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TUESDAY, 16 MAY, 1911.

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

Whitehall, May 16, 1911.

The following Address and Report were presented to The King, this day, on the occasion of the unveiling of the Queen Victoria Memorial:—

ADDRESS OF MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, Your Majesty's humble servants, entrusted by Your Majesty's beloved Father with the duty of supervising the erection of the Memorial to Queen Victoria, of august memory, venture to lay before Your Majesty this Report of our proceedings and of the progress of the work.

We may perhaps be allowed to express a hope that the monument, about to be unveiled, which owes so much to the initiative and active encouragement of King Edward, may receive Your Majesty's gracious approval.

It will be a lifelong regret to those associated with the erection of this Memorial that, by the will of God, the first Sovereign to succeed to that great Imperial trust of free English-

speaking Communities, which was formed and expanded under the auspices of Queen Victoria, should not have lived to see the work completed. Every corner of Your Majesty's British Overseas Dominions and Colonies have contributed to the Fund we were appointed to administer.

The Memorial which Your Majesty is about to unveil will stand for ages to come, not only in remembrance of the honoured Sovereign and illustrious Queen Empress whose name it bears, not only as a tribute of love, admiration and gratitude from the people over whom she reigned for the long period of sixty-three years, but as a conspicuous mark of the bond of brotherhood binding the Empire together, and of loyal devotion to the Throne now filled by her most dearly beloved and trusted grandson, in the person of Your Most Gracious Majesty.

ESHER (Chairman).
 BEAUCHAMP.
 PLYMOUTH.
 REDESDALE.
 SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL.
 JOHN STIRLING-MAXWELL.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

May it please Your Majesty;

On February 19th, 1901, the first meeting of the Committee appointed by Your Majesty's beloved and deeply lamented father King Edward to consider a suitable Memorial to Queen Victoria of blessed memory, was held under the presidency of the late Marquis of Salisbury.

The Committee consisted of the following:—
The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Chairman.

Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, M.P.
Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P.
Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh.
Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, M.P., G.C.B.
Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.
Rt. Hon. Earl Cadogan, K.G.
Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Fowler, M.P., G.C.S.I.
Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P.
Rt. Hon. The Earl of Kimberley, K.G.
Rt. Hon. The Earl of Rosebery, K.G.
Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Treasurer.
Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Bigge, K.C.B., Hon. Secretary.

At their first meeting the Committee resolved:

(1) That the Memorial should be architectural, with a personal reference to the Queen.

(2) That it should not be utilitarian, and that it should include an effigy of the Queen.

(3) That it should be in London.

(4) That the Secretaries of State for India and the Colonies should confidentially ascertain whether these parts of the Empire are desirous of taking part in the undertaking.

(5) That subscriptions should be received from all quarters.

These Resolutions having been approved by King Edward, another meeting was held on February 21st, at which it was decided that a small Committee should be appointed to develop the idea, and, if possible, to obtain sketches or designs for a suitable Memorial.

The Committee was selected as follows:—

A Nominee of the President of the Royal Academy.

A Nominee of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The Lord Mayor and Viscount Esher, together with a Representative, to be named by King Edward.

At this meeting, Sir Arthur Bigge having been commanded to accompany Your Majesty and the Queen during Your Majesty's tour in the Colonies, Viscount Esher was appointed Honorary Secretary to the General Committee.

On the following day a letter was addressed to the President of the Royal Academy and the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, inviting them to a private Conference at the Mansion House on February 25th.

Among the various schemes considered at that meeting was a plan prepared under the auspices of Mr. Akers-Douglas, at that time First Commissioner of Works, to remove the row of trees in the centre of The Mall and to transfer the carriageway from the side to the centre thus formed. To place a Statue of Her Majesty, seated under a Canopy, upon a base forty feet square in a wide place to be formed in front of Buckingham Palace, and to erect an Arch at the eastern end of the Avenue.

Of the schemes considered this appeared to

be the best, and on the suggestion of the Lord Mayor it was decided that an immediate appeal should be made for subscriptions, without stating the nature of the Memorial proposed, but explaining that it would be personal and monumental, and would be erected in London.

It was also suggested that a sculptor should be selected and a certain number of architects should be invited to prepare designs for the scheme approved, that from these designs a selection should be made, and that the Sub-Committee should then nominate the artists to be entrusted with the duty of carrying out the work.

A meeting of the General Committee, under the Presidency of The Marquis of Salisbury, was held on March 1st, and as a result of their deliberations, the following announcement was made in the Press:—

"The Committee, appointed by The King, recommend that a Memorial be erected in the neighbourhood of the Abbey and Palace of Westminster, or of Buckingham Palace; the Memorial to include as its most prominent feature a Statue of The Queen.

"This recommendation has been submitted to The King by Viscount Esher (Hon. Secretary), and a Sub-Committee has been appointed to consider the means which should be employed to carry this recommendation into effect. Subscriptions will be received by The Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, E.C., and at the Bank of England."

On March 11th, a meeting of the Sub-Committee was held at St. James's Palace. Present:—Viscount Esher, Lord Windsor (now the Earl of Plymouth), the late Sir Arthur Ellis, Sir Edward Poynter, Mr. A. B. Freeman Mitford (now Lord Redesdale), Sir W. Emerson, and Mr. Sidney Colvin; and it was unanimously resolved that:—

(1) A monumental Memorial should be erected in front of Buckingham Palace, to include a Statue of the Queen.

(2) An Arch commemorative of the progress of Art, Science, etc., during the reign of Queen Victoria should be erected at the Eastern entrance of The Mall, near Spring Gardens.

(3) This to be an architectonic Scheme, involving a modification of The Mall, in order to centre the avenue of trees with the proposed Monument and Buckingham Palace; giving an opportunity for adorning the Avenue with sculptural groups in consonance with a Memorial of the Queen.

On March 19th the Report of the Sub-Committee was laid before the General Committee, who, with the approval of King Edward, decided that the Memorial of Queen Victoria should be erected in front of Buckingham Palace, and that, in order to promote this object a public meeting should be held at the Mansion House, over which The Lord Mayor should preside, the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and other Members of the Committee being present.

On March 26th a meeting was held accordingly at the Mansion House, and in the absence of the Marquis of Salisbury the following resolution, proposed by The Right Honourable Arthur J. Balfour, M.P., was unanimously passed:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting of the citizens of London a National Monument should be erected to the memory of the late beloved Queen Victoria on the site in front

of Buckingham Palace approved by His Majesty The King.

On the same day a letter was addressed by Viscount Esher to Sir Rowand Anderson, Mr. Ernest George, Sir Aston Webb, Sir Thomas Drew and Mr. T. G. Jackson, asking them if they would consent to meet the Executive Committee with a view to preparing a design to be submitted in competition for the architectonic treatment of The Mall.

It had been previously decided to offer an honorarium of two hundred guineas to each of these eminent architects, on the understanding that when the ultimate selection was made the architect chosen should collaborate with the sculptor appointed and should receive further remuneration based on the cost of the design.

Mr. Thomas Brock, R.A., was then selected to prepare a design for the group or groups of sculpture, including the Statue of The Queen, which it had been decided to place opposite the Entrance Gates to Buckingham Palace.

It was subsequently arranged that the plans were to be submitted for examination in the course of the following three months.

On June 30th they were sent, together with Mr. Brock's sketch model, to St. James's Palace, where they were shortly afterwards inspected by King Edward. The Executive Committee thereupon met, and at their second meeting adopted the following resolutions:—

The Committee recommend that Mr. Brock's sketch design be accepted, subject to such modifications as may be necessitated by the Scheme of the Memorial as a whole.

That Sir Aston Webb's Plan for the general treatment of the space in front of Buckingham Palace be accepted, subject to certain necessary changes.

The Committee further recommend that the consideration of the remainder of The Mall Scheme be postponed until the amount of the subscriptions to the National Memorial shall have been ascertained.

This Resolution was submitted to The Marquis of Salisbury, who decided that the General Committee should meet to see the sketch Model and the Plan.

The General Committee approved of the Report, and gave instructions that with the assent of King Edward the Plans and Model should be exhibited at St. James's Palace to the Public.

It was further decided that Mr. Brock and Sir Aston Webb should construct a model to scale, from which the ultimate work would be carried out, and they were further asked to frame Estimates and prepare the necessary Contracts.

The Public took advantage in large numbers of the privilege accorded by the King to inspect the Plans and Model, and about ten thousand visitors passed through the room in which they were exhibited at St. James's Palace.

On December 2nd Viscount Esher wrote, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a Memorandum containing an outline of the proceedings in connection with the Memorial since the inception of the Scheme on February 19th, upon which the Marquis of Salisbury decided to call a Meeting of the General Committee.

At this Meeting, which was held on December 9th, it was resolved that Viscount Esher should be authorised to instruct Mr.

Brock and Sir Aston Webb to prepare their Estimates upon a basis of expenditure not to exceed in the first instance £175,000, a sum subsequently, with the approval of King Edward, increased to the amount available after the public subscription was closed.

It was further decided that the General Committee, having completed the work entrusted to it by the King, should be dissolved; that when the model was completed, that the Executive Committee should examine the details of the scheme, and that when these were settled a small Committee should be appointed by His Majesty King Edward to superintend the carrying out of the work.

On December 16th, 1901, Sir Aston Webb and Mr. Brock were informed by Viscount Esher of the decision of the General Committee, and the arrangements based on that decision were subsequently made.

The formal Contract with Mr. Brock is dated June 21st, 1902, and was entered into after the Model had been completed and had been seen and approved by King Edward in Mr. Brock's studio, which His Majesty visited on several occasions.

Mr. Brock's design represents Queen Victoria seated in Robes of State on a Throne; At the back is a group of figures symbolical of Motherhood; At each side of the Pedestal are groups representing Truth and Justice. Above the Pedestal are Eagles, symbolical of Dominion; while above them are seated figures of Courage and Constancy at the feet of a winged figure of Victory. The Great Base, upon which the Monument rests, is typical of the foundations upon which the Throne is secured. Power is represented by Lions on the four flanking pedestals, supported by figures of Peace, Progress, Agriculture, and Manufacture.

Over the Fountains are groups typifying Courage and Wisdom, and the reliefs in bronze and marble of the retaining walls are Tritons and Mermaids symbolical of Sea Power.

Sir Aston Webb commenced the portion of his work, at present executed, towards the end of July, 1903, and it was carried out entirely under his direction, but with the supervision of the Special Committee appointed by King Edward, consisting of Viscount Esher (Chairman), Lord Redesdale, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, the First Commissioner of Works for the time being, and Sir Schomberg McDonnell (Secretary of the Office of Works).

It was settled by King Edward during the early progress of the work that such of Your Majesty's Dominions and Colonies as have contributed to the Memorial should be represented by means of devices and inscriptions on the various gates and on the salient features of the Memorial itself. This is being done.

His late Majesty was graciously pleased to approve of contributions being made from the Memorial Funds towards the work carried out by the First Commissioner of Works in St. James's Park, necessary and consequential upon the decision to place the Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace.

On the change of Government in 1906, the Right Honourable L. Harcourt, M.P., the new First Commissioner of Works, became a member of the Special Committee; but by His late Majesty's command the Earl of Plymouth, who vacated that office, continued to give his services to the Committee. In order that the work might be completed as rapidly as pos-

sible, Mr. Brock, R.A., was obliged to build an additional studio—being the third in which this great work was carried on.

From the commencement the Lord Mayors of the City of London have kindly acted as Treasurers of the Fund. Statements of Account were furnished from time to time by Sir William Soulsby, C.B., and submitted to King Edward.

The total amount of subscriptions received is £323,609, contributed by Great Britain and Ireland, by the Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies of Your Majesty's Empire, by Your Majesty's Subjects resident in foreign countries, and also by Citizens of the United States of America.

A financial statement will hereafter be prepared by the Lord Mayor and submitted for Your Majesty's information, showing a list of the countries and parts of the Empire represented by the Contributors.

The Committee would be failing in their duty to Your Majesty's beloved Father and their late Sovereign were they to refrain from laying some stress upon the magnitude and character of the Memorial to Queen Victoria.

An attempt has been made on a large scale to treat a public memorial in an architectonic spirit, and under the auspices and largely at the initiative of King Edward the Memorial and its surroundings may be said to be the first example in recent times of Town Planning in the Metropolis.

To Sir Aston Webb thanks are due for the devotion which he has shown throughout in maintaining the broad lines of the original scheme and for the elaborate care he has bestowed upon its details.

The Committee find it difficult to express their sense of what is due to the genius of Mr. Brock. The Monument itself stands as the best testimony of his work.

The successive Lord Mayors of the City of London, from 1901 to the present time, as Treasurers, and Sir William Soulsby, as Secretary, have been unflinching in their co-operation, while without the generous assistance of the Commissioners of Works and their Staff the Memorial could not have been satisfactorily completed.

In humbly submitting this Report to Your Majesty, it is impossible to conclude without an expression of deep gratitude to Your Majesty's beloved Father, by whom the Committee were carefully and wisely guided through many difficulties, and from whom they invariably received the most cordial support and encouragement.

ESHER (Chairman).
BEAUCHAMP.
PLYMOUTH.
REDESDALE.
SCHOMBERG K. McDONNELL.
JOHN STIRLING-MAXWELL.

16th May, 1911.

His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

We are met together to celebrate the completion of the noble monument raised to Queen Victoria by her people all over the world.

Ten years have passed since those who were chosen for this Trust from the foremost men of both great parties in the State began their labours. My beloved Father during this period had watched over and guided the work with tender interest and close attention, anxiously looking forward to the ceremony now to be performed. Though, alas! not spared to see the completion of the Memorial, King Edward VII is more than ever in our loving thoughts to-day.

The Committee have deserved the public approbation for the care and judgment which they have bestowed upon the honourable duty confided to them. The Memorial itself alike in beauty and situation does justice to the art of the Sculptor and the skill of the Architect. It now stands complete before our eyes to revive for us and to convey to our descendants, the lustre and fame which shine upon that happy age of British history, when a woman's hand held for a period which almost equalled the allotted span of human life the sceptre of the Empire, and when the simple virtues of a Queen comforted the hearts of nations.

The Dominions and Colonies beyond the seas which grew vastly in prosperity and strength during Her reign and whose loyalty centred ever more directly upon Her august Person have from every part and quarter of the globe united to enshrine her memory: and this monument represents the tributes of races and regions more various in character and circumstance than have been combined before upon a common purpose.

It is a source of deep satisfaction to me and to my family that my dear cousin the German Emperor, accompanied by the Empress, is present at this historic ceremony. His Imperial Majesty is the eldest grandson of Queen Victoria, whom he always loved and venerated with natural affection, and his presence and sympathy with us during the last days of her life and afterwards will never be forgotten by me and my people. Strong and living ties of kinship and friendship unite our Thrones and Persons. The nation rejoices with me that he is here to-day to share in the unveiling of this Memorial.

I pray that this monument may stand for ever in London to proclaim the glories of the reign of Queen Victoria, and to prove to future generations the sentiments of affection and reverence which Her people felt for Her and for Her memory. As time passes and the years unfold, events are revealed in their true character and proportion. We are sure that the tributes we pay to-day will not be disputed by posterity. Her life was devoted to the discharge of Her solemn public duty. Her authority was exercised on all occasions with sincere respect for constitutional usage and tradition. No Sovereign in history reigned so long over so many millions of mankind: no ruler saw so many wonderful changes come to pass or witnessed such a vast expansion in the scale and power of human arrangements. No reign in this Kingdom ever gathered up more carefully the treasure of the past, or prepared more hopefully the path of the future. No woman was ever held in higher honour. No Queen was ever loved so well.