

(1) Number of pages 14
|| (2) Date of repair 17.9.87
(3) Initials of the Referencer 2

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1517	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	18. 6. 1884	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7

2/

18TH JUNE 1884, No. 1517 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 15th May 1884, No. 28 P.W.:—

With reference to my Public Works despatch, No. 23, dated the 24th April last, I transmit herewith, for information of your Government, copy of a communication which has recently been addressed to this office by Mr. Parkes * respecting the first steps to be taken for proceeding

with the reconstruction of the Madras Harbour Works.

2. The reasons adduced by Mr. Parkes for the deputation, in the first instance, to this country of Mr. Thorowgood for personal consultation respecting the supply of machinery for proceeding with the works appear to be reasonable, and I have accordingly requested the Government of Madras, by telegram, to despatch Mr. Thorowgood to this country.

3. This preliminary step will not, of course, interfere with a personal inspection of the works later by Mr. Parkes himself.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. PARKES, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 23, Abingdon Street, 26th April 1884, No. 748 P.W.

Madras Harbour.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, accompanied by a copy of the second report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State in 1882 to consider the question of restoring the Madras Harbour.

2. Your letter renews my appointment as Engineer-in-Chief of the works on the same terms as existed before your previous letter to me of 12th October last, and for this I beg to express my thanks to the Secretary of State in Council.

3. The report of the Committee has reference to some other proposals than those which form the subject of your present instructions to me, and with regard to these, and especially the question of the change of entrance, I think it only right to say that, after very careful consideration, I had independently arrived at the same conclusion as that submitted by the Committee.

4. With regard to the question especially referred to me, involving the first steps in the arrangements to be made for the resumption of work, I would remark that the matter has been somewhat complicated by the lapse of time and the various discussions which have taken place since the Committee presented their first report in January 1883. Mr. Thorowgood was in England when the Committee had completed their investigations, and they communicated to him and to myself personally their general conclusions, but Mr. Thorowgood left for India before we had either of us an opportunity of perusing the report.

5. It was a not unnatural consequence of this that, in our subsequent independent consideration of the whole question, with the full text of the report before us, we should have been led in rather different directions in our ideas of forming a practical project within the limits allowed

by the Committee. The divergence, slight at first, was emphasized, if not widened, by the consultations of the Committee appointed by the Madras Government, and, though the subsequent mutual explanations between Mr. Thorowgood and myself have shown that there is no essential difference of opinion between us, I feel strongly that it would be unsatisfactory for me to impose upon him a complete scheme of work without having given such full consideration to the reasons which had led him in a different direction as could only be given in personal conference.

6. The first thing to be done, therefore, is to arrange a meeting, and the question arises whether this would be better done by my going out to Madras, as suggested by the Secretary of State, or by summoning Mr. Thorowgood home for a full consideration of the whole question in England.

7. I will now submit, for your consideration, what I think are the superior advantages of the latter alternative.

8. It must be remembered that not a single block can be set in the breakwaters without new machinery, the original Titans having been completely lost. The modifications proposed in the sections will require modified machinery, and it is mainly as to the precise character of these modifications that further discussion is required. No orders for new machinery can be given till these points are settled, that is, if the conference takes place at Madras till my return to England. If it take place in England, however, the most urgent points will be disposed of first and action taken accordingly, while there would be in addition the great advantage of direct consultation with the manufacturers.

9. On the other hand, the local works that can be undertaken in anticipation of block-setting are of a kind for which the organization is complete, and they can be very well carried on during Mr. Thorowgood's three months' absence under Mr. Beardmore. There is no change in the physical conditions since I left Madras myself two years ago, so that I have full materials for giving the necessary instructions for such works as are not dependent on the questions requiring further discussion.

10. It may, perhaps, be desirable that I should explain rather more in detail what are the questions requiring further discussion. It will be remembered that Sir John Hawkshaw's Committee suggested three sections (III, IV and V) as applicable to the restoration of the most seriously damaged portions of the breakwaters. Of these, No. III was put forward as that on which operations would probably be commenced, and the others were given rather to show in what directions modifications might be made if the difficulties of carrying out No. III should prove so great as to warrant a change of system. The anticipated difficulties consisted mainly in the removal of the fallen blocks, of the time and cost involved in which it was impossible to make any reliable estimate.

11. The result of my further consideration of the matter was that it would be better to make no attempt at No. III section, but at once to adopt No. IV as the standard, though it might be necessary for some portion of the length to adopt No. V.

12. Mr. Thorowgood's conclusion, formed independently at Madras, was in agreement with my own, so far as the abandonment of No. III section was concerned, but his inclination was towards adopting No. V rather than No. IV in substitution for it, and this inclination was developed into a definite recommendation by the Committee appointed by the Madras Government. Mr. Thorowgood himself, however, has since expressed his general concurrence in the suggestions I have made as to the mode of carrying out No. IV section, and his perfect willingness to concur in its adoption.

13. When lately in conference with Sir John Hawkshaw and Sir John Coode, I found that they had already come to the same conclusion as myself, that the difficulties of manipulation were a serious objection to the adoption of No. V section for any considerable length, though when once made it would be a safe and satisfactory structure; and it would appear to be specially to this that they allude in recommending the Secretary of State to take my advice as quoted by you.

14. It may be taken, therefore, that my recommendation is that the breakwaters be restored in accordance with sections I and II for the comparatively uninjured portions, and of section IV for those more seriously injured, and that the details of the *modus operandi* be settled in personal conference with Mr. Thorowgood.

15. I may mention that I have made a careful estimate of the cost of restoration upon this system, entirely independent of that of the Committee, based on my own quantities, and the rates at which similar work has hitherto been executed on the Madras Harbour Works, and the total amount is 43 lakhs of rupees. The Committee's estimate for the same scheme was 430,000*l.* based on rates of similar works elsewhere. I note their correction of my misunderstanding as to their rates being convertible into rupees at 10 to the £ sterling, but my estimate is quite independent of any such question.

16. It is possible that in going over this estimate with Mr. Thorowgood we may think it desirable to make some additions to the rates for future work, but the additions will not be

serious, and I think it may be useful to put this forward at once as an approximate estimate with a view to correcting the false impressions which may have been created by the much larger estimates which have been put forward on no proper authority.

17. The considerations above submitted appear to me to justify my recommendation that Mr. Thorowgood should be summoned home for consultation with me rather than that I should myself go to Madras for the same purpose. I shall, however, be perfectly willing to adopt the latter course if the Secretary of State should be of opinion that there would be other advantages in my visit to Madras, which I do not myself at present see, but which would outweigh the saving of time and the more complete discussion which will be secured by Mr. Thorowgood's visiting England.

18. Should His Lordship decide on adopting my recommendation, I would ask that telegraphic instructions be forwarded at the earliest practicable time. During the interval, before Mr. Thorowgood's arrival, I will take measures for collecting the necessary materials for our consultations, and I will also communicate with Mr. Beardmore as to the works which he can proceed with on his receiving the necessary sanction from the Government of Madras.

No. 230 M.

Forwarded to the Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department, in continuation of Public Works Department letter, No. 198 M., dated 17th idem.

(By Order.)

SIMLA,
7th June 1884.

(Signed) R. B. BUCKLEY,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—dated 18th June 1884, No. 1517 W., Public Works.

Recorded, with reference to Proceedings of Government, No. ¹²³⁶/_A W., dated 14th May, and No. 1436 W., dated 9th June 1884.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Marine Department.

Exd. J. Henrious.
Spare Copies

1517

2

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated June, 18th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 18th June 1884, No. 1517 W.

JUNE.

Madras Harbour

Copy of despatch from the Secretary of State to the Government of India embodying copy of a letter from Mr. Parkes regarding the first steps to be taken towards the reconstruction of the —, recorded.

834

Print

h/

1517

India Office,
London, 15th May 1884.

Public Works,
No. 28.

To His Excellency The Most Honourable The Governor
General of India in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS,

Para. 1. With reference to my Public Works Despatch, No. 23, dated the 24th April last, I transmit herewith, for information of your Government, copy of a communication which has recently been addressed to this Office by Mr. Parkes* respecting the first steps to be taken for proceeding with the reconstruction of the Madras Harbour works.

* Letter from Mr. Parkes, dated 26th April 1884.

2. The reasons adduced by Mr. Parkes for the deputation, in the first instance, to this country of Mr. Thorowgood for personal consultation respecting the supply of machinery for proceeding with the works appear to be reasonable, and I have accordingly requested the Government of Madras, by telegram, to despatch Mr. Thorowgood to this country.

3. This preliminary step will not, of course, interfere with a personal inspection of the works later by Mr. Parkes himself.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Marquis,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

9786. 1. 308.

6256/10/11

A

3

151
From W. P. B. Esq. to the
Hon. Secy of State for
India.

ENCLOSURE.

MADRAS HARBOUR.

P. W. 748.

23, Abingdon Street,
26th April 1884.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, accompanied by a copy of the Second Report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State in 1882 to consider the question of restoring the Madras Harbour.

2. Your letter renews my appointment as Engineer-in-Chief of the works on the same terms as existed before your previous letter to me of 12th October last, and for this I beg to express my thanks to the Secretary of State in Council.

3. The Report of the Committee has reference to some other proposals than those which form the subject of your present instructions to me, and with regard to these, and especially the question of the change of entrance, I think it only right to say that, after very careful consideration, I had independently arrived at the same conclusion as that submitted by the Committee.

4. With regard to the question especially referred to me, involving the first steps in the arrangements to be made for the resumption of work, I would remark that the matter has been somewhat complicated by the lapse of time and the various discussions which have taken place since the Committee presented their first Report in January 1883. Mr. Thorowgood was in England when the Committee had completed their investigations, and they communicated to him and to myself personally their general conclusions, but Mr. Thorowgood left for India before we had either of us an opportunity of perusing the report.

5. It was a not unnatural consequence of this that, in our subsequent independent consideration of the whole question, with the full text of the report before us, we should have been led in rather different directions in our ideas of forming a practical project within the limits allowed by the Committee. The divergence, slight at first, was emphasized, if not widened, by the consultations of the Committee appointed by the Madras Government, and, though the subsequent mutual explanations between Mr. Thorowgood and myself have shown that there is no essential difference of opinion between us, I feel strongly that it would be unsatisfactory for me to impose upon him a complete scheme of work without having given such full consideration to the reasons which had led him in a different direction as could only be given in personal conference.

6. The first thing to be done, therefore, is to arrange a meeting, and the question arises whether this would be better done by my going out to Madras, as suggested by the Secretary of State, or by summoning Mr. Thorowgood home for a full consideration of the whole question in England.

7. I will now submit, for your consideration, what I think are the superior advantages of the latter alternative.

8. It must be remembered that not a single block can be set in the breakwaters without new machinery, the original Titans having been completely lost. The modifications proposed in the sections will

X

4

require modified machinery, and it is mainly as to the precise character of these modifications that further discussion is required. No orders for new machinery can be given till these points are settled, that is, if the conference takes place at Madras, till my return to England. If it take place in England, however, the most urgent points will be disposed of first, and action taken accordingly, while there would be in addition the great advantage of direct consultation with the manufacturers.

9. On the other hand, the local works that can be undertaken in anticipation of block setting are of a kind for which the organization is complete, and they can be very well carried on, during Mr. Thorowgood's three months' absence, under Mr. Beardmore. There is no change in the physical conditions since I left Madras myself two years ago, so that I have full materials for giving the necessary instructions for such works as are not dependent on the questions requiring further discussion.

10. It may perhaps be desirable that I should explain rather more in detail what are the questions requiring further discussion. It will be remembered that Sir John Hawkshaw's Committee suggested three sections (III., IV., and V.) as applicable to the restoration of the most seriously damaged portions of the breakwaters. Of these No. III. was put forward as that on which operations would probably be commenced, and the others were given rather to show in what directions modifications might be made if the difficulties of carrying out No. III. should prove so great as to warrant a change of system. The anticipated difficulties consisted mainly in the removal of the fallen blocks, of the time and cost involved in which it was impossible to make any reliable estimate.

11. The result of my further consideration of the matter was that it would be better to make no attempt at No. III. section, but at once to adopt No. IV. as the standard, though it might be necessary for some portion of the length to adopt No. V.

12. Mr. Thorowgood's conclusion, formed independently at Madras, was in agreement with my own, so far as the abandonment of No. III. section was concerned, but his inclination was towards adopting No. V. rather than No. IV. in substitution for it, and this inclination was developed into a definite recommendation by the Committee appointed by the Madras Government. Mr. Thorowgood himself, however, has since expressed his general concurrence in the suggestions I have made as to the mode of carrying out No. IV. section, and his perfect willingness to concur in its adoption.

13. When lately in conference with Sir John Hawkshaw and Sir John Coode, I found that they had already come to the same conclusion as myself, that the difficulties of manipulation were a serious objection to the adoption of No. V. section for any considerable length, though when once made it would be a safe and satisfactory structure; and it would appear to be specially to this that they allude in recommending the Secretary of State to take my advice, as quoted by you.

14. It may be taken, therefore, that my recommendation is that the breakwaters be restored in accordance with Sections I. and II. for the comparatively uninjured portions, and of Section IV. for those more seriously injured, and that the details of the *modus operandi* be settled in personal conference with Mr. Thorowgood.

15. I may mention that I have made a careful estimate of the cost of restoration upon this system, entirely independent of that of the Committee, based on my own quantities, and the rates at which similar work has hitherto been executed on the Madras Harbour works, and the total amount is 43 lacs of rupees. The Committee's estimate for the same scheme was 430,000 l. based on rates of similar works elsewhere. I note their correction of my misunderstanding as to their rates being

1517 9/6

5

convertible into rupees at 10 to the £ sterling, but my estimate is quite independent of any such question.

16. It is possible that in going over this estimate with Mr. Thorowgood we may think it desirable to make some additions to the rates for future work, but the additions will not be serious, and I think it may be useful to put this forward at once as an approximate estimate with a view to correcting the false impressions which may have been created by the much larger estimates which have been put forward on no proper authority.

17. The considerations above submitted appear to me to justify my recommendation that Mr. Thorowgood should be summoned home for consultation with me rather than that I should myself go to Madras for the same purpose. I shall, however, be perfectly willing to adopt the latter course if the Secretary of State should be of opinion that there would be other advantages in my visit to Madras, which I do not myself at present see, but which would outweigh the saving of time and the more complete discussion which will be secured by Mr. Thorowgood's visiting England.

18. Should his Lordship decide on adopting my recommendation, I would ask that telegraphic instructions be forwarded at the earliest practicable time. During the interval, before Mr. Thorowgood's arrival, I will take measures for collecting the necessary materials for our consultations, and I will also communicate with Mr. Beardmore as to the works which he can proceed with on his receiving the necessary sanction from the Government of Madras.

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

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

5

1517

6

7

1517

1517

(14)

19

Bureau of the

General

1517 w dated 1884

A

Recorded, with
reference to P. G. H. C.

1236 w of 14th May, and
1236 w of 14th May, and

1436 w of 8th June 1884.
1436 w of 8th June 1884.

Ct.

13.6

W

16.6.84

To The Marine Department
To The Marine Department

On 1236 w of 14-5-84
On 1236 w of 23-5-84

On 1436 w of 9-6-84
On 1436 w of 9-6-84

On 1436 w of 9-6-84
On 1436 w of 9-6-84

On 13-6-84

Forwarded to the Govt of Madras in the P. P. Depot
in continuation of P. P. Depot letter No. 1988 dated 17th June.

No. 230 H.

By Order,

M. S. Muthu.

Offg. Secy. to the Govt of Madras

P. P. Depot
Circular,
No. 7th June 1884

4950

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

(8)

Dated

Recd.

4-4-84

Press

19/6/84

Encl.

G.O. 189 June 1884, No. 15/7

Madras Harbour

Copy of
Despatch from the
Secy of State to
the Govt of India
on embodying copy of
a letter from Mr. Parker
regarding the first
steps to be taken towards
the reconstruction of
the - recorded

35

3