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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4442 - W	Press.
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Dated	21-11-1878	197.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

21st November 1878, No. 4,442 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works

Read the following paper:—

No. 248. From W. T. THORNTON, Esq., Secretary, Public Works Department, India Office, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated India Office, S.W., London, 25th October 1878.

I TRANSMIT, herewith, for your information, copies of paragraphs which will form the subject of a Public Works despatch to the Government of Madras by an early mail.

Copy Paragraphs which will form the subject of a Public Works Despatch to the Government of Madras.

THE Order of your Excellency's Government, No. 1,433, dated the 25th May 1875, provided that Mr. W. Parkes, C.E., Engineer-in-Chief of the Madras Harbour Works, should visit Madras in connection with those works at his own discretion, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

2. Mr. Parkes has recently applied for permission to proceed to India in order to inspect the works, but, before deciding on his application, I request that I may be furnished at your earliest convenience, by telegram if possible, with the opinion of your Government on the subject.

3. A copy of Mr. Parkes' letter to me is herewith enclosed.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. T. THORNTON,
Secretary, Public Works Department.

MADRAS HARBOUR.

23, ABINGDON STREET,
18th October 1878.

Sir,—I have the honor to request the sanction of the Secretary of State to my visiting Madras, in the course of the ensuing winter, on the terms stated in the Order of the Madras Government, No. 1,433, dated 25th May 1875.

2. I should propose to leave England so as to arrive at Madras early in January and to remain there for four or five weeks, or for such further time as may be desirable.

3. The works are progressing satisfactorily, and I do not anticipate the necessity of making any important changes in their conduct, but they are now arrived at a stage at which various questions which have hitherto been held in abeyance will require discussion, and I think this will be facilitated by my presence.

4. The most urgent is that of the diversion of certain sewers from the Harbour. This did not form part of my original plan because I was informed that it was included in the general scheme of drainage then contemplated, but as that has not been commenced the diversion must be carried out without further delay. It is a fair charge against the Harbour, and its cost is amply provided for by the allowance in the estimate for "Contingencies." The mode of effecting the object has been under consideration, but I am anxious to defer my final opinion upon it till after I have again visited the spot.

5. A second point is the course to be adopted in consequence of the changes of the coast line. The shore to the north of the Harbour is wasting and should be to some extent protected. To the south land is being gained which no doubt will be utilized in some way. It is desirable

that the requirements of the Harbour should be reviewed in connection with the appropriation of this land whether to private or public purposes. Probably the Government may wish that I should direct my attention to these points.

6. The rapid progress which the works are now making will naturally have led persons locally interested (whether they have previously been favorable to the Harbour or the contrary) to consider how it may be best made available for the purposes intended. From this point of view it is not premature to consider a plan for the systematic mooring of ships, and I have furnished myself with the materials for preparing such a plan in conjunction with the officers of the local Marine Department. The cost of this, I presume, will be charged to a different fund from that chargeable with the construction of the piers, and the revenue should be raised separately. The cost will probably be from £30,000 to £40,000, and 10 per cent. per annum on this might be raised by a mooring fee of about one Anna per register ton on all ships entering the Harbour. This, I believe, would be willingly paid in consideration of the accommodation given.

7. The system of landing and shipping cargoes under the new conditions to be effected by the Harbour may now be considered more in detail. It is probable that some small expenditure may be necessary to provide wharves and jetties for the larger cargo boats which will be brought into use. My present impression is that such expenditure had better be left to private enterprise under Government control as to site, character of works, and conditions of tenure, but the terms of this contract will require consideration.

8. The best mode of raising the Harbour revenue is a question which will soon become pressing. It is one for the decision of the administrative authorities rather than of the Engineer, but there are points on which I think a personal conference with myself will be useful.

Though it will be at least two years before the full advantages of the Harbour will be realized, it may probably be considered desirable that the Government should take powers to make an earlier charge on the trade proportional to the partial benefits which will be conferred even while the Harbour Works are incomplete, and in determining the mode of doing this various engineering questions are likely to arise.

9. The above are the principal points which appear to me likely to be discussed during my visit, but no doubt others will be started by the Government authorities and the merchants in which I might give some assistance.

10. I may remind you that by the terms of the Government Order referred to the formal approval of the proposal I am now making rests solely with the Secretary of State, but I would suggest, in the event of such approval being given, that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Government of Madras for their information.

11. I would respectfully ask for an early decision, as it would be very inconvenient to me, if not absolutely impossible, to defer my visit to a later period than that suggested.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. PARKES.

No. 249. ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1878, No. 4,442 W.

ORDERED that the following telegram be sent to the Secretary of State for India:—

"To London.

"Secretary.

"Government are influenced by Parkes' expressed desire to come out although reasons disclosed in letter do not apparently necessitate a summons."

(True Extract.)

Colonel R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.
" Marine Department.
" Financial do.

Encl. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE SUPERINTENDENT, MADRAS
HARBOUR WORKS.

Dated November 21st.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 21st November 1878, No. 4442 W.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 248-249.

Madras Harbour Works—Mr. Parker
proposed to come out to India.

E 138. 500.—2/78. L 644.

It is requested that any further communication
on this subject may be addressed to—

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

Public Works.

India Office, S.W.

London. 25th October, 1878.

Sir,

I transmit herewith, for
your information, copies of paragraphs
which will form the subject of
a Public Works Despatch to the
Government of Madras by an early
mail.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. F. Thornto

Secretary,

Public Works Department.

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras.

Public Works Department.

Fort St. George

4442
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Copy Paragraphs which will form
the subject of a Public Works Despatch
to the Government of Madras.

Para: 1. The Order of your Excellency's
Government, No. 1433, dated the
25th May, 1875, provided that Mr. W.
Parkes, C.E., Engineer-in-Chief of the
Madras Harbour Works, should visit
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at his own discretion, subject to the
approval of the Secretary of State.
2. Mr. Parkes has recently applied
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I request that it may be furnished
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(True copies)

W. F. Throston

Madras Harbour

23 Abingdon Street

18th October 1878

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I have &c
Sd/ H. Parker

Telegram

From Madras
Governor
To London
Secretary of State

Government are influenced by
Parke, expressed desire to
come out although reasons
disclosed in letter do not
apparently necessitate a
summons

907 20/11

Telegram Despatch 20/11/78.

S.W. 1878 Dec 1.
No. 1205

Colonial 13th
with blank Geography
form.

25.5.78 No 1433

Recd. 18th Nov.
S. 2.

Public Works Department
No. 4442 W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 21st Nov 78

Read the following:—

From the Secretary, Mr Dept (H.E. No. - of 25 Oct 1878)
India Office

Despatched 20/11/78

Ordered that the
following telegram be
sent to the Secretary of
State for India:

To London
Secretary

Government are in-
fluenced by Parkes' ex-
pressed desire to come
out although reasons dis-
closed in letter do not ap-
parently necessitate a
hurricane.

Suplt. In. A. Works 3
Marine Dept. 7
Civil Dept. 5

MS. 21/11 727

21/11
Recd. 29-11-78

Ch 1296
Obt. Jan (1878) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 21 Nov 1878. No. 4442 W

Nos. 248 & 249

Madras Harbour Works

Mr. Parkes' proposal to
Come out to India