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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	740 W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	21.3.1882	197.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

21st March 1882, No. 740 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 147. From W. PARKES, Esq., M. Inst., C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 6th March 1882.

I AM desirous of obtaining from the Government a definite opinion as to my relation as Engineer-in-Chief of the Madras Harbour Works, and that of the staff engaged on the works under me, to the standing professional staff of the Public Works Department.

2. In March 1875 the Secretary of State decided that the works were to be carried out "according to the designs of Mr. Parkes, and under his superintendence." The details of the arrangement were embodied in an order of the Madras Government, and my appointment was confirmed by an India Office letter to myself a few months later. I regret that I have not the papers at hand to quote their dates.

3. My understanding of the position of an Engineer-in-Chief to any particular Government work is that he is the supreme professional adviser of the Government in respect of that work. Such is the universal rule of the branch of the profession in which I am an independent practitioner, and I presumed that my communications, and those of my representatives, with the Madras Government would be made through the Secretary to the Public Works Department, but that we should be quite independent of the professional officers of that department.

4. It appears, however, that there exists another view of our relations, viz., that we are like the standing officers of the Department subject to the professional control of the Chief Engineer of the Presidency. According to this view it is said to be the duty of the Chief Engineer to accompany my reports to the Government with his own comments upon them.

5. I do not for a moment question the perfect right of the members of the Government to avail themselves of the assistance of the Chief Engineer of the Presidency, or of any other Engineer, if they think it desirable in any or in every case to do so, but I submit that the existence of a permanent professional authority between myself and the Government is inconsistent with my position as Engineer-in-Chief of the Harbour Works.

6. The inconvenience resulting from the official intervention of the Chief Engineer has been for some time apparent to me, so that the question is a practical one, and not one of mere privilege; but I should have allowed it to remain in abeyance as hitherto, were it not that in view of a probable extension of engagements of the Harbour Works staff, the present seems to be a convenient opportunity for deciding it.

No. 148. ORDER THEREON, 21st March 1882, No. 740 W.

RECORDED with the observation that no charge has been made in regard to the position occupied by Mr. Parkes with reference to this Government, from that defined in G.O., 25th May 1875, No. 1433.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Col., R.E.
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

To the Engineer-in-Chief, Madras Harbour Works.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,
MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS.

Dated March, 21st.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 21st March 1882, No. 740 W.

MARCH.

Nos. 147-148.

Engineer-in-Chief of the Madras Harbour Works.—Letter from Mr. Parkes requesting a definite decision as to his relation as — to the standing professional staff of the Public Works Department, recorded with certain observation.

From

The Engineer in Chief
Madras Harbour Works

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras—

Madras 6th March 1882

Sir, I am desirous of obtaining from the Government a definite opinion as to my relation as Engineer in Chief of the Madras Harbour Works, and that of the Staff engaged on the works under me, to the standing professional staff of the Public Works Department.

2. In March 1875, the Secretary of State decided that the works were to be carried out "according to the designs of Mr Parkes, and under his superintendence". The details of the arrangement were embodied in an

order of the Madras Government and my appointment was confirmed by an India Office letter to myself a few months later. I regret that I have not the papers at hand to quote their dates.

3. My understanding of the position of an Engineer in Chief to any particular Government work is that he is the supreme professional adviser of the Government in respect of that work. Such is the universal rule of the branch of the profession in which I am an independent practitioner, and I presumed that ~~in~~ my communications, and those of my representatives, with the Madras Government would be made through the Secretary of the Public Works Department, but that we should be quite independent of the professional officers of that Department.

4. It appears however that there exists another view of our relations -

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viz. that we are like the standing officers of the Department subject to the professional control of the Chief Engineer of the Presidency. According to this view it is said to be the duty of the Chief Engineer to accompany my reports to the Government with his own comments upon them.

5. I do not for a moment question the perfect right of the Members of the Government to avail themselves of the assistance of the Chief Engineer of the Presidency, or of any other Engineer if they think it desirable in any or in every case to do so, but I submit that the existence of a permanent professional authority between myself and the Government is inconsistent with my position as Engineer in Chief of the Harbour Works.

6. The inconvenience resulting from the official intervention of the Chief Engineer has been for some time apparent.

P. W. L.
to me, so that the question is a practical
one, and not one of mere privilege, *his*
but I should have allowed it to
remain in abeyance as hitherto,
were it not that in view of a probable
extension of the engagements of the
Harbour Works Staff, the present
seems to be a convenient opportunity
for deciding it.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

W. Parkes.

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N^o 740 W.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 25th March 1882

Read the following:—

Mr

The Engineer in Chief } (H.E. dated 6th March/82)
Mr. H. Woods }

Recorded with the
observation that no
change has been made
in regard to the position
occupied by Mr. Parkes
with reference to the
Government, from that
defined in G.O. 25th May
1875 No. 1433.

Att.

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The Enr. C. M. H. Works

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Govt. of (1882) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

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5-20 PM

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G.O. 21 March 1882, No. 740 W

Nos. 147 to 148

Engineer-in-Chief of the
Madras Harbour Works

Letter from Mr. Parker —
requesting a definite decision
as to his relation as — to
the standing professional
staff of the V. M. Dept.,
recorded with observation.