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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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1174

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th May 1875.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 439. From W. PARKES, Esq., to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 4th December 1873.

IN reply to the question contained in G. O., No. 2,925, of 4th December 1873, I would beg to submit my opinion that if a thoroughly responsible Contractor can be found who would undertake to carry out the works of the proposed harbour for a reasonable sum, they would be most economically and expeditiously completed by that means. But if his tender exceeded materially my estimate (less 15 per cent. for contingencies and superintendence), say, £500,000, I should be disposed to dispense with the services of a general contractor and carry out the work under the Government Engineers.

2. But even in this latter case I am of opinion that in a work of so special a character, and for which officers and foremen of special experience would have to be engaged, it would be better that the whole staff should be independent of the Public Works Department organization and responsible to the special authorities of the work alone.

3. In such case, and assuming that the Government would entrust me with the organization of the work and appoint me Engineer-in-Chief, the following would be the staff, subject to modifications of detail:—

	PER ANNUM.
	£
1. Engineer-in-Chief (in England)	500
2. Superintendent of Works	1,500
3. Assistant (European)	600
4. Two Native Assistants	500
5. Clerks, Peons, &c.	400
6. Extraordinary expenses, say	500
Total ...	4,000

The expenses of foremen on the work are included in the rates on which the estimate is based.

4. Should the work be let by contract, as above proposed, the annual cost of the Government Engineering establishment would be reduced by from £500 to £1,000 by modifications of the three last items.

5. The Engineer-in-Chief would have the general direction and control, and would arrange the supply of stores and plant from England. The £500 per annum would cover all his services in England, except actual travelling expenses on duty and a bonus of £500 for the extra duties consequent on starting the work, designing plant, &c., payable when the concrete block work is fairly started.

6. The Superintendent would be recommended by the Engineer-in-Chief, and would have general control on the spot and would be responsible in all Engineering matters to the Engineer-in-Chief, in all other matters to the ordinary Government authorities. The subordinate officers would be under his entire control.

7. I would submit to the favorable consideration of the Government the appointment, in addition to the above staff, of a Committee of Government officials and merchants, to whom the Engineers might be locally responsible and through whom any communication with the Government would be made. I would suggest, as an illustration of

my meaning rather than as recommending it in detail, the following as the composition of the Committee:—The Chief Engineer of the Presidency, the Master Attendant, an Officer of the Treasury, and two merchants. The Engineer-in-Chief and Local Superintendent of the Works would correspond with this Committee (or their Secretary) more conveniently than with any existing Government department. Where appeal to the Government might be required it would be made by the Committee to the proper department.

8. The Government Order under reply refers me to my experience of the conduct of the Kurrachee Harbour Works. The above suggestions are not altogether in accordance with the precedent of Kurrachee, as in that case the whole of the executive staff is attached to the Public Works Department, and had been so before I was appointed Consulting Engineer. But although in that case the arrangement has worked well, it is a precedent which I do not think should be extended to a case so different as is that of Madras. There is too much "divided responsibility." The arrangement I have proposed, is however, in its main features similar to that established in other cases where it has been found to be successful.

No. 440. From W. PARKES, Esq., dated 13th March 1874.

No. 441. From W. PARKES, Esq., to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 31st March 1875.

As I understand the Government of Madras have given a general approval to the scheme for the superintendence of the proposed harbour works put forward in my memorandum, dated 4th December 1873, I would now beg to present in a somewhat more complete form the terms and conditions I would propose for my own appointment as Engineer-in-Chief.

In the abovementioned memorandum I stated—

"The Engineer-in-Chief would have the general direction and control and would arrange the supply of stores and plant from England. The £500 per annum would cover all his services in England, except actual travelling expenses on duty and a bonus of £500 for the extra duties consequent on starting the work, designing plant, &c., payable when the concrete block work is fairly started."

I would now beg to confirm this proposal, and to add to it the suggestion that the engagement should be held to commence on the date of my approaching arrival in England, and to terminate, unless otherwise arranged, on the expiration of the quarter following that in which the second pier head shall have been completed, with the exception of the lighthouse, the construction of which it may be desirable to delay till the work has settled.

The above rate of remuneration applies only to services in England. Should it be necessary for me to visit Madras during the progress of the works, I would propose, following the precedent of my connection with the Kurrachee works, an extra payment of £160 per month with all travelling and personal expenses as usual.

With regard to the probability of such visits being required, my aim will be to make such preliminary arrangements as will reduce this to a minimum; but I would

request that whenever the question of the necessity of such a visit may arise, the determination of it may be left to my own discretion, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, and not be dependent on a special reference to Madras. My reason for this is that the grounds of the necessity or desirability of such a visit might be of a nature which it would be impossible to make clear in an official communication to the Government of Madras without defeating the very object of the visit. It is probable that, as the works advance, a personal inspection may be necessary to enable me to maintain my knowledge of the new conditions which will be constantly arising; but periodical visits are no part of the programme which I submit.

No. 442.

ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1875, No. 1,433.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 26.

In his Order No. 2,925, of 4th December 1873, His Excellency the Governor in Council remitted to Mr. Parkes to

state his views as to the agency by which he would recommend that the Madras Harbour Works as planned by himself should be carried out.

2. Mr. Parkes on the same date drew up a memorandum in which he stated his opinion, that if a thoroughly responsible Contractor could be found to undertake the works for a reasonable sum they would be most conveniently and expeditiously completed by that means. Failing which, he sketched out the programme of a sufficient staff to carry out the works under his own direction at an annual cost of about £4,000.

3. After his return to England Mr. Parkes reported, in a letter of the 13th March, the result of his application to ten contracting firms to be that none of them would undertake the work at such a rate as he could recommend the Government to accept.

4. The question of the agency to be employed necessarily remained in abeyance until receipt of information that Mr. Parkes' project had been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, when that gentleman, in his letter of 31st March 1875, again laid down in more complete form the terms and conditions on which he proposed to undertake the work.

5. Copy of the sanctioning despatch from the Secretary of State having been received with endorsement of the Government of India, No. 129—31 M, of 27th April, the Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds to take action on Mr. Parkes' proposals. He accepts Mr. Parkes' services as Engineer-in-Chief from the date of his return to England and commencement of preliminary arrangements with reference to the work. Mr. Parkes will have the general direction and control, and will arrange the supply of all stores and plant from England, on a salary of £500 a-year for all such services in England except actual travelling expenses. He will receive also a bonus of £500 for the extra duties consequent on starting the work, designing plant, &c., payable when the concrete block work is fairly started. His engagement will terminate on the expiration of the quarter following that in which the second pier head shall have been completed all but the lighthouse. For visits to Madras he will be paid extra at the rate of £160 a-month, with all travelling and personal expenses; the necessity for making such visits being a matter to be left to his own discretion, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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6. Mr. Parkes will select and send out a Superintendent of Works, who will be responsible to him as Engineer-in-Chief in all engineering matters, in all others to the ordinary Government authorities, towards whom his position will be that of an Executive Engineer in charge of a special range forming a district also. He will correspond therefore direct with the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department; will obtain credits from, and furnish accounts to, the Controller of Public Works Accounts; and be allowed the usual office establishment of a 1st class range, costing Rupees 171 a-month. His own salary will be at the rate of £1,500 a-year, including all allowances; except when called on to travel more than 5 miles from Madras, when he will draw mileage or travelling allowance as an Executive Engineer without reference to the use of tents.

7. The Superintendent of Works shall have entire control over the subordinate officers, of whom the 1st European Assistant on Rupees 500 a-month, or £600 a-year, (according as portions of his salary are paid in India or at Home,) will be selected and sent out by Mr. Parkes. He will be allowed a special establishment costing Rupees 91 a-month. Of the two Native or East Indian Assistants one shall be applied for to the Government of Bombay in the person of Bhumaya Saenna, now a Sub-Engineer, 3rd grade, on the Public Works Department at Kurrachee, with an offer of Rupees 300 a-month, being the pay of the grade above that now held by him. The other has already been engaged on probation at a salary of Rupees 200 monthly from 1st April, to make preliminary surveys and measurements at the laterite quarries. The establishments allowed them shall be maintained at the rate of Rupees 39 and Rupees 27 a-month. The contingent allowance for the offices of the Superintendent of Works should not exceed Rupees 50 a-month.

8. Any officer or subordinate on the works, by whomsoever engaged, shall be liable to have his engagement terminated by Government on three months' notice or payment of three months' salary, with free passage home in either case; and he may be suspended from employment, with loss of half salary while so suspended, at any time, by order of Government, in case of gross misconduct.

(Here enter No. 1,434, dated 25th May 1875.)

(True Extract.)

J. H. Astut

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.

„ Marine „
„ Revenue „
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin,

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will be sent from his own office

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Govt. of 1875, Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,

Ac. Ac. Co.

Dated May 25th.

Issued

Recd. June 1st

Encl.

G. O., 25th May 1875, No. 1433.

L. M. M.

MAY.

Nos. 439-442

14. To the Board of Revenue June

Madras Harbour Works. Passing orders
on the provision of an establishment for
the —

N^o 1174
Comm^d to the
Board of Revenue

2^d June 75. *W. H.*