Nº 340 of 1879-80

1-4-92

Nº 24317 dt/ 4th October 1881
B

OLS 26.9
Circ: 25.9.81. Rtt. 28.9.81.

Q: 22.9.81 Rt 28.9.81 R. 30.9.81

№ 340 of 1879-80

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 34.

TO THE MOST HONORABLE THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

My Lord Marquis,—With reference to paragraph 3 of your Lordship's Public Works Despatch No. 9, dated 3rd June 1880, we have the honor to report that Mr. Charles Underdown, Foreman Diver on the Madras Harbour Works, desires that the monthly payment of £10 to his family in England should commence on the 1st September 1880, the first payment being deducted from his pay for the month of August next.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord Marquis,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.
(,,) N. B. CHAMBERLAIN.
(,,) W. HUDLESTON.
(,,) DAVID F. CARMICHAEL.

Ootacamund,
16th July 1880.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

4-92

OOTACAMUND.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Copy.

Letter to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

Dated 16th July.

No. 34 of 1880.

INTIMATING that Mr. Underdown, the Foreman Diver of the Madras Harbour Works, desires that the monthly payment of £10 to his family be made from the 1st September.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

19th May 1880, No. 1,191 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 32. From F. N. THOROWGOOD, Esq., M. INST. C.E., Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 19th March 1880, No. 66 W.

I HAVE the honor to report that the period for which Mr. G. Lowe, Head Foreman on these works, was engaged will expire on July 28th, 1880, and to lay before Government certain proposals for the future.

See G.O., No. 2,476, of 30th August 1875, and No. 2,550, 8th September 1875.

2. Mr. Lowe's appointment was for five years at a salary of Rs. 400 a-month and *nominally* free quarters, but in reality Rs. 20 a-month was substituted for provision of quarters by himself.

3. Mr. Lowe has, on January 28th, 1880, sent in to me his six months' notice and has expressed a desire to stay to the completion of the work, hoping that an increase may be made to his salary for the remainder of his service after the five years have expired. I have written to, and received reply from, Mr. Parkes on the subject, and am now able to give expression to our joint opinions.

4. I feel some hesitation in placing before Government a report on the manner in which Mr. Lowe has performed his duties since his arrival in this country in 1875, because I am unable to say one single word which is not most warmly in his favor. Yet I must be permitted to state briefly some of the leading points in his good service, as the progress made with the works is in such a great degree owing to his untiring energy and earnestness.

5. In the four years and eight months that he has been on these works, Mr. Lowe has never been absent for one single day, except in one instance of sickness brought on by too much exposure to the sun during last September, and then he was kept away for only five days by order of the medical officer. The only thing that has influenced Mr. Lowe has been whether there was work to be done, and if work was to be done, he was always there to look after it. From early morning till dark, on Sundays and week days, regardless alike of wet or of a May and June sun at midday, he has for nearly five years ever been at his work, with the very small exception above referred to. I think that special notice should be taken of these hours of extra work, which it must be allowed are not what I could compel any Covenanted Foreman under me to undergo. For instance, it is generally supposed that between the hours of 12 and 2 work may be suspended, but with Mr. Lowe this was not the case. Similarly, as Sunday is the only day available for repairs to the railways, damaged blocks, &c., it has been only necessary for me to *suggest* that certain things might be done on a Sunday, and Mr. Lowe was invariably ready to get the work promptly carried out.

6. To be deprived of Mr. Lowe's services now, when in all probability eighteen months more will see the completion of the Harbour, would be to me personally a severe loss, and I submit much against the interests of the work and therefore of Government, and as he himself is willing to stay if his position is improved for the remainder of his time, I suggest that his services be retained for a period of eighteen months beyond the first term of his agreement.

7. Now with regard to his remuneration, although it is not probable that any one can hold him in higher estimation than I do (and I may also say Mr. Parkes), yet it must be remembered that Rs. 400 a-month and Rs. 20 for house-rent is as much as the post of Head Foreman is worth. *Individually* Mr. Lowe is, I consider, worth more, but the market value of a Foreman must be considered, and if Rs. 500 a-month were paid in any one case as regular salary, it would be quoted as a precedent on future works.

8. I therefore would respectfully place before Government what I have hinted to Mr. Lowe himself—

Firstly, that no monthly increase of pay be given, but that Rs. 40 instead of Rs. 20 be allowed for house-rent. I mention this because Mr. Lowe actually pays Rs. 44 for house-rent, and for Rs. 20 a suitable house for a man of his stamp really cannot be obtained. This will more nearly provide the "free quarters" originally stipulated for.

Secondly, that, at the termination of his present agreement on July 28th, he may have a month's pay presented to him as a gratuity.

Thirdly, that, in next November or December, or at some other time when I may be able to spare him, Mr. Lowe be given two months' privilege leave, so that he may be able to visit Kurrachee, where he has been on a previous occasion. In the event of Government agreeing to this, I would remark that I shall not ask for any one in his place during the two months of his absence.

Fourthly, that instead of paying an extra salary to Mr. Lowe from August 1880 for the ensuing eighteen months, he be paid at the end of the eighteen months a lump sum of (say) Rs. 1,000, which will be equivalent to a little over Rs. 50 a-month increase of pay, and at the same time will not admit of a monthly rate being quoted as a precedent for future works. And that this extra gratuity be made payable to his widow or children in the event of his death.

9. As I have said before, I believe Mr. Parkes, who selected Mr. Lowe for his appointment, approves of all that I have suggested; I therefore trust that the Government of Madras may submit the proposals for the favorable consideration of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State at Home.

No. 32-A. From Major D. H. TRAIL, R.E., Officiating Examiner, Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 3rd May 1880, No. 21 W.

YOUR No. 1,025, dated 6th April 1880, regarding the proposals of the Superintendent, Harbour Works, in regard to Mr. Lowe.

Proposal No. 1, in regard to the increased house-rent, appears admissible with the sanction of the Local Government.

Proposal No. 3 likewise is admissible under Section 13, Rule 2, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code, and G.O., No. 275 I, dated 3rd November 1879.

Proposals 2 *and* 4.—In Government of India Circular No. 67 P.W., dated 8th November 1877, the Governor-General in Council orders that any bonus or honorarium paid to any public officer is to be recorded in the Public Accounts and treated by the Offices of Audit and Account as an addition to salary and be made subject to the rules which govern such additions.

Both these proposed additions would raise Mr. Lowe's pay above Rs. 5,000 per annum (his present salary being Rs. 400 per mensem, or Rs. 4,800 per annum); hence it appears to me that the additions cannot, under Resolution by the Government of India, Financial Department, No. 2,679, dated 31st August 1878, be granted without the sanction of the Secretary of State.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1880, No. 1,191 W.

ORDERED that the Secretary of State be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

4-92

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Gobt. of {1880} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT, MADRAS
HARBOUR WORKS.

Dated May, 19th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 19th May 1880, No. 1,191 W.

MAY.

Nos. 32-33.

Mr. G. W. Lowe, Foreman, Madras Harbour Works.—Ordered that the Secretary of State be addressed on the re-engagement of the services of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

27th July 1881, No. 1,844 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following papers :—

No. 65. From the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, dated 18th July 1881, No. 27 W.

No. 65-A. Endorsement of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts on the above letter, dated 19th July 1881, No. 395 X.

No. 66. ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1881, No. 1,844 W.

SEEING that the six months' leave recommended on behalf of Mr. Lowe will bring his service beyond the extended term of eighteen months sanctioned by the Secretary of State, the Honorable the Governor in Council considers that the best arrangement under the circumstances will be to consider Mr. Lowe's connection with the Harbour Works to have ended from the date of his departure to England. And, as a final settlement, the Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions—

(1) the grant of a free passage to Europe (second-class),

(2) a gratuity proportionate to the sum of Rs. 1,000 he was to have received had he completed his eighteen months' additional service.

2. This arrangement will admit of Mr. Thorowgood at once making arrangements to replace Mr. Lowe by a suitable man, should one be procurable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of [1881] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 27th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 27th July 1881, No. 1,844 W.

JULY.

Nos. 65-66.

Mr. Lowe, Foreman, Madras Harbour Works.—Orders on application from — for six months' leave to Europe on medical certificate.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

20th August 1881, No. 2,063 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following papers :—

No. 83. From F. N. THOROWGOOD, Esq., M. INST., C.E., Superintendent of Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 12th August 1881, No. 36 W.

I HAVE the honor to address Government once more on the subject treated of in G.O., No. 1,844 W., of July 27th, 1881, viz., the absence from these works of Mr. G. W. Lowe, in the earnest hope that I may be permitted to retain his services should he perfectly regain his health.

2. Mr. Lowe has performed his duties on these works for six years in a manner that cannot be too highly commended. At any hour of the twenty-four and on any day of the week he has ever done his utmost, with great success, to forward the work; and I cannot do more than refer to my report of his conduct when asking that he might be re-engaged (letter with G.O., No. 1,191 W., May 19th, 1880).

3. Since the date of that letter he has spent another year of hard out-door work on the beach, and although in November 1880 he proceeded on his two months' leave kindly granted by Government in the order above quoted, yet he was unable to avail himself of this rest, for on November 21st two valuable Europeans were lost on the works by drowning, and Mr. Lowe, unasked, immediately returned to Madras and to duty.

4. The order on which I now venture with all respect to address Government sanctions the exact terms of Mr. Lowe's second agreement, and permits me to arrange for appointing another man in his place. At this stage of the work it would be impossible to provide a man who would represent Mr. Lowe, whose six years' experience can only be gained on this special work. It will be much easier for me to carry on the management for a time with my existing staff although more work will fall to all of us, than to instruct a new hand in details so full of peculiarities.

5. I have just learnt from Aden that Mr. Lowe is already greatly improved in health, and as I am confident that I may with justice consider him entitled to some special consideration, I venture to ask that it may rest with Mr. Parkes, under sanction of the Secretary of State, to re-engage Mr. Lowe if, in Mr. Parkes's opinion and that of the Home authorities, he is quite fit to return to duty and willing to do so.

6. There appears to me to be no chance of completing even the North Pier this year, owing to the alterations ordered in the Pier Head, so that Mr. Lowe's services would be of the greatest value to me in case he should be fit to return to duty in November or December, as he is so thoroughly acquainted with the details of the blocks to be used in the Pier Heads. To a new hand this alone would be a troublesome subject to learn.

7. In G.O., No. 907 W., dated 8th April 1880, the Government were so good as to grant to Mr. W. Allen, Foreman Diver, a gratuity of one month's pay. To Mr. T. Carter was given a (G.O., No. 1,058 W., dated 30th April 1880,) free second class passage, to which he had no real claim, as a reward for good service, but to Mr. G. Lowe, whose exertions could not have been surpassed, and who has lost his health in the service of the Government, nothing is given in the final settlement named in the order of July 27th which his agreement does not permit him to claim. The gratuity allowed is only part of his pay, and could be claimed by him as such, for it was a part of the terms on which he was re-engaged.

8. I therefore venture to ask that some special consideration be shown to so good and conscien tious a servant of Government, who spared neither health nor time to do his duty ; and considering how the two months' leave in 1880 was cut short by his sudden return to work already mentioned, I beg that he may now be allowed *three months' leave* on half pay, and that, as a special reward for his most excellent six years of exposure in a climate which has now knocked up or killed nearly the whole of my out-door staff at one time or another, he may be allowed the *full* gratuity of Rs. 1,000. I am aware that I am asking for a special favor, but I should be wanting in duty if I failed to make this appeal on behalf of such a valuable man as Mr. Lowe.

No. 84. ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1881, No. 2,063 W.

UPON the representation made by the Superintendent of the Madras Harbour Works in the letter above recorded, the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction to Mr. Lowe, Foreman of the Works, three months' leave on half pay from date of departure with permission to return to duty, at the end of this period, if he then be in a fit state of health. Mr. Lowe will also be allowed the full gratuity of Rs. 1,000 on the understanding that this, and the free passage to England already sanctioned, are held to satisfy all claims on these accounts under his present engagement.

2. Any further engagement after the expiry of his present agreement will be on distinct conditions.

3. The Secretary of State will be advised accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 20th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 20*th August* 1881, *No.* 2,063 W.

AUGUST.

Nos. 83-84.

Mr. Lowe, Foreman, Madras Harbour Works, granted three months' leave on half pay, and also the full gratuity of Rs. 1,000.

No. 45 W

FROM

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS,

To Colonel R. H. Sankey C.B.R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W. Dept.
Fort Saint George

MADRAS, 20th September 1881.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I learnt from Mr. Parkes by the last mail that arrived from England, that Mr. G. W. Lowe, Head Foreman of these works, had reported himself in England nearly restored to perfect health. Also that Mr. Parkes had taken him to the India Office with a view towards making arrangements for his leaving England again on October 20th if the medical officer passed him as quite fit to return to work in Madras.

Mr. Parkes

4/10/81

2. Mr. Parkes asked me to telegraph to him briefly if there was an absolute certainty of requiring Mr. Lowe's services again, and I replied that there was great necessity for his services, as ~~we~~ cannot get the two retwin or wing-walls built this season.

3. Mr. Lowe left on July 20th, and is kindly granted 3 months leave on half-pay by G.O. No. 2063 W of 20th August 1881. This makes a saving to Government of Rs. 600 on the salary bills for August, September and October, above what would have been paid had Mr. Lowe been at work.

4. I have not taken on any substitute for Mr. Lowe, as none was obtainable, but I have placed Mr. Underdown, Foreman Diver, in charge of the blocksetting work in addition to his other duties. This is giving him more work than is right for a time, but it is the most effective arrangement that I could make, and is answering well.

5. I venture to beg that Government may allow him an extra fee of Rs. 60 per mensem during the time that he has to do

do double duty, which will probably be till November 20th, and I respectfully ask that this may take effect from July 20th the date of Mr Lowe's departure - Should Mr Lowe be back in Madras on November 20th the saving to Government in actual salary, due to his absence would be Rs 1000 (or three months at Rs 200 and one month at Rs 400 saved), while the cost of what I ask for Mr Underdown will only come to Rs 240 for the four months.

6. I can conscientiously give my assurance that this extra fee is most heartily deserved.

I have the honor to be.
Sir.
Your most Obdt Servant

F. H. Henrowood. M. Inst. C.E.
Superintendent
M. P. Works

G.O. No 1844 W. dt 27.7.81
" 2063 W. dt 20.8.81

P. Jr. C. No 5387.

Establishment

From

The Superintendent
Madras Harbour Works

Dated 20th Sept.r 1881
No. 45 W

No. of Enclosures Nil

Entd. in Receipt Regr.

Extra Monthly allowance
of Rs. 60 -

Asking sanction for an —
to Mr Underdown Foreman
diver for doing duty for Mr
by Mr Lowe during absence
on 3 Months Leave

O.L. 26.9.
Circ: 25.9.81. Rt. 28.9.81.

O. 22.9.81 M 25.9.81 R. 30.9.81

No. 2431 W PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th Octr 1881.

R[illegible] the following :—

From the Supdt —
" Harbour Works } No. 45-W dt 20 Sept.r 1881

The grant of a
deputation allowance
of Rs 60 per mensem
to Foreman Diver Mr.
Underdown, during
the absence of Mr.
Lowe is sanctioned.

CM

2/9

Attd

24/9/81

The Supdt. M. H. Works
Exd. P. W. Acct
Dated
5-10-81

O.L. 27.9
Circ: 25.9
22.9.81

Read
4/10/81

nts.