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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	578	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Date	25-4-1881.	1881

578
19
Not to be folded or roughly handled

Ch. 1

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1

Fort Saint George, Public Consultation of 20th October 1857.

No. 54. Read the following letter from HERBERT ROBERTS, Esq., Honorary Secretary to the Committee for establishing Public Rooms in Madras; to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 29th September 1857.

SIR,

I have the honor to request by desire of the Sub-Committee for the Establishment of Public Rooms at Madras, that you will be so good as to lay the following subject before the Government. The want of Public Rooms has long been felt, and the sum of 13,000 Rupees having been already subscribed for the purchase or erection of a suitable building shows the interest the community generally take in the subject. It was originally intended as mentioned at the first Public Meeting to ask pecuniary assistance from the Government, but it was decided at a Meeting of the Sub-Committee held yesterday morning to solicit the Government to aid them in their endeavours by giving over to them for the object in view the room known as "The College Hall," and two or three smaller ones in the same building, now out of use. Should the Government be so good as to comply with their request, they feel assured that they will be able to collect ample funds to enlarge and put in perfect repair the present building so as to render it in every respect suitable for the requirements of the Public.

With the humble request that you will lay the matter before the Government.

(Signed) HERBERT ROBERTS,

*Honorary Secretary to the Committee for
Establishing Public Rooms in Madras.*

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, No. 1402; dated 20th October 1857.

The Committee for the establishment of Public Rooms ask the Government to make over to them the Hall of the building known at Madras as "The College," and two or three small rooms in the same building. Should the Government comply with this request, the Committee feel assured that the public will come forward with ample subscriptions to fit the rooms up in a manner suitable to the requirements of the Society of the place.

2. The Governor in Council deems it inexpedient to comply with the foregoing request, being of opinion that occasional inconvenience to the public service would result from placing the premises indicated, especially the "College Hall," unreservedly at the disposal of the Committee.

First, in regard to the various rooms of the building, considered apart from the "Hall." On the ground floor a great portion of the available space is taken up by the Library of the Madras Literary Society, to accommodate the Members of which, the Office of the College Council, now the "Board of Examiners" has been long ago removed into a couple of small rooms, originally, it is believed, used as pantries when the House was in the occupation of the gentleman who built it and from whom it was purchased by Government. These rooms are altogether inadequate to the Board's establishment, and the Board's records are obliged, it is said, to be piled together in a manner extremely unfavorable to accessibility. The business of the Board, meanwhile is daily increasing, and the recent rules for the examination of the Uncovenanted Services which come into operation at the beginning of the next year, will greatly add to it. It is necessary that its Office should be removed upstairs and be placed in one of the suites of rooms lately vacated by Dr. Hunter.

3. Upstairs, again, two of the rooms are occupied by the *Revd. Mr. Taylor*, who is engaged in preparing a Catalogue of the Board's Oriental M.S.S. Library, and another room is about to be placed at the disposal of *Mr. Wall*, the Government Coal and Mineral Viewer. It is in contemplation on the completion of *Mr. Taylor's* labours, to remove the M.S.S. above referred to from the *godowns* or detached buildings they are now in, to some of these upper rooms; and in any case it is always convenient to Government to possess in a central part of the town, a suite of rooms which they can lend as an office to gentlemen engaged by them in any miscellaneous service.

Fort Saint George, Public Consultation of 20th October 1857.

4. *Secondly*, as to the "College Hall" itself. This portion of the building has for 30 years past been placed temporarily at the service of the public by Government, for Meetings, Assemblies, Concerts, Theatricals, &c., and there is no present intention of withdrawing this privilege. But the Government cannot consent to part with the Hall permanently. Every now and then—to say nothing of the inconvenience of suffering the location of "Public Rooms" in a building so large a portion of which is devoted to Governmental purposes—the Government have occasion to use it themselves, and, under the new Examination rules above adverted to, the space will be indispensable to the Board of Examiners.

(Signed) F. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

P. D.
15 JAN 1852

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2
Municipal Office,
23rd January 1852.

DEAR SIR,

A Meeting will be held in the Chamber of Commerce at 5 p. m. on Friday, the 27th Instant, to discuss the project of erecting a Town Hall for Madras, and the favour of your presence is specially requested.

I am

Yours faithfully,

A. T. ARUNDEL,

President, M. C.

Memo:

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3

During the last century and for a few years of the present one I think the Exchange in the Fort (Officers' Mess now) was used as a Public Room. At all events many of the large pictures in the Banqueting Hall were suspended in ~~there~~ ^{the Exchange} if I am not mistaken I have read of meetings at the Exchange, in the Asiatic Annual Register.

Very early in the present century I have read in the same Register of entertainments of various kinds having been given in the Pantheon (the present Museum). One of the entertainments was a Farnell Banquet to Sir Arthur Wellesley - the Duke of Wellington. I have never been able to get more than verbal information of the Proprietorship of the Museum. I have been told that a few wealthy persons subscribed and built it for public entertainments,

Sheet 199.
Removal of
(not so bound paper)

that ^{with one exception} these persons died as left
Indians & that the building re-
mained in the possession of
the last survivor who sold it
to Govt. in or a little prior to
1827. The records containing
the transaction must be in
the Govt. office. The building
was purchased for the office
of the collector ^{quadrant} of Land for
Taxes. It is for such a pur-
pose I remember well. I think how-
ever it was the seller, but I am not sure.
My purchasing the build-
ing, Govt. deprived the public
of their "Town Hall", and as
compensation, in 1827, they
purchased the College Hall
from Mr. Moorat for \$19,000
including furniture Claude-
louis & and formally devoted
it to public purposes. The
records are complete & are
there now: Monthly Assembly
& balls were held at the Hall
until 1832 when the Quadrant
club was established. The
folded sofas, chairs & the fan-
beliers were removed to the

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Banqueting Hall where they
are still. All information ex-
one to that in the papers I got
from Mr. Aubert (deceased) who
was in the Board of Examiners'
office from 1822. The Board
were in charge of the building
& remained so till 1862. I joined
the Board of Examiners' Office
in 1853 and was familiar
with all the purposes for which
the Hall was used. The Hall
became simply an am-
phitheatre & a theatrical room. Pre-
viously the premises had been
used as a school & an observatory,
the Hall being reserved
for public purposes. Dr. Dal-
rymple had the premises excepting
the Hall for a museum & Dr.
Hunter without the Hall
for the school of Arts. When
Lord Napier gave over the Hall
to the Dramatic Society, the
public were in a manner ex-
cluded from the use of it.
When Lord Napier

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Mr. Governor I put forward
a scheme for building a Town
Hall, or People's Hall. The idea
was taken up and a large
and influential meeting was
held at Pacheappa's at which
the late Maharajah of Vizian-
agram presided & promised
a donation of 10,000 Rs. ad-
ding that by & by, if more money
were wanted he ~~will~~ would
give it. A Committee was
appointed, Mr. Macpherson
was appointed President &
I was appointed Secretary.
The project did not advance
because the public was dis-
couraged. All the money received
was placed in Arthur's not for
where it still is. I think
there is something over 2000 Rs.
The Maharajah of Vizian-
agram was not called upon
& did not send his 10,000 Rs.
including the 10,000 Rs. from
the Maharajah of Vizian-agram.

and as I have said about
2000 M was collected. Mr.
Christolm at Mr. Macfadyen's
request drew up a plan to
estimate too I think but I
am not sure. Three sites
were considered, one on
the Esplanade opposite
Pachappa's one on the
Esplanade opposite the
Campyripage Depot &
one in the Napier Park,
but as the public did not
seem interested & as the
Committee would not act,
I ceased efforts. When Lord
Hobart was Governor he sent
for the design & the subscription
book and he wrote to Mr.
Macfadyen to the effect that
the project was ^{for} revived on
his return to Madras (he was
at Calcutta). On his
return I mentioned the matter
to Mr. Macfadyen but he
did not seem disposed
to forward it.

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revive the project when
the Prince of Wales was in
Madras but the Committee
would not meet. Mr. Ann.
Del spoke to me several months
ago & I gave him all the
information in my power.

D. White
27-1-82

R.D.
2 APR 81

⁵⁷⁸
Municipal Office.
~~30th March, 1881.~~
Ch: 705

My dear Davidson,

H.E. the Governor wished me
to write to you about a project that has
been under discussion for a Town Hall.

Since I have been in Madras this project
has been pressed on me from several quarters.
Notably from a financial point of view
it is favored by the Freemasons who would
contribute - so Messrs Linders & Liphthorpe tell
me - from Rs 30000 to Rs 50000, if in the
Town Hall building, one or two rooms could
be assigned to them, and the occasional
use of the Hall guaranteed.
The present Municipal office - a very inconvenient
one,

James
M. White
97-102

This is an ~~unofficial~~
document. *gf*

could be mortgaged ~~for~~ is 20000
to Rs 30000, and a new Municipal
Office attached to the Town Hall.

The Director of Public Instruction has a
land from which he could contribute
perhaps Rs 5000 if the Hall were made
available for Educational purposes.

The late Maharaja of Vijayanagaram
promised a contribution of Rs 5000,
and the present Maharaja is I believe
disposed to renew the promise.

Other native noblemen were to
contribute in anything like the same
proportion and public subscriptions
were invited the sum total might
be expected to amount to Rs 15000

at a moderate computation.

Mr Saunders has drawn out a plan and
rough estimate of a Hall with supplemental
rooms and offices to cost Rs 18000.

If the Hall were to cost say two lacs
the difference between this sum and the
amount subscribed could be raised by
loan the interest on which might be met
by the rent of the Hall & surplus offices on
various occasions.

The preliminary difficulty to any public
movement is the question of a suitable
site. It must be as central as possible,
not too far from Black Town on the one
side or from Kungumbakurum, Triplicane &c.
on the other. The most central spot

is the Island. It would not perhaps be desirable to have buildings on the main plain of the island but an amply sufficient site could be found between the river and the river, between the Ballagh gate and St Mary's cemetery, in a long strip of land partly used for the training the Bodyguard horses.

If the Govt view the project for Town Hall with approval and would be disposed to grant a site in the place I have mentioned, the first preliminary difficulty would be removed, and a movement could in due course be set on foot with fair prospect of success.

Yours sincerely
R. Brundell

informed that the
late the occurrence
at 11/10/1914
Let the Board
w/ot I will have
the full list of S.O.
578
12 1/2 per Annu
per

I am of opinion that
with the modern
standard of
a town hall
it is more likely
I will a building
I am of opinion
with approval the
project for the hall
of the town hall
the project of a
does not think any
better than a building
for the town hall
which has been built
I think therefore that
the project of a

that it is a
what is the

See.
I cannot say that
I think the town hall
it is a good one.
I am aware that
the S.O. has any
funds for this is local
from S.O. is could
contribute to such
a purpose
J. B. 1/4

Public (188) DEPARTMENT.
(Town hall)

From
H. J. Brundel Esq.
Pres. M. C. Madras

No.

Dated 30 March 1887.
Recd. 2 April

No.
Current No. 705

SUBJECT.

Making certain
suggestions as regards
the proposals made to
build a town hall in
Madras.

H. J. Brundel
H. J. Brundel

Madras is the capital of the
M. C. S. Government & being
the seat of the Government
it is necessary that the
provisional plan and the
the office of the
the in the building of the
port to show the building
the Government of the
building and it is the
the, made by the
the in the building of the
the the the in the building
the, 25 or 30 p. c. of the
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the, in the building of the

date. April 19-1887

~~... of the ...~~ 578/1

free of charge in ~~the ...~~ 578/1
 a room of the kind is still much needed in
 London. - The surplus ^{of the U.C.I. 4th} must of course be devoted
 to this object without any reference to the Ed. B. F.
 but I think the ^{same} ~~same~~ I suggest for some
 time, I do not think the A. F. would raise
 any objection to it.

Yours faithfully P
 to B. Liff

578/15

The Dir. Public Health was
 advised with reference
 to the Hon. B. Henderson
 note. His reply - /

W. L. 578/15

Forward

If the General (as I have) is
your president of course the
receiving funds that first would
be glad to promote the object
they had in view & I understand
them as well as 22.4.87.

573
 Also ask Leonard to obtain from
 Hering & Co the papers which
 he & Co. have 12 or 15 yrs
 ago 80 1/4 1/4

578
 17

My dear Samuel,
 In re the Town
 Hall. Some papers
 were circulated 12
 or 15 years ago in
 connection with the
 project, and it is
 understood they are
 now with Biny & Co.
 Will you kindly obtain
 them and forward
 here. Yrs &c
 S. J. S. Foster.
 Octy. 22/4.

578
13

Note

Learn.
That said was
misunderstood - I did in the funds in the hands
not suggest that the of prep. leaving a QP
papers shd. be procured available for ex-
pos. us. In summary
mentioned that there expenditure on a
on the subject of the Town Hall
former debts? in view of past up
the present projects
being informed -
I did intend that
the Gov. have any concern
with the former ~~matter~~
proceedings -
The present projects
and letter to the Gov

H. Robert (P. S. M. S. Club) Tom Hall
James (James) or S. M. Wadsworth

Hamilton (one of the letters
of the young man born in
Madras) or S. M. Wadsworth

Elmer Wadsworth M. S. R.

ask them to authorize
Messrs. Sherry & Co. to
take the funds in their
hands available for
the present project.

My recollection is that
some years after Major
Robert's death, I
sent Messrs. Sherry & Co. a
box of papers relating
to the former movement
by Major R. Esquer.

If they have not got them
(they may have the box now)
send it certainly.

to the M. S. R. for
his business

to the M. S. R. for
his business

Order thereon. 25 April
1881. No. 570

If the Committee can
show ~~that~~ a fair
prospect of raising
the necessary funds
the Govt. will be glad
to promote the object
they have in view
by granting them
a site

P. T. 17/4/81
from order in 1881

To the Presd. Council, Madras.

J. 1892-20-10-57

21.10.25 II

2. 11. 1892/10-12-72
7. 11. 1892-10-10-2. 72

3. 11. 1892/10-10-2. 72
no 705 1892/10-10-2. 72
(197)

12. 11. 1892/10-10-2. 72

For Council

with order.