

P. H. C. No 4577
Govt. of (1881) Madras.

MARINE.

P.W. August

To
THE MASTER ATTENDANT,
Madras,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 1st.

Issued

Recd. 13 Aug: 87 Encl.

G.O., 1st August 1881, No. 376.

S. S. C.

AUGUST.

To The Engineer in Ch. Sd/- 26/8/87
Madras H. Works (this India Office)

- Supt. in H. Works
for information.

Desd
19-8-87

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Madras Harbour.—The Chief Engineer agreed with in his opinion that it is at present impossible to give, as requested by Mr. Parkes, a conclusive opinion in regard to the Madras Harbour which is an experimental and as yet unfinished work.

Entd. in Receipt Regr.

N. 2051 W

for the order

1-copy to Dcty - 3-9-87

B N. 2051 W of 19th Aug: 87

Communicated to the
Engineer in Chief, Madras
Harbour works.

As
21/8/87

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

1st August 1881, No. 376.

Madras Harbour

Read the following papers:—

From J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieutenant, R.N.R., Master Attendant, Madras, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated 18th July 1881, No. 6423 [Current No. 445].

Administrative Department.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a letter, in original, from Mr. Parkes, in which it will be seen that he considers the time has come when a decided expression of my opinion as to the advantages to be offered by the Harbour in its present form, and generally as to the success of his work, should be given. This letter is one that I cannot answer without the sanction of Government, or without previously putting Government in possession of my views on the various subjects it draws attention to. I would, therefore, respectfully advance my opinion that, as an improvement towards carrying on the trade of the port, and remedying the former serious disadvantages of Madras, the Harbour bids fair to answer well, and will richly repay the dues in the shape of landing and shipping charges and increased Port dues, which the trade will be called upon to pay for its relief from the loss, danger, and exaction to which it has hitherto been compelled to submit, and which has given the port its former evil reputation.

2. The periods of rough weather (independent of cyclonic weather) are very few, and never last long, and though during such periods some inconvenience and delay are sure to occur, yet there is probably no port in the world, which is not weather bound for as long or longer period. So far a great practical benefit has been conferred on Madras by Mr. Parkes' work, and it is to be hoped the benefit will be lasting.

3. But Mr. Parkes himself seems not disinclined now to admit that the work cannot be considered a perfect one, and that the action of the sea on the beach jetties and improvement works generally has yet to be made manifest. I would go further, and say that the walls themselves must be exposed to the fury of a first-class storm before any such confidence can be placed in the harbour as would justify the construction of wharves, docks, &c., &c., which can safely be commenced in such a harbour as Colombo.

4. It is not, in my opinion, ready to be placed in the hands of a corporate body to administer and control, nor can I find any precedent for such action; a period of trial is, I consider, necessary, before the Government remove the interests of the port from its immediate supervision.

Memorandum by Colonel R. H. SANKEY, R.E., (through the Public Works Department), dated 27th July 1881, No. 322 [Current No. 470].

As I understand this reference, Mr. Parkes has asked the Master Attendant to give, from his own observation, an authoritative opinion, judging from the number of ships expected under the ordinary conditions of trade, whether sufficient shelter will be afforded and the water be calm enough to allow of cargo-boats discharging at the beach jetties, and thus allow of a judgment being formed as the best means of extending the amount of shelter for any future increase in the trade, &c.

2. To this the Master Attendant replies that many and great benefits will be derived from the Harbour Works, and that the number of bad days are likely to be as few or fewer than many ports in other parts of the world; at the same time he hesitates

to offer a decisive opinion as to the action of the sea on the beach jetties even during ordinary weather, or to the effects of a maximum cyclone on the piers themselves.

3. The opinion is very guarded, but I should doubt if any one could safely advance one of a different character till the work has sustained the requisite trial.

4. The Harbour is, in fact, an experimental work carried out on a large scale under the advice of an Engineer of acknowledged ability and of considerable experience, and I see no other course now than to await results.

5. That there are certain serious risks to be encountered are obvious enough, and both Captain Taylor and I have, after particularly our joint inspection of the Colombo Harbour Works, considered that Mr. Parkes should be invited to record a definite expression of his opinion regarding the comparatively weak section of the most exposed portion of his piers, as also regarding the action of the sea during heavy weather on the loose material of the rubble base as shown by slipping of some of the blocks in November last year.

6. I have also quite lately drawn attention to what appears to be the abnormal amount of settlement going on with reference to the rubble base near the ends of both piers on Mr. Beardmore's last report, apparently arising from the use of laterite in this portion of the work instead of granite.

7. These points, which might, under certain conditions, if left unattended to, produce serious consequences, will no doubt receive every consideration by Mr. Parkes, and it appears to me that no further action is at present desirable or practicable.

8. Mr. Parkes is under the impression that the work will be finished in November next, and that it is, therefore, the more essential for taking the points now advanced by himself into very early consideration, but from what I have been given to understand by Mr. Thorowgood the work cannot possibly be finished before this time next year.

9. There are thus two cyclone seasons between this and the practical conclusion of the work. It may be that neither one nor the other will yield the experience we want; but in any case there is no need for undue haste.

10. If Mr. Parkes could himself be at Madras during both the seasons mentioned he might have the best possible opportunity for studying the various questions that have been raised.

11. Captain Taylor has expressed a strong opinion that the work is not ready to be placed in the hands of a corporate body to administer, and, as there are some serious unsolved questions connected with the work involving possibly, as hinted at by Mr. Parkes in the last paragraph of his letter, the adoption of certain supplementary works with the object of securing still water within the Harbour, I venture to think that in any case it would be premature to legislate in this direction at present.

ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1881, No. 376.

These papers will be communicated to Mr. Parkes, through the Public Works Department, with remark that the Government agree in the Chief Engineer's observations.

2. It is impossible to give a conclusive opinion in regard to an experimental and as yet unfinished work.

(True Extract.)

J. W. Davis
A. H. S. S. S.
 Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.

„ Public Works Department (for communication to Mr. Parkes).

Exd. J. Wright.

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B N^o 2051 Wd/19th Aug/81

Communicated to the
Engineer in Chief, Madras
Harbour works.

Cy L¹⁹/81

To the Engineer in Ch. Sd/24/81
Madras H. Works (this India Office)

in Supt. in H. Works
for information.

Desd
19-8-81

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M. H. W. (this India Office)
Supt. in H. Works,
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MARINE DEPARTMENT.

1st August 1881, No. 376.

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2. The periods of rough weather (independent of cyclonic weather) are very few, and never last long, and though during such periods some inconvenience and delay are sure to occur, yet there is probably no port in the world, which is not weather bound for as long or longer period. So far a great practical benefit has been conferred on Madras by Mr. Parkes' work, and it is to be hoped the benefit will be lasting.

3. But Mr. Parkes himself seems not disinclined now to admit that the work cannot be considered a perfect one, and that the action of the sea on the beach jetties and improvement works generally has yet to be made manifest. I would go further, and say that the walls themselves must be exposed to the fury of a first-class storm before any such confidence can be placed in the harbour as would justify the construction of wharves, docks, &c., &c., which can safely be commenced in such a harbour as Colombo.

4. It is not, in my opinion, ready to be placed in the hands of a corporate body to administer and control, nor can I find any precedent for such action; a period of trial is, I consider, necessary, before the Government remove the interests of the port from its immediate supervision.

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B.N. 2051 Wd/19th Aug/81

Communicated to
the Registrar in
Chief Madras
Harbour works

/Smtd J.P.
15/8

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MARINE.

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Madras,
&c., &c., &c.

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B.N. 2051 W. dated 19th August
1881

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3. The opinion is very guarded, but I should doubt if any one could safely advance one of a different character till the work has sustained the requisite trial.

4. The Harbour is, in fact, an experimental work carried out on a large scale under the advice of an Engineer of acknowledged ability and of considerable experience, and I see no other course now than to await results.

5. That there are certain serious risks to be encountered are obvious enough, and both Captain Taylor and I have, after particularly our joint inspection of the Colombo Harbour Works, considered that Mr. Parkes should be invited to record a definite expression of his opinion regarding the comparatively weak section of the most exposed portion of his piers, as also regarding the action of the sea during heavy weather on the loose material of the rubble base as shown by slipping of some of the blocks in November last year.

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(True Extract.)

R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.

„ Public Works Department (for communication to Mr. Parkes).

Exd. J. Wright.

Madras.

Encl.

Encl.

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August 1881

Order thereon 19 Augt/81 h
2057 W

Communicated to
the Eng^r in Chief
Madras Harbour Works
(True Extract)

Sd/ J. H. TAYLOR
Major R.
Viceroy Govt. P.W.D.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.
MARINE.

To
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Madras,
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Dated August, 1st.

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Encl.

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B No 2057 Wd/81 Augt/81

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M. H. W. Thero India Office
Sd/ M. H. Works
for information

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Harbour works

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