

To

His Excellency

The Right Honorable

BAILLY BARON WENLOCK, G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,

MADRAS

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF SIMPSON HODGSON, LATE
COVENANTED ENGINEER TO THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT
AND SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT WORKSHOPS,
DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS, MADRAS.

Your humble petitioner sheweth that after passing an examination before a board of Engineers in London, he entered into Covenant with the Secretary of state for India to serve the Madras Government as an Engineer, and on his arrival at Madras, he was appointed by Warrant to the Public Works Department (warrant enclosed) and when the Superintendent of the Government Workshops D. P. Works resigned and went to England, your petitioner was appointed to be the Superintendent of the Government Workshops D. P. W. Madras, and held that appointment until the expiration of his Covenant and Government very kindly gave him three thousand rupees (Rs. 3,000), on his leaving the service.

On the 12th July 1892, your humble petitioner was engaged by Mr. L. L. Wickham, General Superintendent P. W. Workshops, Madras, to examine and report upon the condition of the Punkah Works at the General Hospital. He (Mr. Wickham) told your petitioner that he had been informed that the *Steam Engine was very much out of working order* and requested your petitioner to point out in his report *all the defects of the Steam Engine and all the necessary alterations and additions* required to be made to the Steam Engine to enable it to do the extra work of pulling the punkahs on the *new upper storey of the Hospital which was being built at the time*. After he had been engaged on the work for nearly three months in attending Mr. Wickham's office at the workshops at Mr. Wickham's request, to *consult and advise* Mr. Wickham and in going to the Hospital from time to time for nearly three months from the 12th July until the 3rd October 1892.

On completing and sending in his sixth and last report Mr. Wickham wrote to say that it was not necessary for your petitioner to report any further because nothing could be done until the punkahs ceased working. That letter was filed in Court and is still in Court at the present time. Your petitioner sent in his bill to Mr. Wickham, who refused to pay it, but promised to give him the work of carrying out the alterations and additions that your petitioner had recommended to be made to the punkah works. Mr. Wickham also wrote to your petitioner and renewed his promise to give him the work to do. His letter was filed in Court and is still in the Court. This promise Mr. Wickham broke, and did not give him the work to carry out but still refused to pay him for the three months work that your petitioner did, which left him no other alternative but to place his case in the hands of a legal gentleman (Mr. Branson), who advised him to sue Mr. Wickham for the amount of his bill. Consequently a summons was taken out by that gentleman against Mr. Wickham.

Your humble petitioner sued Mr. Wickham in his private capacity. But His Honor the 2nd Judge who tried the case held that Mr. Wickham was not liable, because the work that your petitioner did was for Government, and he being a Government servant was not respon-

sible. His Honour the 2nd Judge, said that Mr. Wickham did not engage your petitioner on his own account but in his representative capacity on account of Government.

If Mr. Wickham had informed your petitioner at the time he engaged his services that the work that he had to do was for Government, he would not have sued Mr. Wickham, and thereby your petitioner would have saved the *five hundred rupees that he paid to the Lawyers and for Court costs.*

After His Honour, the Judge, disposed of his case, your petitioner did not know to whom he was to apply for payment. Some said that your petitioner would have to apply to the Secretary of State for India; others said that he would have to apply to the Chief Engineer Madras; Mr. Branson his Solicitor advised him to send a petition direct to your Excellency as your Excellency is in charge of the portfolio Public Works Department.

Just as your petitioner was on the eve of submitting this petition to your Excellency, your petitioner received an official letter from the General Superintendent P. W. Workshops, dated 19th June 1894, enclosing a cheque, for rupees (50) fifty, in final settlement of your petitioner's claim of Rupees 1500 for examining and reporting on the punkah works at the General Hospital. Your petitioner regrets that Government should have dealt with him so hardly, in placing such a low value on the services rendered by him, ignoring the fact that the work occupied him nearly three months, from the 12th July until the 3rd October, 1892, during which interim he had attended the workshops from time to time at the request of Mr. Wickham to consult and advise him about the necessary alterations and additions to be made to the Steam Engine, boilers and punkahs at the General Hospital so that the present Steam Engine would be able to do the extra work of pulling the punkahs on the new upper Story that was being built at the time, thereby saving the Government a great deal of expense in getting a larger Steam Engine and boilers from England. Mr. Loan the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Madras Municipality, states in a letter to your petitioner that if your petitioner's suggestions had been carried out he had no doubt it would have saved Government obtaining new machinery at a high cost. He begs to enclose an extract of Mr. Loan's letter to your petitioner dated 2nd August 1892. If your Excellency desires to read the original, your petitioner will send it at once.

Bearing in mind the fact that your petitioner had not been called upon by your Excellency's Government to explain the facts of his case on his own behalf, and in defence of his own interests your petitioner could not avoid feeling greatly surprised when he learnt that your Excellency's Government had passed an order on his case, directing payment of only so small a sum as rupees 50, to your petitioner, who had good and substantial reasons for expecting very much more for his services, which have been valued at Thirty times that amount by professional Mechanical Engineers whose competence to adjudicate in such matters could not be questioned. In view of these and other considerations, your petitioner begs respectfully to submit that before his claim in this case could in justice to your petitioner be finally disposed of, your petitioner should be allowed an opportunity of stating his own case.

The whole of the facts of his case could not have been laid before the Government at the time the order was passed in his case, giving him so small a sum as rupees 50 for valuable services rendered by him.

Your petitioner respectfully and humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to take into consideration all the professional consultations and practical advice given to Mr. Wickham and for pointing out to him all the defects of the punkah works at the Hospital and for giving his professional practical opinion to Mr. Wickham on several occasions about the necessary alterations and additions necessary to be made to the steam Engine boilers and punkahas, the length of time he was occupied and the trouble involved in getting the necessary information that was required to enable him to frame his report. The Government will be pleased to reconsider their order of the 9th June 1894, No. 1437, W. deciding to give your petitioner the small sum of Rs 50. That the amount claimed by your petitioner is fair and reasonable is supported by the opinion of two professional

Mechanical Engineers—viz., Captain G. M. Dorsey, retired Acting Chief Mechanical Engineer, Gun Carriage Factory, and Mr. S. Loan, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Madras Municipality,—who gave it as their opinion on oath before the Judge on the day of trial, that your petitioner ought to receive 1500 Rs.

Your petitioner most respectfully and humbly solicits that your Excellency will also be pleased to consider the legal expenses your petitioner has been put to (nearly 500 Rs.) in order to establish his claim, against Mr. Wickham who engaged his services.

Your humble petitioner begs respectfully to inform your Excellency that he did much more than report on the Punkah machinery, (the enclosed bill will show) and which was filed in the Court at the hearing of the suit between Mr. Wickham, your petitioner has always been paid well for holding surveys on machinery and for giving his practical opinion upon machinery, he has surveyed the Steam Engines and machinery of Steam Boats, and for every time he went on board he was paid Rs. 60 by Dymes and Company (Madras) which only lasted a few hours, and for each Survey at the Custom House Madras he was paid 60 Rupees by Messrs. C. Shand & Co., Merchants Madras, Messrs Arbuthnot & Co., Madras, engaged his services for two Months and paid him one thousand five hundred rupees and for holding a survey upon a Cotton Press, Messrs Arbuthnot & Co., paid him 75 Rupees which only took up his time for three hours.

As there obviously is a very considerable difference between the amount claimed by your petitioner and the comparatively small sum tendered him by the Superintendent of the P. W. Work-shops, Madras, in final settlement of the account in question—your humble petitioner respectfully prays that your Excellency would be pleased to direct that the real and only point now at issue viz. the precise amount of the remuneration and indemnity to which your humble petitioner is reasonably entitled to might be determined by arbitration, your Excellency nominating one gentleman, representative on behalf of Government and your humble petitioner likewise to be allowed to name another Gentleman representative on his own behalf, or as an alternative cause if your Excellency should think it would be better to appoint the Government Solicitor and Mr. Branson to settle the matter in dispute who represented Counsel on both sides in your petitioner's original suit against Mr. Wickham, as those two Gentleman are already familiar with all the facts and circumstances connected with the case which has a direct bearing on the subject matter of your petitioner's present claim being fully satisfied as to the reasonableness and justice of his request. Your petitioner cannot but feel confident, that your Excellency will be pleased to accede to the request (to have his case settled by arbitration) herein humbly and respectfully set forth and in this conviction your humble petitioner, as in duty bound shall ever pray.

MADRAS,
December 1894.

S. Rodson

L.L. WICKHAM, Esq.,

Asst. Engineer, 2nd Grade and
General Superintendent

P. W. Workshop,
MADRAS.

To S. HODGSON,

Late Covenanted Mechanical Engineer
to the Madras Government, and
Superintendent Government

Workshops, D. P. W.,
MADRAS.

To surveying Inspecting and Examining and reporting to you all the defects of the Steam Engine Boilers and Punkah at the General Hospital and reporting to you all the necessary alterations, additions, and requirements of the said Steam Engine Boilers and punkahs at the General Hospital, so that the same Steam Engine would be able to do the extra work of pulling the Punkahs on the top story of the Hospital and also reporting to you the necessary alterations and additions required to be made to the Punkahs &c., so that the present Steam Engine, after the alterations that I had recommended had been made to be done in my report to you would be able to do the Extra work of pulling the punkahs on the new upper top story that it would have to do, and for attending at your office at the Public Works Workshop, from time to time. to receive all the instructions that you had to give me about the Punkah Works and given you all the information that you required me to give and for attending the General Hospital to get all the information that you required me to report to you, and to consult with you upon different subjects in connection with the defects and alterations that were required to be made to the Steam Engine Boilers and Punkahs as requested by you, and to give you my verbal professional practical opinion and advice about the defects of the same such as how the jarring of the Steam Engine could be stopped and to devise some plan how this could be done—and illustrating to you by rough drawings and explanations how each or any of the Punkahs could be disconnected and coupled again at any time without stopping the Steam Engine as you requested me to give you my opinion especially upon this point, and to devise some plan how this could be done—about taking off the Lap of the valve slide of the Steam Engine, so that the Steam Cylinder would receive full Steam and of a greater pressure to the end of each stroke, so that the Engine would be able to do the extra work. About reducing the area of the Punkahs in the center to relieve the Steam Engine of the great strain that will be upon it when the Punkahs on the top story are connected to the Engine. To examining and informing you if the slide valves of the Steam Engine were set right or not, as you had your doubts about the slide valves being set right—About the alterations of the Steam Engine Eccentric and the Eccentric Strap which I pointed out to you in my report if you take off the Lap of the Steam Engine slide valve which you intended doing. About consulting with you about the necessity of having a third Boiler, so that the Engine would receive more steam and at a greater pressure which the Engine would require to pull the punkahs on the top story. About the difficulty there is in starting the Steam Engine and how this could be rectified. About inventing some plan to knock off or disconnect the whole of the punkahs on the top story when starting the Steam Engine. About the shakey state of the wooden Frame work that the Steam Engine is erected upon, and how it could be made more stable, and giving you my professional and practical opinion and advice. About the Steam Engine being erected on the ground floor, instead of it remaining where it now is on the wooden Frame work upstairs. About closing the Crank Shaft Brass bearings and raising the plumber blocks a little, so that the centre of the brass bearings will be in a direct line with the centre of the Crank Shaft. To giving you my professional practical opinion about replacing the present Steam Cylinder of the Steam Engine with a larger one if you could see your way clear to cast and bore out one of a greater diameter in your workshop as per my report to you.

To giving you my verbal professional and practical opinion and advice about altering the whole arrangement of the present punkahs as you were not satisfied with the punkahs as they now are

1500 0 0
E. & O. E.

S. HODGSON,

Late Covenanted Mechanical Engineer
to the Madras Government and

Superintendent Govt., Workshops
Department Public Works, Madras.

MADRAS, 15th June 1893.

Extract from a letter addressed to your petitioner, dated 2nd August 1893,

By MR. S. LOAN,
Chief Mechanical Engineer,
Madras Municipality.

If your suggestions were carried out I have no doubt it would have saved the D. P. W. obtaining new Machinery at a high cost.

Extract from a letter addressed to your petitioner by J. PEDIE, Chief Mechanical Engineer and Manager, Cement Works, Madras, dated 29th April 1893. I have read your report and draft of bill. It is a big job I will call over and talk it over with you. You must have taken a deal of trouble in getting all the information to write the report.

Extract from a certificate given to your petitioner after reading your petitioners report by the Assistant Mechanical Engineer, Madras Municipality Mr. HODGSON'S report on the defects of the Steam Engine at the General Hospital is as complete as any could be.

Extract from a letter addressed to your petitioner by Captain G. M. DORSEY retired Acting Chief Mechanical Engineer, Gun Carriage Factory, Madras, dated 7th July 1894.

I have read over your report on the Machinery and Punks in the General Hospital, and as you say that you were engaged on the job for about three months, and knowing your professional abilities. I consider you quite competent for such purpose, and your charge for the professional advice in such matter, as to looking over and giving your careful attention to perfect the arrangements by the necessary alterations and attachments you have devised. I must again say merits the fee asked for.

Dis 2
8660/54

General Hospital
Madras
December 9

To

The Honorable Colonel Pennycuik
R.E. Chief Engineer
and Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Honorable Sir

I beg most respectfully
to inform you that I am ill and
not able to present my petition
to you, in person as I intended
to do, I have suffered from
typhoid fever, Dropsy, and
heart-disease, and I am at
present time a patient in the
General-Hospital. Therefore I
take the liberty to send it to
you by post. A friend has
kindly written this for me as I
am not able to write myself.

I beg most respectfully
to remain
Honorable Sir
Yours most obedient Servant

A. Hodgson

To

His Excellency

The Right Honorable

BAILLY BARON WENLOCK, G.C.I.E.,

GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL,
MADRAS

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF SIMPSON HODGSON, LATE
COVENANTED ENGINEER TO THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT
AND SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT WORKSHOPS,
DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS, MADRAS.

Your humble petitioner sheweth that after passing an examination before a board of Engineers in London, he entered into Covenant with the Secretary of state for India to serve the Madras Government as an Engineer, and on his arrival at Madras, he was appointed by Warrant to the Public Works Department (warrant enclosed) and when the Superintendent of the Government Workshops D. P. Works resigned and went to England, your petitioner was appointed to be the Superintendent of the Government Workshops D. P. W. Madras, and held that appointment until the expiration of his Covenant and Government very kindly gave him three thousand rupees (Rs. 3,000), on his leaving the service.

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On completing and sending in his sixth and last report Mr. Wickham wrote to say that it was not necessary for your petitioner to report any further because nothing could be done until the punkahs ceased working. That letter was filed in Court and is still in Court at the present time. Your petitioner sent in his bill to Mr. Wickham, who refused to pay it, but promised to give him the work of carrying out the alterations and additions that your petitioner had recommended to be made to the punkah works. Mr. Wickham also wrote to your petitioner and renewed his promise to give him the work to do. His letter was filed in Court and is still in the Court. This promise Mr. Wickham broke, and did not give him the work to carry out but still refused to pay him for the three months work that your petitioner did, which left him no other alternative but to place his case in the hands of a legal gentleman (Mr. Branson), who advised him to sue Mr. Wickham for the amount of his bill. Consequently a summons was taken out by that gentleman against Mr. Wickham.

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MADRAS,

December 1894.

S. Dorsey

Engineer and Contractor

18 and 19 Semboodoss Street

Madras.

L.L. WICKHAM, Esq.,

Asst. Engineer, 2nd Grade and
General Superintendent

P. W. Workshop,
MADRAS.

4

To S. HODGSON,

Late Covenanted Mechanical Engineer
to the Madras Government, and
Superintendent Government

Workshops, D. P. W.,
MADRAS.

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E. & O. E. ...

S. HODGSON,

Late Covenanted Mechanical Engineer
to the Madras Government and

Superintendent Govt., Workshops
Department Public Works, Madras.

MADRAS, 15th June 1893.

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Madras Municipality.

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and as you say that you were engaged on the job for about three months, and knowing your
professional abilities. I consider you quite competent for such purpose, and your charge for
the professional advice in such matter, as to looking over and giving your careful attention to
perfect the arrangements by the necessary alterations and attachments you have devised. I
must again say merits the fee asked for.

Dec 22
5665/94

General Hospital, Madras

Dated, December 1894.

To

His Excellency the Right Honorable

Bailly Baron Wenlock, G.C.I.E., Governor-in-Council,

Madras.

Your humble petitioner most respectfully begs to inform your Excellency that on account of illness he is unable to present his petition in person as he ought to do, therefore he sends it by post. He has gone through a great deal of sickness lately, he has had typhoid fever, dropsy and heart disease, he is at present a patient in the General Hospital and therefore prays most respectfully to request that your Excellency will kindly excuse him for sending his petition by post, and as in duty bound shall ever pray.

S. Hooper

Engineer and Contractor.

7013
15/12

OWE 1
9665/94

OWE 2
9665/94

No. 2845 w d / 4-11-93 ✓
 - 1037 w - 23-4-94 ✓
 " 1437 w - 9-6-94 ✓
 " 1771 w - 14-7-94 ✓

Exhib 3

Read: 17.12.94

curr
1994
12

Read the following:—

Petition from Mr. S. Hodgson 7. December '94.

FOR ORDERS.

They seem to me absurd.
 I do not think we should
 re-consider the decision already
 arrived at.

to
21 Dec

Mr. Hodgson's claim
 is absolutely preposterous.
 2. He would have been
 very well paid with
 the £50 offered him.
 3. Of course the extracts
 from letters attached to
 his petition are worthless
 as they are based merely
 on what he says he did

S

20.12

W

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Hodgson's claim
in connection with his reports
on the penitentiary machinery
Genl Hospital

Do 3301 w. d. 28 Dec. /94
Done
orders

The Government
declines to reconsider
the decision already
come to in regard to
Mr Hodgson's claims.

7c
2071 w
20.8.95

26.12

DESPATCHED

4 - JAN. 95

Cross
255

To
Mr S Hodgson with one
encl. enclosure
Rtd.

R.S.

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