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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3502	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	11 - 12 -	1875	
		-195-	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th December 1875.*

No. 180. Read the following letter from J. MAY, Esq., Superintendent of the Madras Harbour Works, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 4th December 1875, No. 31 G:—

I HAVE the honor to report that the Harbour Memorial Stone to be placed by the Prince of Wales on the North Beach opposite the Court-house, the platform of grass sodding on which the stone is to be laid, the benches for ladies on the platform, the benches for general spectators on each side of the Cornwallis' Monument, and other arrangements connected therewith are completed. The Prince's Stone has been taken to the platform, and it is now under a triangle of timber, ready for being placed by His Royal Highness.

2. The date is left blank on the inscription cut in the Prince's Stone. This may be filled up on receiving two or three days' notice before the time fixed for the ceremony.

3. The chamber for receiving papers, coins, &c., under the lower bed of the Prince's Stone, is 12 inches long by 12 inches wide by 8½ inches deep.

4. It was understood that any chairs that may be required on the platform would be sent there from Government House.

5. The Madras Railway, from the works of the north pier to the laterite quarries at Ambatoor, will be blocked at Royapcoram from this day until the arrival of His Royal Highness.

No. 181. ORDER THEREON, 11th December 1875, No. 3,502.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 13.

ORDERED to be recorded.

2. The month and year will be cut on the stone at once, leaving the figures of the exact date only to be cut after the programme of His Royal Highness' visit shall have been decided on.

3. A bottle will be prepared by Mr. May, wide-mouthed and glass-stoppered, in which a set of coins, gold, silver, and copper, from the Mohur to the Pie, shall be lodged, together with a parchment roll bearing the inscription detailed further on. These shall be hermetically sealed up, and the bottle got ready for insertion in the chamber prepared under the Memorial Stone; a copy of the inscription being made, which will be read before His Royal Highness at the ceremony.

4. Such chairs as may be required will be supplied from Government House.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

INSCRIPTION.

This Memorial Stone of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the City of Madras, commemorates also the commencement of the Harbour Works

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27
designed by Mr. W. Parkes, M. INST. C.E., for the accommodation of the trade of that Port.

These works are to consist of two Piers running out from the shore 500 yards north and south of the existing Pier to a length of 1,200 yards, at which they will turn at right angles towards each other to form an entrance for shipping. They will thus inclose a still water space of 170 acres, with a depth at low water of three to seven fathoms, available for European ships of all sizes; with a further space of a quarter of that area, less than three fathoms in depth, available for boats, lighters, and native craft.

The Piers are proposed to be formed of a submerged mound of 711,000 cubic yards of rubble stone, on which concrete blocks (aggregating 204,000 cubic yards) will be laid so as to form a solid wall 24 feet wide and 5 feet above mean sea level.

The estimate is £565,000. The work is expected to be completed in four or five years under superintendence of Mr. James May, M. INST. C.E.

To the Superintendent, Harbour Works.

" Private Secretary to the Governor.

" Military do. do.

" Standing Committee for Public Ceremonials.

" Public Department.

Edw. S. T. Austin.

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(Signed)

James May

Proceedings of the Standing Committee for Public Ceremonials in conference with the Special Committee for the Harbour Ceremonial, on Friday the 10th December 1875.

PRESENT:

President.—Brigadier-General T. RAIKES, C.B., Commanding Centre District.

Members.

Brigadier-General R. C. STEWART, Adjutant-General.

Colonel W. O. SWANSTON, Commissioner of Police.

L. R. BURROWS, Esq., President of the Municipal Commission.

Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

Captain ROSS THOMPSON, District Engineer, Presidency.

JOHN MILLER, Esq.,

Captain TAYLOR, R.N.R., Master Attendant.

J. MAY, Esq., Superintendent, Harbour Works.

ABSENT.

Colonel C. S. HEARN, Inspector-General of Police.

The President having explained that he had convened the meeting for consideration of the ceremonial to be adopted in lieu of the Masonic Ceremony cancelled by Official Memorandum from the Political Department, No. 771, of 7th December, it was

Resolved—That His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos be respectfully requested to apply, on behalf of the City of Madras, to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to honor the City by attending at the Beach at 5-15 p.m. on Wednesday the 15th instant, and laying the Memorial Stone that has been prepared to commemorate his visit, and the commencement of the Harbour Works designed by Mr. W. Parkes, M. INST. C.E., approved of generally by the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the mercantile interest and sanctioned for execution by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

Presuming that His Royal Highness will accept of the invitation so conveyed, His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos will further be requested to meet His Royal Highness on arrival at the site of the Memorial Stone, and address him with a formal request, in words as above, that he will be pleased to alight and perform the ceremony of laying the stone.

On His Royal Highness alighting, he and His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos will be received by the Members of Council, the Secretaries and Under Secretaries to Government, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and by the Committees for Public Ceremonials, on the north side of the platform where the stone is situated; and the President of the Committees will request permission to have read a copy of the Parchment Inscription to be deposited within the Memorial Stone, and containing a brief description of the Harbour Works. On this being done by the Secretary to Government in the Department Public Works, the Superintendent of the Works will hand to His Royal Highness the Bottle containing the Inscription and a set of coins to be deposited within the cavity prepared for the purpose. And he will supply him with the trowel prepared for the occasion, and proceed with the

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requisite operations for laying the stone. On the stone having been tested by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and declared to have been well and truly laid His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos will thank His Royal Highness, in the name of the City of Madras, for the honor done them; and the ceremony will conclude with the departure of His Royal Highness, after having inspected the Models of the Harbour and its details, which will have been arranged on a table on the south side of the platform, and be explained to him by the Superintendent of the Harbour Works and the Master Attendant.

It was further *resolved* that, the Secretaries to the Most Noble the Governor having, on the 8th instant, announced their inability to carry out the task allotted to them by G.O., No. 3,261, of 15th November, of distributing the tickets for the ceremonial, the President, Captain Taylor, and Mr. May be requested to form themselves into a special Sub-Committee, to sit next day at noon, for the purpose, with instructions to reserve twenty general tickets for the Chamber of Commerce.

The following modifications of previous arrangements were also agreed to, viz.:—

All carriages containing holders of general tickets (white) to set down on either side of the Cornwallis' Monument; carriages containing holders of platform tickets (blue) to set down alongside the platform. The same arrangements to hold good in taking up after the ceremony. But, to obviate confusion, all ticket-holders and visitors to houses along the beach, to drive up so as to be in their places by 4 o'clock; after which hour carriages will set down only on the west side of the Monument, in order that the space between it and the platform may be kept clear for the carriages of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and of the Most Noble the Governor, with their suites. Members of the Ceremonial Committees will attend from 3 P.M. to assist in arranging people in their seats.

(Signed) T. RAIKES, Brigadier-General,
President.

The Chamber of Commerce.

Madras 15th Nov. 1875.

I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 11th inst.
and in reply to inform you
that the same has been
forwarded to the
proper authorities for their
consideration.

Clement Simpson Esq

Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

The Private Secretary

to His Excellency the Governor.

Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to request you
to communicate to His Excellency the
Governor the desire of the Members
of the Chamber to occupy a position
in their corporate capacity near
the foundation stone of the Madras
Harbour on the occasion of His Royal
Highness the Prince of Wales laying
it in position. The great undertaking
that the Her. Apparent has signified

his

his desire to inaugurate is one of
peculiar interest and importance
to local commerce, and it will be
very gratifying to the Chamber should
His Excellency be pleased to order
twenty seats on the raised platforms
to be allotted for the exclusive use
of Members.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Clement Simpson.

Chairman

My dear General

I think it is as well
to tell you that on hearing
some days ago from Mr.
Robinson about the Prince
wishes to have some Masonic
circumstances. I wrote to Mr.
Robinson expressing my regret
of the change, and informing
him that the disappointment
not only to the craft
but to the public would
be very great, and say-
ing that His R. H. should
be solicited to reconsider
his determination. And
I have this morning recd.
a telegram from Mr. Robinson
saying my letter would
be given to Mr. Rattle Free
for H. R. H. instructions.

to inaugurate is one of
interest and importance

If the stone is to be laid
by the Ruler it must
be done with some
ceremony and if so why
not with masonic ceremony?
The Bombay folk have had
their masonic ceremony
and I understand there
is a plan a Masonic
meeting at Valentia. I
hope yet to see the original
programme carried out.
Yours very faithfully
John Muller
8 Dec 75

The Governor's notice
treats as the above
weir to consider. The
matter settled and
open to further con-

771 P.M. In

indication - make
the proposed record
copy to Mr. Nelson
78
L.M.
9.12.75

ire to inaugurate is one of

N^o 771 Political Department.

Official Memorandum.

With reference to G.O. dated
3rd & 15th November 1875. N^{os} 767 & 3261, in the
Political and Public Works Departments
respectively, the standing Committee
for Public Ceremonials are informed
that it is understood that His Royal
Highness desires to have no Masonic
ceremonies at the laying of the
Memorial stone of the commence-
ment of the Madras Harbour
Works.

Fort St. George
7th December 1875

André
Chief Secretary.

To,
The Public Works Department.
W

P. W. 1875 Sept
No 7836

From the Chief Secy

To the Secy to Govt
P.W.D.

Dated 7th Dec 1875
Recd 8th Dec 1875
No 771 P.W.D.

Stating that H. R. H.
the Prince of Wales desires
to have no Masonic ceremonies
at the laying of the Memorial
Stone of the Commencement
of the Madras Harbour
Works.

GP-11 December 1875

No 3502

No 3502 P. W. D. Comd. N. M.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 11 Dec 75

Read the following

From the Superintendent,
Madras Harbour
P. W. D. No 314 of 6 Dec 75

Ordered to be re-
corded.

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will be cut on the stone
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Together with a parchment
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Such chairs as may
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plied from Government
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Yours

Supdt. Harbour Works
Private Secy to the Governor
Milby do do
Standing Committee for
Public Ceremonials
Public Dept.

desp. 11.12.75

1247
Govt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Supt: M. H. Waks.

Dated

Encl.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 11 Dec 1875, No. 3502

Nos. 187-188

Arrival Date, Madras
from — Letter from the
at Madras Harbour Works
shows certain arrangements
with the engine of the
— recorded with the