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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P W DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1989	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5-8-1882	197

27
Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 40.

READ—the following Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 6th July 1882, No. 10, Public Works:—

I forward herewith, for the information of your Government, copy of a letter * which has been addressed to me by Mr. Parkes, C.E., in respect to certain observations made by your Secretary in the Public Works Department regarding the Madras Harbour, as recorded in your Public Works Proceedings, No. 1008 W., dated 24th April last.

2. I take this opportunity of informing your Excellency that all the papers transmitted by your Government and the Government of India, in connection with the damage caused to the Madras Harbour by the storm of November last are about to be submitted to a Committee, composed of Sir John Hawkshaw, Sir J. Coode, and Professor Stokes, for their opinion and advice, and that a further communication on this important subject will be made to you in due course.

ENCLOSURE

From W. PARKES, Esq., C.E., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 23, Abingdon Street, 2nd June 1882.

I have received through the Superintendent of the Harbour Works an Order of the Government of Madras, No. 1008 W., forwarding certain papers "to the Government of India and the Secretary of State, in continuation of the papers recorded with Order No. 780 W., dated 23rd March 1882."

2. I think it my duty to call your attention at once to one of these papers, because it contains a statement which is, no doubt unintentionally, quite untrue, and calculated to prejudice the conclusions which I have submitted to the Government. I do not propose to enter at present into any question of *opinion*, but simply confine myself to one of *fact*.

3. The papers consist of a letter from Captain Taylor, the Master Attendant, to the Government, forwarding, with some remarks, the opinions of three officers of his Department and of several other persons as to the relative force of sea in the great storm of May 1872 and in November 1881, and a note thereon by the Chief Engineer of the Presidency.

4. This evidence, interesting and valuable as it is, adds nothing material to the information furnished to me at the Master Attendant's office before I made my report. Other equally confident evidence to the contrary effect was then before me, and on a review of the whole I felt that I was not justified in saying more upon the comparison of the two storms than that there was a conflict of evidence as to which was attended by the heavier sea.

5. I was bound, however, to follow the course indicated by actual results in my investigations. Having ascertained the weak places in the work, I proposed to apply additional strength to those places, and that to an extent considerably beyond what was actually proved to be necessary by the results of the late storm, this additional security being avowedly intended to meet the possible attacks of still heavier seas.

6. This was in my mind, and it will be seen that I have given occasional expression to it throughout the preparation of my report, and it was, therefore, with some surprise that I read in the note by the Chief Engineer (paragraph 13) the statement that the late cyclone was "in his (Mr. Parkes) opinion . . . one of maximum intensity," and that my restoration scheme was based on this assumption.

7. It is possible that Colonel Smeley's misapprehension may have arisen from the fact that I made observed results the starting points for my recommendations, and abstained from adopting any conjectures as to what heavier seas might do in other directions than those indicated on this occasion. To do so would, in my opinion, be impractical and unscientific. I took upon the construction of the Madras piers as an important experiment in engineering, of which the results are not confined to mere local benefits, and I should deplore on more than personal grounds a decision of the Government which would throw away the results of the late most important and interesting lesson.

8. I would respectfully ask that the substance of this letter be communicated to the Governments of India and Madras.

No. 41.

ORDER—dated 5th August 1882, No. 1989 W., Public Works.

Recorded with reference to G.O., 1694 W., dated 6th July 1882.

(True Extract.)

Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works,
Marine Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated August, 5th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 5th Aug. 1882, No. 1989 W.

AUGUST.
Nos. 40-41.

Madras Harbour Works.

Despatch from the Secretary of State forwarding copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Parkes in respect to certain observations made by the Secretary, Public Works Department, regarding the — recorded.

32/3
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Exd. S. T. Austin.

India Office,
London, 6th July 1882.

Public Works,
No. 10.

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SIR,

* Dated 2nd June 1882.

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

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2nd June 1882.

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The Under Secretary of State
for India.

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

P. M. 52/5

No. 4.

Public Works

8th July 1882

The

Letter to Fort St. George

No. 10.

No. 1989 w d 5th August

13th 6th 1882

Recorded with
reference to G. O.
1694 w d 6th July 1882

Att

3/8/82

2/8

Sup. In. Works
Marine Dept.

Co 1694 hr. 6.7 hr

Dep. 19/1010 hr. 24.4 hr

Co 1008 hr. 24.4 hr

Dep. 14/782 hr. 23.3 hr

Co 780 hr. do

Dep. 74/2925 hr. 23.11 hr

Co 2927 hr. 23.11 hr

Dep. 2/2855 hr. 15.11 hr

Co 2854 hr. do

5245-

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

7/4

G. O. S. No. 19894.

Nos. 40541

M. W. & Co.

Despatch from the
Comptroller for
Copy of a letter ^{in respect to} ~~in respect to~~
by Mr. P. S. ~~in respect to~~
entirely accurate and
made by the Comptroller
in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
Record.

4/5

10/5

Put in Receipt Book