

Educational (1902) Department.

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G.O., No. 781

DATED 19. 12. 02



INDEXED.

ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

The Victoria Technical Institute

*Approving the proposal of the Council of
to house the books of the institute in the
Commemara library & promising a site
in the grounds of the Museum
for the erection of a building for
the institute.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Government {1902} of Madras.
EDUCATIONAL.

Recd. }
Regd. } 1902. Enclosures
 Spare copies

ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 781, 19th December 1902.

N. P.

DECEMBER.

The Victoria Technical Institute.

Approving the proposal of the council of — to house the books of the institute in the Connemara Library and promising a site in the grounds of the museum for the erection of a building for the institute.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From J. ADAM, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Victoria Technical Institute, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Educational department, dated 2nd October 1902.

I have the honour, by direction, to forward, for the consideration of Government, the accompanying letter from Sir G. G. Arbuthnot, President of the council of the Victoria Technical Institute, and to request the early entertainment thereof. Three spare copies of the letter and report are also sent.

2. With reference to a memorandum from your office, dated 22nd September 1902, unnumbered, referring to G.O., No. 390, dated 8th July 1902, it is presumed that the memorandum, alludes to paragraph 5 of that order. If this supposition be correct, and if the memorandum, dated 22nd September 1902, may be taken as the reference contemplated, I am to state that the opinion of the council of the institute, on the proposals made by Mr. Chatterton in paragraph 16 of his report, is fully expounded in the letter of its President now forwarded, and to request that said letter may be considered the reply to that reference.

ENCLOSURE.

From Sir GEORGE G. ARBUTHNOT, Kt., President, Victoria Technical Institute, to the Secretary to Government, Educational department, dated Madras, 2nd October 1902.

On behalf of the council of the Madras Victoria Technical Institute, with which is now incorporated the Madras Victoria Memorial Fund, I have the honour to request the assistance and sanction of Government in the following matters.

2. The institute is in great need of a building: as head-quarters for itself and its employes, as an office for its bureau of industrial and educational information, as a home for its technical museum, as a hall for its lectures and exhibitions, and as a reading-room for its library of technical works. For these and cognate purposes a local habitation is required, if the institute is to perform properly the duties which the public expects of it.

3. The council has tried in vain to hire such a building. A hall in the Young Men Christian Association building was almost decided on, when the council was informed that the nature of the building would be likely to deter certain sections of the public from utilizing it. A portion of the Senate House was applied for, but refused; rooms in the Law College and Pachaiyappah's College were thought of, but considered unsuitable; and private buildings in accessible and frequented portions of the town were found too costly. In consequence, the meetings of the council have had to be held wherever room at the moment could be obtained, and the valuable library of the institute has remained by the kind permission of the Secretary in its original packing cases in his godowns.

4. The council felt strongly that this was a state of things which should not be allowed to continue, and accordingly appointed a sub-committee to consider how it should be remedied. The recommendations of that sub-committee are now before the council, and form the subject-matter of this reference to Government. They are briefly as follows:—

(i) that, with the permission of Government, the books should be housed in the Connemara Public Library;

(ii) that, with the permission and assistance of Government, a separate building for the other requirements of the institute should be built in the museum grounds.

5. The council has unanimously adopted these recommendations, and it is in pursuance of them that I have now the honour to address you. As regards the first, Government is already aware that the library of the institute is the result of a donation of Rs. 20,000 given specially for that purpose by the late Rai Bahadur Arcot Dhanakoti Mudaliyar. It consists of some 3,000

volumes, all of them on technical and industrial subjects; it contains important sets of the principal technical journals and proceedings of scientific societies, which have been brought up to date; and forms, therefore, a library which the council thinks should prove of great value to the professional, commercial, and manufacturing public, and which it has always been the aim of the council to place freely at their disposal. This object will now be attained, if Government will sanction the first recommendation of the sub-committee, which is, "that, with the sanction of Government, the library of the institute should be housed in the Connemara Public Library, being treated as a special collection and separately catalogued, but otherwise being placed under the same management and under the same rules, *mutatis mutandis*, as the Connemara Public Library; and it being also understood that the library remains the property of the institute, and that it is open to either Government or the institute to withdraw from the arrangement at any time." The council understands that, when the Literary Society removes to its new quarters in Nungumbakum, there will be ample room available in the space thus vacated for the purposes of both the library and the reading-room.

6. These proposals are made with the full approval and acquiescence of Mr. Thurston, Principal Librarian of the Connemara Library, who is himself a member both of the council of the institute and of the sub-committee that formulated them. The council trusts therefore that they may meet with the sanction of Government. It feels sure that they form the most generally advantageous arrangement possible, not only from the council's own point of view, as affording safe and economical storage for its books, but also from the point of view of the public, who will thus have a technical library under the same roof and the same management as a general library, in which there must necessarily be many complementary and supplementary reference volumes useful to students of technical subjects.

7. If Government will accord its sanction to this request, the needs of the library will be fully met, but the numerous other requirements of the institute will remain still unprovided for. For these the sub-committee can only recommend the construction of a new and special building; the other circumstances of the case also pointing to the same solution. For not only is a permanent habitation greatly needed for the institute itself, but with the institute is now incorporated the Madras Victoria Memorial Fund, and one of the accepted objects of that fund, as provided not only by the special resolution of the general meeting of the fund, but also in the trust deed, which governs this amalgamation with the institute, is the erection of a structural memorial to the late Queen Empress Victoria. The needs, therefore, both of the institute and of the Memorial Fund point to the erection of a special building, which would be suitable to, and serve the purposes of, both. For the one, it would provide room for the varied and growing work of the institute; for the other, it would form a lasting and noteworthy monument to the memory of the late Queen. Accordingly, the council has unanimously adopted the sub-committee's recommendation.

8. As to site, it appears to the council that only two localities would be really suitable, namely, (1) adjacent to the School of Arts, or (2) adjacent to the Government Museum. After carefully considering the two and taking the advice of Mr. Thurston, the council is unanimously in favour of the latter. For a memorial building of the kind proposed the environment of the School of Arts is not suitable. The council recognises that there would be some advantage in having such an exhibition hall in close conjunction with the School of Arts; but there are also more potent advantages in having it close to the museum and also close to the Institute's technical library. There happens, too, to be an admirable site available in the museum grounds, in the north-eastern portion thereof, bounded by the Pantheon road and the Maternity hospital. It is this site, approved by Mr. Thurston, which the council now begs that Government will grant for the purpose named.

9. As to cost, the council is compelled to ask the assistance of Government in this matter also. No very extensive building is needed for the purposes of the institute, but it is unnecessary to say that, whatever structure is raised, it should be as perfect and complete as it is possible to make it, both externally in design and internally in decoration, so that it may indeed form a memorial worthy of Her late Majesty. Nothing, of course, of the nature or degree of the Calcutta memorial is intended. A single hall to act as an industrial museum and for exhibition and lectures, and sufficient office accommodation to meet the needs of the council, is probably all that can be attempted; but to carry out even this, in anything like a worthy manner, will cost, the council anticipates, not less than one lakh of rupees. Of this one lakh the council proposes to supply one-half and begs that Government will supply the other.

10. The council is, indeed, hardly able to find more, without altogether crippling itself for the execution of its ordinary and more purely educational work. The total amount of the Victoria Memorial Fund handed over under the trust deed is only about Rs. 72,000. Of this, the avowed desire and intention of the donors was that the major portion should be retained for the advancement of technical and industrial education. In allotting Rs. 25,000 out of it, therefore, to the memorial building, the council feels that it is going fully as far as it would be justified in going. A second Rs. 25,000 the council will endeavour to provide from the funds of the institute proper, but more than this cannot be taken from such a source, without dangerously reducing the already too small capital that represents the foundation upon which the whole structure is built. For the

remaining Rs. 50,000, therefore, the council must throw itself upon the liberality of Government and it submits that it has strong claims on that liberality. The building itself is a memorial to an Empress of India, and its purpose is wholly for the good of the State. It will in itself be both technically and artistically educational, and its contents and the work done in it will be entirely for the encouragement and advancement of the arts, crafts, and industries of the Presidency, and will conduce to the welfare and prosperity of its people. No doubt Government did originally contribute to the funds of the institute, but for one thing the funds of the institute are distinct from those of the memorial, and for another, they are already needed to the utmost to carry out the scheme of educational and other work which the institute has before it.

11. The council also understands that the carved woodwork now being prepared for the decoration of the Madras department at the Coronation Art Exhibition at Delhi has been designed with a view to permanent utilization in the adornment of such a hall as the council suggests and might form a principal feature of the suggested building.

12. As regards the use to which the memorial hall would be put, the council has already intimated that in addition to forming the recognized head-quarters of the institute, and housing its office establishment, the chief uses contemplated are as a bureau of information on technical and industrial subjects, and as an exhibition and lecture hall. The former need no comment. By the last the council means an exhibition hall, for the display and, in cases where private enterprise does not supply the want, for the sale of the best types of the arts and industries of Southern India on lines and for purposes similar to those of the proposed Arts Exhibition Hall at Delhi in connection with the Coronation Assembly next January. The words used by His Excellency the Viceroy with reference to Delhi Exhibition Hall may, indeed, be applied almost *verbatim* to the proposed hall of our institute. The exhibits in the hall will be strictly limited to objects representing the highest skill of which each handicraft is capable. The belief with regard to the exhibits at Delhi is that "their collection in a single space may, by the combined stimulus and lessons which it will afford, tend to check the deterioration that is so lamentably apparent in many of the Indian art industries of the present day, and may communicate a forward impetus that will be both beneficial in effect and permanent in duration." The council feels that, whilst these expressions of opinion by His Excellency the Viceroy may be accepted as sound with regard to a temporary exhibition of art products of the kind proposed in connection with the Delhi Assembly, they may be held to apply even more cogently to the permanent and perhaps somewhat more comprehensive art and industrial exhibition that it is proposed to establish as a Victoria Memorial in Madras. In this connection, too, the council is reminded of the following passage from a scheme set forth by Mr. Chatterton in the *Madras Mail* of February 26th, 1901, in the course of a discussion as to the best object for a Victoria Memorial:—

"With the funds at their disposal they (the Victoria Memorial Committee) could erect in a central situation in Madras a dignified building to contain a permanent exhibition of the artistic handicraft of the Presidency; and, by giving commissions all over the country, they could fill it with a choice collection of the very best specimens of work that can now be produced. Placed under the charge of a suitable director, the whole of this collection would be for sale, and as each article was sold it could be replaced by another specially commissioned. In this way a stimulus would be given to the production of high class work, which I know from experience, will meet with a ready sale, and the hereditary skill of the Indian artificers will be preserved from the gradual process of extinction with which it is now threatened."

13. The council is aware that the whole scheme will require careful elaboration and working out; but considers that the general idea has been sufficiently formulated to justify taking preliminary steps to secure a site and arranging for plans and estimates for a building of the kind proposed. As for the exhibits, too, the council is led to hope from paragraph 3 of the resolution of the Government of India on the proposed Arts Exhibition at Delhi (No. 14-5-1 Revenue and Agriculture, dated Calcutta, 10th March 1902), that it may be possible to secure some of the exhibits sent to Delhi from Madras for the permanent exhibition here. That paragraph runs:—

"Purchases will be made from the exhibition by the Government of India in the first place, on behalf of the Indian Museum at Calcutta, and doubtless by other local Governments, with a view to rendering the collections in the various provincial museums more representative and instructive than they now are. The remaining articles will be offered for sale, and arrangements will be made for the ordering of duplicates where this is found to be possible. In this way it is hoped that the exhibition may perhaps lead to the organisation of arrangements which will widen and improve the present market for Indian wares by bringing purchasers into touch with the handicraftsmen who are in a position to execute their orders."

14. To sum up, the council begs—

- (i) that Government will sanction the housing of the books of the institute in the Connemara Library, as explained above;
- (ii) that it will grant the council a site in the grounds of the museum for the special memorial building which the council proposes to erect;
- (iii) that it will contribute half the cost of this building.

15. To points (ii) and (iii) the council, perhaps, can hardly ask for a final answer at this stage, when plans and estimates are still non-existent, but begs, at least, that it may be given hope of favourable consideration, when the matter does come up in definite form. And, meantime, it requests the favour of the services of the Consulting Architect to Government, of the Superintendent of the School of Arts, and of Mr. Thurston himself to assist in the preparation of those plans and estimates.

16. In order that Government may have the fullest possible information of the present condition of the amalgamated Victoria Technical Institute and Victoria Memorial Fund, the council begs to forward herewith copies of the last annual report, with which is incorporated a copy of the memorial trust deed.

17. The council may also point out that the interests of Government are fully safeguarded by the fact that, under the existing constitution of the council, the President and half of the regular members, and one-half of the additional members are nominated by Government.

Endt. No. 277, dated 21st October 1902.

Referred to the Superintendent, Government Museum, for remarks on the first and second of the requests of the council.

A. T. PRINGLE,
Asst. Secretary to Government.

From E. THURSTON, Esq., Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Educational department, dated 29th October 1902, No. 779.

I confirm, officially, my approval of the suggestion that the library of the institute should be housed in the Connemara Public Library on the conditions referred to in paragraph 5 of the President's letter. The technical library of books and periodicals would be a very valuable addition, for the reception of which there would be plenty of space available when the Literary Society's library has been removed to its new home.

I am very strongly in favour of the erection of the institute building in the museum grounds. An exhibition hall of indigenous industrial arts, such as is under contemplation, would be a most fitting companion to the existing art section of the museum and would be situated in a public place, which is largely resorted to by natives of all classes, and also by "cold weather" visitors to the city. Moreover, the Superintendent of the Museum could keep a watchful eye over it.

ORDER—No. 781, Educational, dated 19th December 1902.

The proposal of the council of the Victoria Technical Institute to house the books of the institute in the Connemara Library is approved and the Government will be prepared to grant the council a site in the grounds of the museum for the special memorial building which it is their intention to erect. The question of a contribution towards the cost of this building cannot, however, be considered before the plans and estimates are ready; orders for the preparation of these will issue in the Public Works department. Messrs. Thurston and Chatterton will assist the Consulting Architect in the matter.

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Secretary to Government.

To the Honorary Secretary, Victoria Technical Institute.

" Superintendent, Government Museum.

" Public Works department.

" Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. C. Parthasarathy.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 781, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
19TH DECEMBER 1902.

[SUBJECT.—*Victoria Technical Institute.*]

From the Honorary Secretary to the Victoria Technical Institute, dated 2nd October 1902.
„ *Superintendent, Government Museum, No. 779, dated 29th October 1902.*

The draft placed below may issue with the concurrence of the Public Works department.

P. T. THARYAN—3-11-02.

A. T. PRINGLE—3-11-02.

M. HAMMICK—4-11-02.

To the Public Works department.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

There is no objection to the draft proposed so far as the Public Works department is concerned.

It is, however, suggested for consideration in the Educational department whether the Surgeon-General's opinion should not be obtained with regard to the site proposed. The location of the technical institute near the Maternity hospital may be detrimental to the patients in the latter institution.

R. W. LYONS.

S. B. MURRAY—27-11-02.

A. H. GARRETT—28-11-02.

To the Educational department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Should the Surgeon-General's opinion be invited before the file goes in circulation?

P. T. THARYAN—3-12-02.

Yes.

A. T. PRINGLE—3-12-02.

Yes, the Surgeon-General should see the papers and express his opinion. The building is to be used as a lecture hall, exhibition room, reading room and office. Will the Surgeon-General kindly give his opinion.

M. HAMMICK—4-12-02.

To the Surgeon-General.

In the absence of details as to design and dimensions of the technical institute, I am unable to give any very definite opinion. But having examined the compound yesterday with Mr. Thurston, I believe a suitable site on either side of the museum can be found without causing inconvenience to the occupants of adjoining properties. But as there appears to be no objection to placing the institute on the Cooum side of the museum, whatever its height and dimensions may be, I would recommend that the site on the Cooum side be selected.

D. SINCLAIR—15-12-02.

The draft below is now submitted for approval.

M. HAMMICK—16-12-02.

J. T[OMSON]—18-12-02.

Issue order as tour circulation has commenced.

M. HAMMICK—19-12-02.

[G.O., No 781, Educational, dated 19th December 1902.]

h. h. 1537
23-10-02
Educational (1902) Department.

CURRENT No. 1494

From

[Name] John Adam Esq

[Designation] Honorary Secretary
Victoria Technical Institute

[Station] Madras.

No. _____

Received 8. 10. 1902.

Dated 2. 10. 1902.

Enclosures 2

Registered 8. 10. 1902.

SUBJECT.

Submy a letter from the President of the Institute containing proposals for the construction of a building for the Institute & for the housing of the library in the Commemara Library building.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Educational (1902) Department.

CURRENT No. 1631

From

[Name] _____

[Designation] The Supdt. Govt Museum

[Station] Madras.

No. 779

Received 31. 10. 1902

Dated 29. 10. 1902.

Enclosures _____

Registered 31. 10. 1902

SUBJECT.

Subjy remarks on the letter from the President of the Victoria Technical Institute, on the subject of the erection of a building for the institute in the Museum Compound & of the housing of the library of the institute in the Connemara Public Library building.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Ref 20-7-5-02

De

READ AGAIN G.O., No., dated 190

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READ ALSO :—

C. No. 1494, From the Honorary Secretary, Victoria Technical Institute, No. 1, dated 2-10- 1902.

" " 1631 " " Supdt., Govt. Museum " 779 " 29-10-1902.

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" " " " " " " "

ORDER No. 781, dated 19.12. 1902

As

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mounting Architect in the matter.

PH
3/11/2

[Signature]
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[Signature]

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Victoria Technical Institute to have the
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Department for their preparation and
the Government will assist in the

To The Honorary Secretary Victoria Technical Institute
" Superintendent Govt Museum
" PWD
" S.A.
J.D.
24/1/3

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Despatched in print.

AD AGAIN G.O., No.
190

, DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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