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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2144-W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	14-9-1888	198

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following letter from F. N. THOROWGOOD, Esq., M. INST. C.E.,
Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works, to the Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department, dated Madras, 3rd September 1885, No. 28 W.:—

I have the honor to submit the following report of the progress on these works during the past month of August.

2. *North pier rubble base.*—During several days in August the ground swell stopped all work in the sea, and the trains of rubble stone for the base of the north pier had to be cancelled. Throughout the whole of the month the work of tipping rubble was much retarded by the broken and confused seas, caused by the blocks in the damaged piers, in close proximity to which the tipping boats have to work. This, however, is a contingency that has always been foreseen in carrying out the reconstruction. On the whole, more work has been done at the new rubble base during August than in July, a total of 7,217 tons of stone having been deposited, making a grand total of 67,937 tons deposited in the north pier since the work of reconstruction commenced.

3. *Recovering old blocks.*—The task of recovering or attempting to recover the old concrete blocks in the fallen walls is one that necessitates a smooth sea; and, although all the gearing is in readiness for the work, hitherto I have been unable to get any satisfactory result. An attempt was made at the north pier on the 31st, but after lying over the spot for some time the diving boats had to be removed, as occasionally a breaking wave rendered the position highly dangerous.

4. The apparatus prepared for this work consists of two very excellent new cargo boats purchased by me at Karikal, each capable of sustaining 20 tons. These are fastened together by four large teakwood beams which lie athwart the boats' gun-wales and are secured by heavy iron straps and bolts passing down the outside of the sides to the keel. The boats have a space of 6 feet clear between them, and over this space is fixed a powerful crab winch with treble purchase gear and treble purchase blocks attached to the chain from the crab. The gear for laying hold of a block below water consists of a pair of wrought iron claws weighing 33 cwts., having a grip of 12' 6" wide; these are so arranged that they can be made to descend wide open over a block, and having reached the block, a diver frees four small catches, when on heaving up with the winch the block is caught hold of and carried up by the claws. All this works admirably in experiment, but the actual test of raising a block out of the ruins, I have not yet been able to apply.

5. *South pier rubble base.*—Work of tipping rubble at the south pier has been suspended during August, as the length of work set out for the purpose is much encumbered by old blocks from the damaged wall. These have to be blasted to pieces by divers before rubble can be thrown in, and diving work at this particular spot has been most seriously interrupted by the swell which has persistently rushed through the gap in the damaged work, sweeping divers off their legs. For the last few days the swell has abated and divers have been able to work.

6. *Block-making.*—The important work of making blocks went on satisfactorily throughout August up to the 29th, when it had to be stopped for want of room on the block-making platform. The second platform is being prepared as rapidly as possible, and when this is built block-making can be renewed. Of this second platform a length of 332 feet out of a total of 1,140 feet has been completed.

The number of blocks made during August has been 203, making the total of new blocks for the restored works now 688, representing a weight of about 20,000 tons of concrete.

7. *Pallavaram quarries.*—The quarries at Pallavaram have not yet been taxed very severely, and as yet not more than four trains daily have been received. During August, 11,859 tons of stone were sent down to Madras, of which 4,642 tons were used for block-making. The railway lines at the quarry have been extended and considerable blasting operations carried on.

8. The Mussulman contractor Kázim Ali Nakavy Sáhib has succeeded in obtaining for himself what I endeavoured to obtain for him, viz., two police constables to be on duty about the quarry, and a slight extension of magisterial power to the sarishtadar of the district. This is a great help in working the quarry, and tends materially to maintaining punctuality in loading the trains, by making the coolies more afraid to run away, as is their custom after having received an advance of pay.

9. *Titan crane for north pier.*—On the 7th August the S.S. *Harrogate* arrived with the first titan crane. It was originally hoped that this machine would have been ready in March last; but numerous causes have joined to delay its completion, and now it will not be possible to do much work with it before the storm season of the north-east monsoon.

10. This massive machine arrived in 325 different pieces and packages, and weighs 105 tons. The work of erection was commenced on 17th August, and cannot be wholly completed much under two months from that date. Owing to delay in shipping the second crane for depositing the wave-breaker blocks, I have had to build this titan with its overhanging girders pointing to the north, in which position it will advance, and begin work by depositing blocks on the foreshore of the existing north pier. The titan cranes for this work of reconstruction are capable of a greater number of movements than those now lying at the bottom of the sea, which were used for the first work.

11. *Stores received on the works.*—During August, in addition to the *Harrogate* with the titan above mentioned, there arrived the S.S. *Sutlej*, *Nuddea*, *Goorkha*, and *Goa*; these brought 960 tons of Portland cement, 8 sets of points and crossings which are much needed, and 708 sal-wood sleepers from Gopálpur, besides other stores of various kinds. I was surprised to find a charge made of Rs. 2-8-0 a ton as import duty by the Madras Municipality for the sal-wood sleepers. These sleepers do not leave the harbour limits and never are brought into the area of jurisdiction of the municipality; so after taking the opinion of the Government Solicitor on the subject of this charge, I am at present withholding payment pending a settlement of the question.

12. I am pleased to report that Mr. A. L. Pogson arrived here 20th August and assumed charge of the post of Assistant Superintendent on the 21st August.

ORDER—dated 14th September 1885, No. 2144 W., Public Works.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.

" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

" Marine Department.

" Judicial Department for information, with advertence to paragraph 8.

" Financial (Municipal) Department for information, with advertence
to paragraph 11, and with copy of note by the Honorable Member.

Exd. J. Henricus.

Spare Copies

2/43
2/

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 14th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 14th Sept. 1885, No. 2144 W.

SEPTEMBER.

Madras Harbour

Progress report of — for August 1885,
recorded.

W. Aug 30/85

7765

W.

Proposed to send
a copy of the ^{1st} ~~1st~~
remark to the Genl
(in) Sept —

2144 W

Cu

11.9.85

He. b. 10/10

yes in md
with the 1st
Per. 11/11

H.C.
An new copy ²¹⁴
H.C.'s note to
accompany
printed pros. to
Fred Sept
JB

sw. App. 30/77
with work.

Proposed to
simply record
this report as no
point appears to
call for special
remark. Para 8
has evidently been
in view to its being
conceded to the
Dept, but ~~the~~ W has
considered no further
action in the matter
necessary, when previously
brought to notice.
Mr Pogson's arrival
has already been
reported.

FB

Approved at

59

1244/10/2461/1
13/11/85
Civil Works

May the following letter

No. 2811

FROM

THE SUPERINTENDENT,

MADRAS HARBOUR WORKS,

To The Honble Colonel J. H. M. Shaw Stewart, R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

MADRAS, 3rd September 1885.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report of the progress on these works during the past month of August.

North Pier

Rubble Base

During several days in August the ground swell stopped all work in the pier, and the trains of rubble stone for the base of the North Pier had to be cancelled. Throughout the whole of the month the work of tipping rubble was much retarded by the broken and confused piers, caused by the blocks in the damaged piers, in close proximity to which the tipping boats have to work. This, however, is a contingency that has always been foreseen in carrying out the reconstruction. On the whole, more work has been done at the new rubble base during August than in July, a total of 4,217 tons of stone having been deposited, making a grand total of 67,937 tons deposited in the North Pier since the work of reconstruction commenced.

3. The task of removing or attempting to remove the old concrete blocks in the fallen walls is one that necessitates a smooth sea, and, although all the gearing is in readiness for the work, hitherto I have been unable to get any satisfactory result. An attempt was made at the North Pier on the 1st, but after lying on the spot for some time the diving boats had to be removed, as peculiarly a breaking wave rendered the position highly dangerous. -

4. The apparatus prepared for this work consists of 2 very excellent new cargo boats purchased by me at Haricot, each capable of sustaining 20 tons. These are fastened together by 11 large oakwood beams which lie across the boats' gunwales and are secured by heavy iron straps and bolts passing down the outside of the sides to the keel. The boats have a space of 6 feet clear between them and over this space is fixed a powerful crab winch with table purchase gear and table purchase blocks attached to the chain from the crab. The gear for laying hold of a block below water consists of a pair of wrought iron plates weighing 33 cwt each having a grip of 12' 6" wide; these are so arranged that they can be made to descend wide open over a block, and having

Removing old
Blocks.

South Pier -
Rubble Base

having reached the block a diver frees four small catches, when on heaving up with the winch the block is caught hold of and carried up by the claws. All this work admirably in experiment, but the actual test of raising a block out of the ruins I have not yet been able to apply.

5. Work of tipping rubble at the South Pier has been suspended during August, as the length of work set out for the purpose is much encumbered by old blocks from the damaged wall. These have to be blasted to pieces by divers before rubble can be thrown in, and diving work at this particular spot has been most seriously interrupted by the pwell which has persistently pushed through the gap in the damaged work, sweeping divers off their legs. For the last few days the pwell has abated and divers have been able to work.

Block-
making

6. The important work of making blocks went on satisfactorily throughout August, up to the 29th, when it had to be stopped for want of room on the blockmaking platform. The second platform is being prepared as rapidly as possible, and when this is built blockmaking can be renewed. Of this second platform a length of 332 feet out of a total of 1140 feet has been completed.

The

6. The number of blocks made during August has been 203, making the total of new blocks for the restored works now 688, representing a weight of about 20,000 tons of masonry.

7. The quarries at Pallavaram have not yet been taxed very severely, and as yet not more than 14 trains daily have been received. During August 11,809 tons of stone were sent down to Madras, of which 4,642 tons were used for blockmaking.

The railway lines at the quarry have been extended, and considerable blasting operations carried on.

8. The Mussulman contractor, Nazim Ali Nakaary Sahib, has succeeded in obtaining for himself what I endeavoured to obtain for him, namely, two police constables to be on duty about the quarry, and a slight extension of magisterial power to the Sanishitadar of the district. This is a great help in working the quarry, and tends materially to maintaining punctuality in loading the trains, by making the coolies more afraid to run away, as is their custom after having received an advance of pay.

9. On the 7th Aug the S.S. "Harrogate" arrived with the first Titan Crane. It was originally hoped that this machine would have been ready in March last, but numerous causes

have

Pallavaram
Quarries

Titan Crane
for North Pier

have joined to delay its completion, and now it will not be possible to do much work with it before the storm season of the N.E. monsoon.

10. This massive machine arrived in 325 different pieces and packages, and weighs 105 tons. The work of erection was commenced on August 17th, and cannot be wholly completed much under 2 months from that date. Owing to delay in shipping the second crane for depositing the Wave breaker blocks, I have had to build this Titan with its overhanging girder pointing to the North, in which position it will advance, and begin work by depositing blocks on the foreshore of the existing North Pier. The Titan cranes for this work of reconstruction are capable of a greater number of movements than those now lying at the bottom of the sea, which were used for the first work.

Stores received 11.

During August, in addition to the on the works, "Harrogate" with the Titan above mentioned, there arrived the S.S. "Sutley", "Kuddio", "Goetha", and "Gee", these brought 960 tons of Portland cement, 8 sets of points and crossings which are much needed, and 708 Salwood Sleepers from Gopalpore, besides other stores of various kinds. I was surprised to find a charge made of Rs 2.8 - a ton as import duty by the Madras Municipality for

the Salt wood sleepers. These sleepers do not leave
the Harbour limits, and none are brought into the
area of jurisdiction of the Municipality; so after
taking the opinion of the Government Solicitor
on the subject of this charge, I am at present
withholding payment pending a settlement of
the question.

I am pleased to report that Mr.
H. L. Penson arrived here August 20th, and as-
sumed charge of the post of Assistant Superin-
tendent on the 21st August.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. H. Penson M. Inst. C. E.
Superintendent.

G.O. No 1900 W. 17. 8. 888

Arch 7765

Hon: H. E. Sullivan

Buildings & Roads

From

The Superintendent
Madras Harbour Works

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A 15
No 104 W 2/14 Sept/88
Records

CD
5.9.88

7.9.83

No 28 W
Dated 3rd September 1888
Rev 4

1579
CD
14.9

Suptt. M. H. Woolls.
By: M. W. A.

Marine Deptt.
Inde Deptt. for information
with adm. b. to para 8.

Inde (M) Deptt. for information
with adm. b. para 11, with copy
of note by the M. W.

No of Enclosures Nil

Progress Report
Submitted for August 1888

Ref. 3072 Cir 8/9
6. 5. 9. 88

7765

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Date

Nov

16/11/91

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 14 Sep 1885, No. 21464

Madras Harbour

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Proposed Report —
for Aug 1885, recorded

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12/11/91