.

I have the

Yours faithfully  
J. James May

The Under Secretary of State for India

India Office  
London

Sir

India Office

30th March 1875

I am directed to acknowledge the  
receipt of your letter of the 20th instant  
and to inform you that the  
Government of Madras has required  
by telegram, that you should delay your  
departure from England until after  
the arrival home of Mr. Parkes, who  
may be expected about the 26th April.

Further communication will  
be made to you as soon as Mr.  
Parkes shall have returned.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant  
J. James May

James May Esq.

Proposed Madras Harbour  
C/o Postmaster General

Aldershot  
April 2nd 1875

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt  
this morning of Sir Louis Mallet's  
letter of 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo addressed to  
The Craven Hotel Charing Cross  
directing me to delay my departure  
from England until after the ar-  
rival home of Mr. Parkes who  
may be expected about the 26<sup>th</sup>  
instant.  
I shall be ready to proceed  
to India on receiving the further  
communication respecting Mr.  
Parkes arrival to which Sir Louis  
Mallet's letter refers.

I have the honor to be  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. James May  
To The Under Secretary of State for India }  
India Office

India Office  
30 May 1875  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
referring to my letter of the 30<sup>th</sup>  
March last and now to request that  
Mr. Parkes having as you are aware  
arrived from India you will make  
arrangements for proceeding to  
Madras at your earliest convenience  
I am Sir,  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Sir Louis Mallet  
I have the honor to be  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
J. James May  
To The Under Secretary of State for India }  
India Office

I was instructed to proceed to Madras  
at my earliest convenience as Superin-  
tendent of the Harbour Works, & I  
beg to inform you that I propose to  
leave England for India by the Mail  
leaving London on the 14<sup>th</sup> instant  
which is timed to arrive at Madras  
on the 9<sup>th</sup> proximo. I have the honour  
to acknowledge Mr. Parker's letter of the 26<sup>th</sup>  
December last, as referred to, and confirmed by your  
letter to me of 17<sup>th</sup> March, proposing  
that my appointment at Madras  
should date from the day of my leaving  
England. With reference to this point  
I would beg to observe that under  
an arrangement subsequently made  
I have given considerable amount of  
time & incurred some expense on the  
business of Madras Harbour, & that  
my departure has been delayed  
in accordance with instructions  
from the Secretary of State dated

13<sup>th</sup> March in order to wait for the  
arrival of Mr. Parker from India  
with a view of making certain pre-  
liminary arrangements.

Under these circumstances may  
I beg to suggest that, as an acqui-  
tance for the time and money already  
devoted to his service, my appointment  
should date from 1<sup>st</sup> April last in-  
stead of from the date of my departure  
from England. May I request that the  
Secretary of State will authorize an  
advance of £150 to me to cover the  
expenses of my journey.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. J. May.

To The Under Secretary of State

Madras

Madras Stationers.  
23 Abchurch Lane  
London E.C. 4  
May 6. 1875.

Sir  
Referring to your letter of 19<sup>th</sup> March  
last to my address at the General Agents  
in which I am offered the appointment  
of Superintendent of the Works at Madras  
Stationers on a salary of £1500 per  
annum. I find on enquiry that the  
sum of 15000 Rupees named in the  
second paragraph of your letter will  
not be equivalent to £1500 sterling,  
because at the current rate of ex-  
change the value of a Rupee is 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
less than two shillings, & it follows  
that I should be a loser to that  
amount.

Under these circumstances  
may I venture to suggest that the  
Secretary of State will be pleased to  
authorize the payment to me of  
Madras

154  
Madras of the equivalent of £1500  
per annum, calculated either at the  
current rate of exchange, or if more  
convenient, at the fixed rate of 1600  
Rs per annum, which is at the pre-  
sent rate something short of the  
equivalent of £1500, this being the  
amount mentioned in the first para-  
graph of your letter & originally pro-  
posed to me by Mr. Parkes's letter  
on 26<sup>th</sup> Decr last, of which you have a  
copy.

I have to  
Yr<sup>ts</sup> James May.  
Sd<sup>o</sup> James May.  
Sd<sup>o</sup> James May.  
The Under Secretary of State for India.  
India Office  
11<sup>th</sup> May 1875.

Sir  
In reply to your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst  
in continuation of the circumstances  
here stated I am directed to inform you  
that the Marquis of Salisbury is of the opinion  
that

that responsibility in Local Superin-  
tendency of the Madras Harbour  
works shall commence from the  
1st of January 1875 and in  
addition to the salary of  
£1500 per annum & that you  
be also authorized your drawing  
one hundred fifty pounds (£150)  
in advance which shall be  
paid to you on application at the  
Accountants Branch of this Office

You are  
Yours truly  
J. Louis Mallet

James May Esq.

India Office  
11th May 1875

I have received & laid before the  
Secretary of State your letter of the  
10th instant in which  
you there represent that by  
my letter to you of the 17th March  
you

17th  
you were offered the appointment  
of Superintendent of Works at Madras  
Harbour on a salary of fifteen hundred  
pounds (£1500) per annum & that you  
find on enquiring that the sum of  
fifteen thousand Rupees (Rs 15000)  
named in the second paragraph of  
my letter, is not at the current  
rate of exchange equivalent to fif-  
teen hundred pounds (£1500) & you  
therefore suggest that the equiva-  
lent in rupees of fifteen hundred  
pounds (£1500) per annum be paid  
to you at Madras, or that your  
salary be fixed at fifteen thousand  
Rupees (Rs 16000)

In reply I am to observe  
that on renewed reference to my  
letter you will perceive that the  
only salary offered you on the part  
of the Secretary of State is one of  
fifteen



G.P. - 17 June / 75  
N 1708

Copies of Correspondence  
in connection with the  
appointment of Mr  
James May as Superin-  
tendent of the Madras  
Harbour works forward-  
ed to the Controller  
of P.W. Accounts

Signed / J. D. Hasted  
Off. Secy Dept  
P.W.D.

Accd  
23<sup>rd</sup> June 1875

[G. Wks. Form No. 2]

No. 1157

From

THE CONTROLLER,  
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,

To

The Secretary to Government,  
P.W. Department.  
FORT SAINT GEORGE, 4<sup>th</sup> June 1875.

Sir, With reference to G.O. No. 1433  
of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 1875, I have the  
honour to request that you will be  
good enough to furnish me  
with a copy of the estimate for the  
Madras Harbour works, and of  
the Secretary of State's Dispatch  
and Government of India in-  
struction thereon communi-  
cating sanction to the project.  
I have further to request  
that I may be informed from  
what fund the pay of the establish-  
ment referred to in paras 6  
and 7 of the G.O. under notice is  
to be disbursed.

I have the honour to be  
Sir  
Your most Obedt Servt.  
Lowrey Gordon  
Controller of P.W. Accounts

G.P.

GO 25 May 75 No 1143  
" 25 80 / " " 439-442

From W. 1875 Dept.  
No: 3691  
The Controller of  
P.W. Accounts

To The Secretary to Govt.  
Public Works Dept.  
Fort St George

Dated 17 June 1875  
Recd 5/1  
No 1157

Requests to be fur-  
nished with a copy of the  
Estimate for the Madras  
Harbour Works and the  
papers relating to its sanction.  
G.O. No. 1708 17-6-75

378  
Cir. 11-6-75 No 15/6/75  
No 12/6/75 7-6-75 R 17-6-75

CLWMS 236  
Public Works Dept.

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the 1875  
Read the following

From The Cont. P.W. Accounts G.O. No. 1157 of 4<sup>th</sup> June 1875

G.O. No. 1708 dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 1875

MP  
11/5

8/5

The Controller will  
be furnished with copy  
of the estimate for the  
Madras Harbour and  
with the orders ~~sanctioning~~  
managing sanctioning the  
project.

Application has  
been made to the Govt of  
India for an advance of  
5 lakhs to enable the  
works to be put in hand,  
in anticipation of sanction  
of which, the expenditure  
incurred

incurred by authority  
of Mr. Parker may be  
passed.

The Controller will  
be requested to put himself  
in communication with  
Mr. May, who has been  
appointed Superintendent  
of works and to assist  
him in procuring the services  
of an efficient office es-  
tablishment as sanctioned  
in G.O. No. 1433 dated 4<sup>th</sup>  
May 1875, and also to  
arrange with Mr. May  
the forms of account which  
it will be necessary for  
him to keep, and which  
should be as few in number  
and as simple in character  
as possible.

John

May 11/6

To Sup<sup>t</sup> Muddy Harbor Works

To the Contr. of P. M. Accts.  
with copy of estimate

Recd - 17-6-75

50 Recd 40/11  
29-6-75

3691

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Controller  
of P.W. &c.

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 17 June 1875 No. 1728

Nos. 178 - 8

Madras Harbour Works.

Passing orders on the letter  
of the Controller, requesting  
to be furnished with a copy  
of the estimate for the —  
and papers relating to its  
sanction.