

(1) Number of pages 16
(2) Date of repair 18.3.87
(3) Initials of the Referencer lana

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1456 W.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10-6-1882	197.

S.G. M.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

10TH JUNE 1882, No. 1456 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

1456
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

No. 74.

READ—the following papers :—

From the Consulting Architect, dated 10th May 1882, No. 110.

Office Note from the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, dated 16th May 1882, No. 139.
Do. do. do. „ 31st „ „ „ 187.

No. 75.

ORDER—dated 10th June 1882, No. 1456 W., Public Works.

In the foregoing letter the Consulting Architect to Government raises objections to the decimal system prescribed in paragraphs 985 and 989 of the Public Works Code.

2. With regard to the objections to the Code ruling on the subject of the measures of "*Length*" prescribed in paragraph 985, it is sufficient to remark that these were clearly foreseen, as will be noted by the permission to employ "duodecimal divisions, *i.e.*, inches," if absolutely necessary. In all the large operations of the department, particularly in Engineering works, the English foot and decimals of the foot are however more convenient and must be adhered to.

3. As regards "*rates*" the question is different. As the rupee is not now, nor likely to be, decimally divided, and as all bargains and payments are made as a rule with people totally ignorant of decimals, the Government consider that there are good grounds for the Consulting Architect's objection. The clause in Code paragraph 985 relating to the decimal division of the rupee will be modified accordingly in favor of annas and pies, and the Secretary to the Code Committee will take steps for the issue of the necessary Standing Order.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Consulting Architect to Government.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Superintending Engineers.
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of 1882 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated June, 10th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 10th June 1882, No. 1456 W.

JUNE.
Nos. 74-75.

Public Works Code.

Decimal system prescribed in paragraphs 985 and 989 of the —. Orders on letter from the Consulting Architect to Government raising objections to the —.

GENERAL OR ESTABLISHMENT.

No. 110

CONSULTING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE,

Chepauk, 10th May 1882

FROM

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT TO GOVERNMENT,

TO

THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

SIR,

Enclosures.

I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that Chapter VII of the Public Works Department Code practically introduces the decimal system, and if the rules there laid down are enforced, the extra labor entailed in my Office will be very considerable.

It is unnecessary to discuss so large a question as the introduction of the decimal system in an ordinary official letter and so far as I am personally concerned it is useless to do so, for having worked all my life with the foot rule divided into 12 inches I cannot now undertake to work by any other method. Every one in any way connected with building possesses a foot rule divided into 12 and each of these divisions is again divided into 8 or 12. All cubings and calculations connected with buildings are made in feet and inches, all work estimated

X. 111

in feet and inches, and paid for in feet & inches -

The Code lays down that measures of capacity shall be by the foot divided as a general rule "decimally". The only method by which this order can be carried out with-
out entailing enormous labor in reducing feet and inches to decimals after calcula-
ting, and again reducing decimals to feet and inches in the work is for government to supply 2 ft rules to all masons divided decimally and to call in and destroy the duodecimal rules. Even were this done the designer would have extra labor, for scanning .50 x .25 would convey no meaning until he thought of the points as 6" x 3"

Again in the matter of paces the Rupee is divided into 16 while all paces are now quoted by Rupees, annas, and pice. The Code says "paces are to be quoted in rupees decimally divided to two places of decimals". This will entail a reduction of all paces to decimals in the first instance when the Estimate is submitted and again a reduction back to Rupees annas and pice when the work is given out, for the Contractor, petty Contractor or laborer will work by decimals, while the gain from

any point of view is Nil.

1450
3

Again in the matter of Scales The Code lays down $\frac{1}{10}$ $\frac{1}{20}$ $\frac{1}{30}$ $\frac{1}{40}$ and for enlargements $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{40}$

These are convenient for ^{Engineering} ~~enlarging~~ drawings because the Engine Scales are divided into 10 but the common 2 foot rule in every workmans hands is not so divided and general plans should be; -

8 feet to an inch - 16 feet to an inch, and 32 feet to an inch and enlargements; -

$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{1}{12}$ $\frac{1}{24}$ $\frac{1}{48}$ real size.

A Workman can then apply his rule to any drawing and measure it accurately without chance of error.

I would point out that Engineers in England as a body have very rightly adopted the decimal system whenever they found it practicable and the fact that the levelling Staff has been decimally divided proves them to have been keenly alive to the advantages of the system, but they have all with common consent allowed the 2 foot rule to stand & feet and inches are retained in all structures of wood and iron.

Under the circumstances pointed out above I would respectfully submit that this office should be relieved from the

30 MAY 83

necessity of conforming to Chapter VII of the
Code or that the Chapter be so modified as
to suit the practical working of things.

I have the honor to be
Sir

your most obedt servt

Musholu
Genl Secy to Government

1456/12

1456
4

A. 4-112 d/12/5/82

No 624 D d/12/5/82

loc.

For remarks

11.5.82
Dy. J. W.

By
Dy. J. W.

To W.

1139 d/16 May/82

It is not known with reference to what specific orders the rules adverted to in this letter were framed. The original texts of paras 985, 986 and 989 of our present Code which are on record in this office are in the hand writing of Major L. Conway-Gordon, and must have been approved of by the other members (the Honble W. Hudleston, Col. Sankey and Mullins) of the Committee before being finally adopted for admission into the Code.

802

W. In order

17.5.82
1047-17/5-1029/5 = 0.576

34 MAY 32

3019

GENERAL OR ESTABLISHMENT.

From

The Consulting Architect
to Government,

To

The Chief Engineer, P. W. Department.

No. 110

Dated 10th May 1882

Received

No. of ENCLOSURES.

Chapter VIII Public Works
Department Code.

0/17/5
90

EXAMINER
30 MAY 32
END

1456
D. W.

In disposing of the reference by Mr. Christolun I do not know that there is any necessity to deal further with his objection to the Code rulings on the subject of the measure of "length" presented under para 985 than to say that there were clearly present as will be noted by the Commission to employ "duodecimal division is inches" if absolutely necessary. In all the large operations of the Department particularly in engineering works the English foot and decimals of the foot are used. Con-venient however

As regards "rates" the question is different and as the rates are not now used to be decimally divided

and again as all
 bargains & payments
 must be made as a rule
 with people totally
 ignorant of decimals
 I confess there are grounds
 for objecting to the ruling
 under "rates"

This if I correctly remember
 was insisted on by the
 Comptroller General as a means
 of saving labor in the
 Accounts branch but
 whether the reason be
 valid or not - I think the
 matter should now be
 reconsidered

If the C accounts to
 this point have come up
 in form of rates and entered
 in Rs. & paise a note
 to that effect will be
 circulated to the A.C.
 in case of the useful
 S.O. in modification of
 the Code rule

Att

24/5/82

By 139/29/5/82

No 684 88/29.5.82
 for remarks.

29.5.82

By 139/29/5/82.
 By W.

No objection - practically
 our rates are struck out in
 annual spec.

By
 C. 31/5/82

14/

1456W

No 1456W
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 10th June/82
 Read the following:-

From the Comy Architect No 110 of 10th May 82.
 Office note from the Supt. W. 139 of 16th "
 " " " 187 of 31st "

In the foregoing
 letter the Consulting
 Architect to Govt raises
 objections to the decimal
 system prescribed in
 paras 985 and 989 of
 the P.W. Code.

2. With regard to the
 objections to the Code
 ruling on the subject
 of the measures of
 "Length" prescribed in
 para 985, it is suffi-
 cient to remark that
 these were clearly
 foreseen

foreseen, as will be
noted by the permission
to employ "Duodecimal
divisions, i.e. inches" if
absolutely necessary.
In all the large operations
of the Department, par-
ticularly in Engineering
works, the English foot
and decimals of the foot
are however more con-
venient and must be
adhered to.

3. As regards "rules"
the question is different.
As the Rupee is not now,
nor likely to be, deci-
mally divided, and
as all bargains and
payments are made as
a rule with people
totally ignorant of
decimals, the Govt. con-
sider that there are
good grounds for the
Consy. Architects objection.
The

The clause in Code para
985 relating to the
decimal division of
the rupee will be
modified according
in favor of annas and
pies, and the Secy to
the Code Committee
will take steps for
the issue of the
necessary standing
order.

1456
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C₁

3.6.82

Plt
8/6/82

22/10/82
Consy. Archt. to Govt. ✓
Ch. Secy. Govt. ✓
Sub. Secy. ✓
Secy. to Govt. ✓

3079

Govt of (1882) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated

12/6

12/6

12/6

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 10 June 1882, No. 14562

Nos. 74 to 75

P. W. Code

Decimal System prescribed
in paras 983 and 989 of the

Adm. & letter from the Chief
Architect to Govt. raising ob-
jections to the

3079/6