

24TH FEBRUARY 1887, No. 271, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From W. R. LAWRENCE, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Exhibitions) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 14th February 1887, Circular No. 2—13-8 Ex.

In continuation of my Circular No. 3 Ex., dated the 24th ultimo, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a copy of a despatch,* with its enclosures, received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the formation of an Imperial Institute in London in commemoration of the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign.

ENCLOSURES.

From VISCOUNT CROSS, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated India Office, London, the 20th January 1887, No. 9 (Statistics and Commerce).

I forward, for the information and consideration of your Excellency, a copy of a letter from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, enclosing a copy of a report of the Committee appointed by His Royal Highness, under the Presidency of Lord Herschell, to frame a scheme for the commemoration of the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign.

2. You will see that the committee have adopted the suggestion that the Jubilee shall be commemorated by an institution permanently illustrating the resources and progress of the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and India; and they advise that a body thoroughly representative of the great commercial and industrial interests of the Empire shall be created by Royal Charter for the government of the institution, and that the Institute building shall be of a character worthy to commemorate the occasion and to afford suitable accommodation for libraries, museums, economical collections, scientific or trade conferences, and for other cognate purposes.

3. Your Excellency will observe that the scheme has the hearty support of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and has been accepted by the most influential bodies in this country, the great corporations, the principal Chambers of Commerce, and the Agents for the different Colonies. Moreover, it is understood that the scheme is very acceptable to Her Majesty the Queen personally.

4. It may, therefore, be concluded that the project recommended by Lord Herschell's committee has been finally decided on.

5. His Royal Highness expresses his hope that the scheme will receive the active and cordial support of your Excellency's Government, and that, as he greatly desires to enlist the sympathy and support of the princes and people of India for it, you will set on foot suitable measures for promoting that result.

6. I have much pleasure in expressing my entire concurrence in these views; and I doubt not that your Government will do all in its power to ensure the success of the scheme, and to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of all classes of the community.

7. With this object, it seems desirable that your Excellency should form a central committee, and should instruct the Local Governments and Political Agents to form local committees and to take such steps as may be in their power to diffuse information on the subject.

Commemoration of Jubilee. Imperial Institute. I send despatch enclosing letter from Prince of Wales, with report of committee, adopting suggestion of permanent representation of resources of Empire, managed by body created by charter, with building for libraries, museums, trade conferences, &c. Scheme accepted by Chambers of Commerce and Colonial Agents, and acceptable to the Queen personally. May be held to be finally decided on. His Royal Highness hopes it will receive cordial support of your Excellency's Government and Princes of India. I concur, and suggest formation of central and local committees to make objects known to all classes of community."

8. In order to put your Excellency in possession of the substance of this despatch, I have caused the telegram marginally transcribed to be sent to you.

FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated Sandringham, Norfolk, the 1st January 1887.

In asking the attention of your Lordship to the accompanying report of the committee entrusted by me with the task of preparing a scheme for the Imperial Institute proposed to be founded in commemoration of the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign, I cherish the hope that the suggestions which it embodies, and which have my entire approval, may, especially so far as they directly relate to the Indian Empire, receive the cordial and active support of your Lordship in Council.

I look forward with much interest and anxiety to the receipt of intelligence that the Government of India and the Local Governments are taking steps to promote the establishment and development of an institution which promises to strengthen the ties between India, the United Kingdom, and the Colonies; and, as I greatly desire to enlist the sympathies and support of the princes and the people of India in favor of this national tribute to Her Majesty, it would afford me great satisfaction to learn that suitable measures for promoting that result have suggested themselves to, and have been set on foot by, the Secretary of State for India in Council.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed by your Royal Highness to frame a scheme for an Imperial Institute intended to commemorate the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign beg leave to submit to your Royal Highness the following report.

2. They do not fail to remember that the scheme which your Royal Highness indicated in your letter of the 13th of September last to the Lord Mayor of London had its origin in the remarkable interest excited by the recent Exhibition, by which not only the material products, resources, and manufactures, but the loyal feeling of the great colonies and possessions of Her Majesty's Empire were illustrated in a most signal manner.

3. The object, therefore, which naturally suggested itself first to the committee was the development, with some necessary modifications, of your Royal Highness' idea of creating a permanent representation of the resources and progress of the Colonies and India.

4. On pursuing, however, the consideration of the subject, the committee became persuaded that a memorial really worthy of the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign could not be confined in its objects to any one part or parts of Her Majesty's Empire, and that it must in some form and degree also comprehend a representation of the United Kingdom.

5. Their desire therefore, in the following outline of the scheme which they recommend, is to combine in a harmonious form, and with a view to some practical and useful purpose, a representation of the Colonies and India on the one hand, and of the United Kingdom on the other.

6. They submit that this object will be best indicated by giving to the Memorial the title of "The Imperial Institute of the United Kingdom, the Colonies and India."

7. They think that the Institute should find its home in buildings of such a character as worthily to commemorate the Jubilee year of the Queen's reign, and to afford accommodation suitable for an institution combining the important objects which they now proceed to describe.

8. It is obvious that several departments of the Institute such as the Hall, Conference Rooms, &c., which will be found described under the Colonial and Indian Section and the United Kingdom Section, respectively, will be common both to the Colonies and India and to the United Kingdom; but as others have special relation to a particular portion of Her Majesty's dominions, it will be found convenient to make the following division:—

A.—COLONIAL AND INDIAN SECTION.

9. The object of the Colonial and Indian section will be to illustrate the great commercial and industrial resources of the Colonies and India, and to spread a knowledge of their progress and social condition.

10. To this end provision should be made for—

- (1) The display in an adequate manner of the best natural and manufactured products of the Colonies and India, and in connection with this the circulation of typical collections throughout the United Kingdom.
- (2) A hall for the discussion of Colonial and Indian subjects, and for receptions connected with the Colonies and India.
- (3) The formation of Colonial and Indian libraries, and establishing in connection therewith reading, news, and intelligence rooms.
- (4) The incorporation in some form into the proposed Institute of the Royal Colonial Institute and Royal Asiatic Society, if, as is hoped, it be possible to bring about such a union.
- (5) The collection and diffusion of the fullest information in regard to the industrial and material condition of the Colonies, so as to enable intending emigrants to acquire all requisite knowledge. Such information might be advantageously supplemented by simple and practical instruction. An emigration office of this character should be in correspondence with the provincial towns, either through the free libraries or by other means, so that information may be readily accessible to the people. These objects would be greatly facilitated if, as may be hoped, the Government should consent to the transfer to the buildings of the Institute of the recently-formed Emigration Department, which would, by a close connection with the Institute, largely increase its usefulness.

11. Facilities might be afforded for the exhibition of works of Colonial and Indian art.

12. It is also considered desirable that means should be provided, not for a general exhibition, but for occasional special exhibitions of Colonial and Indian produce and manufactures. At one time a particular colony or portion of the Empire may desire to show its progress; at another time a general comparison of particular industries may be useful. Whilst the permanent galleries would exhibit the usual commercial or industrial products of the several Colonies and India, the occasional exhibitions would stimulate and enlist the sympathies of Colonial and Indian producers, and keep up an active co-operation with the industrial classes of this country.

B.—UNITED KINGDOM SECTION.

13. The leading objects of this section will be to exhibit the development during Her Majesty's reign and the present condition of the natural and manufactured products of the United Kingdom, and to afford such stimulus and knowledge as will lead to still further development, and thus increase the industrial prosperity of the country.

14. We submit that these objects may be carried out by making provision for the following purposes:—

- (1) Comprehensive collections of the natural products of the United Kingdom and of such products of other nations as are employed in its industries, with full scientific, practical, and commercial information relating thereto.
- (2) Illustrations of manufactured products, typical of their development and present condition, of trades and handicrafts and their progress during the Queen's reign, including illustrations of foreign work, when necessary, for comparison; together with models illustrating naval architecture, engineering, mining, and architectural works.
- (3) A library for industrial, commercial, and economic study, which should contain standard works and reports on all subjects of trade and commerce. It will be desirable also to include a library of inventions of the Empire, and, as far as possible, of the United States and other countries.
- (4) Reading and conference rooms supplied with English, Colonial, and Foreign commercial and technical periodicals, and a fully-equipped map-room for geographical and geological reference. The conference rooms would be of value for meetings of Chambers of Commerce and other bodies of a kindred nature.
- (5) The promotion in affiliation with the Imperial Institute of commercial museums in the city of London and in the commercial centres of the provinces. To these the Institute would contribute specimens, samples, and exhibits of the commercial products likely to be specially valuable in particular localities. There should also be an organisation to connect the Imperial Institute with the provincial centres by lectures, conferences, the circulation of specimens, and other means.

It is hoped that the Institute may lead to the organisation of high schools of commerce, such as are now established in the chief commercial towns of most continental countries, but which have as yet unfortunately no existence in the United Kingdom.

- (6) The building will also advantageously afford accommodation for (a) comparing and examining samples by the resources of modern science, and (b) the examination of artisans under the various schemes already existing for the promotion of technical education.

15. Space should also be provided for occasional exhibitions of separate industries, or of the special industries carried on in great provincial centres, for example, there might at one time be an exhibition of iron manufactures, at another of pottery, at another of textile fabrics, &c., which would tend to stimulate improvement in the different departments of industrial life. This object might be assisted by separate exhibitions of the handiwork of artisans.

16. The committee, having detailed the general nature of their suggestions under these heads, desire to add that they do not anticipate the exhibits in the collections remaining unchanged. They contemplate that, as improvements are made from time to time, the later and better results would displace those out of date.

17. They have had to consider how the space should be distributed between the United Kingdom on the one hand and the Colonies and India on the other, and they recommend that whatever portion of the buildings is not required for purposes manifestly common to both should be allotted to the two sections fairly in equal parts.

C.—GOVERNMENT OF INSTITUTE.

18. The committee recommend that a new body entirely independent of any existing organisation should be created for the government of the Institute. This body should be thoroughly representative of the great commercial and industrial interests of the Empire. The Colonies and India should have a fair share in the government of the Institute, and each colony should have special charge of its own particular department, subject, of course, to the general management of the entire institution.

19. The method of carrying this out would be prescribed by the Charter after full consideration by Her Majesty in Council.

D.—SITE.

20. The committee, being fully conscious of the advantage of a central position for the Institute, have considered the various possible sites, and have, as far as has been within their power, obtained estimates of their cost.

21. To carry out the several objects which the committee have indicated, a large space is necessary. The committee have been unable to find any such suitable site in the central parts of London, except at a cost which, looking at the probable amount of subscriptions, would, after the purchase of the ground, leave a sum wholly inadequate for the erection and maintenance of the buildings, and for carrying out the objects of the Institute.

22. The site of about five acres recently secured for the new Admiralty and War Offices is valued at £820,000, or rather over £160,000 per acre; that now vacant in Charles Street, opposite the India Office, is less than an acre, and would cost at least £125,000; probably another acre might be secured by private contract, so that the value of a limited site in this position would not be less than £250,000. It has been suggested that a single acre not far from Charing Cross might be obtained for £224,000. Two and-a-half acres on the Thames Embankment have been offered for £400,000; and it is stated that six acres might be procured from Christ's Hospital at £600,000. Another good central position has been suggested, consisting of two-and-a-half acres, which has been valued at £668,000.

23. It is, of course, probable that these sites might be obtained at somewhat less than the prices asked, but allowing for this, it is obvious that the purchase of any adequate area would involve the expenditure of a quarter to half a million.

24. The committee have therefore been forced to abandon the hope of obtaining a central site within the limits allowed by any probable subscription.

25. The attention of the Committee was then drawn to the property at South Kensington belonging to the Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851. This property was bought out of the profits of that exhibition, with the express object of offering sites for any large public buildings which might be required for the promotion of Science and Art.

26. Under these circumstances, the committee submit to your Royal Highness that the Imperial Institute may well establish a claim for the grant of a site of sufficient magnitude on property bought and reserved for public institutions of this character.

27. Though sensible of the objections that may be urged against the situation at South Kensington, the committee think that the advantage must be obvious of obtaining a sufficient site virtually free of cost, so that the whole of the subscriptions may be devoted to providing a building for and establishing and maintaining the Institute.

28. The committee, whilst guided in the recommendation of a site by the considerations they have indicated, think it right to add that there are some incidental advantages connected with that at South Kensington.

29. In that locality are combined the City and Guilds Technical College, the Royal College of Music, and the Government Museums and Schools of Science and Art, which ought to be in immediate proximity to an Imperial Institute of the character which we have described.

30. The technical character of the collections and exhibitions of the Imperial Institute has a natural connection with the collections of Science and Art in the Government Museums.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

31. An Imperial Institute for the United Kingdom, the Colonies and India would fail in its chief object if it did not constantly keep in view that it ought to be a centre for diffusing and extending knowledge in relation to the industrial resources and commerce of the Empire.

32. The necessity for technical education is now fully appreciated, because the competition of industry has become in a great measure a competition of trained intelligence. The committee, however, do not recommend that the Imperial Institute should aspire to be a college for technical education. Many of the large towns in Great Britain have recently established Colleges or Schools of Science and Art. The Imperial Institute might serve to promote technical education in these, and to unite them with colleges of larger resources which have been founded or formed branches for the purpose in the metropolis. It is too much to hope that an active co-operation of this character between the provincial centres and London could be at once undertaken by the Imperial Institute. But the committee bear in mind that, in their last report, the Commissioners of 1851 have indicated an intention to assist in carrying out such a scheme. If the Commissioners would contribute three or four thousand pounds annually, it would be possible to establish scholarships which might enable promising candidates of the working classes to attend the local institutions, and even, when it was desired, to complete their technical education in colleges of the metropolis. In addition to this aid, the Imperial Institute might be able in other ways to promote the foundation of scholarships both in connection with the colonies and provincial centres, in the hope of still further extending these benefits to the working classes.

33. In conclusion, the committee submit that an Imperial Institute such as they have sketched in broad outline would form a fitting memorial of the coming year, when Her Majesty the Sovereign of this Empire will celebrate the Jubilee of Her happy reign. It would be an emblem of the Unity of the Empire, embracing as it does all parts of the Queen's dominions, and tending to promote that closer union between them which has become more and more desired. It would exhibit the vast area, the varied resources, and the marvellous growth, during Her Majesty's reign of the British Empire. It would unite in a single representative act the whole of her people; and since both the purpose and the effect of the Institute will be to advance the industrial and commercial resources of every part of the Empire, the committee entertain a confident hope that Her Majesty's subjects, without distinction of class or race, will rejoice to take part in offering this tribute of love and loyalty.

HERSCHELL, *Chairman.*

CARNARVON.

REVELSTOKE.

ROTHSCHILD.

G. J. GOSCHEN.

LYON PLAYFAIR.

HENRY JAMES.

HENRY T. HOLLAND.

H. H. FOWLER.

C. T. RITCHIE.

FRED. LEIGHTON, *President of the Royal Academy.*

ASHLEY EDEN.

OWEN T. BURNE.

REGINALD HANSON, *Lord Mayor.*

J. PATTISON CURRIE, *Governor of the Bank of England.*

JOHN STAPLES.

FREDERICK ABEL, *Vice-President of the Society of Arts.*

J. H. TRITTON, *Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce.*

NEVILLE LUBBOCK.

HENRY BROADHURST.

ORDER—dated 24th February 1887, No. 271, Public.

Ordered to be communicated, in continuation of the undermentioned orders, to all Political Officers accredited to Native States, Collectors, Presidents of District Boards, President of the Madras Municipal Commission, and Chairmen of Municipalities in the mofussil, to be laid on the Editors' table, and to be published in the *Port St. George Gazette*:—

G.O., dated 28th January 1887, No. 134, Public.

„ „ 2nd February „ No. 166, „

(True Extract.)

H. P. S. S.

Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
„ the Political Agent, Pudukótta.
„ all Collectors.
„ the Local Fund and Municipal Department.
„ the Editors' Table.

Govt. of 1887 Madras.

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FEBRUARY.

Her Majesty's Jubilee.

Communicating to all Political Officers, Collec-
tors, Municipalities and District Boards, &c.,
certain further papers respecting the formation of
an Imperial Institute in London, in commemora-
tion of —.

11/3/87

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