

5
No. 717-D.

pro no 41.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
in the Foreign Department,

TO

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George.
The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department.
The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
The Chief Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.
The Chief Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.
The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.
The Chief Secretary to the Government of Burma.
The Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

Dated Simla, the 11th September 1911.

SIR,

I am directed, in continuation of letter No. 6071-D., dated the 8th August 1911, from the Secretary to the Coronation Durbar Committee, to address you in further detail on the subject of the seating arrangements at the Coronation Durbar, and to forward a lithographed plan showing the accommodation that will be provided for spectators and durbaris.

Coronation
order no 1778
D 8 1911

2. From this plan it will be seen that, as already mentioned in the letter referred to above, the Durbar arena is circumscribed by two large structures, an outer segment designated the Spectators' Mound and a smaller Amphitheatre, corresponding in position and form with that constructed for the 1903 Durbar. The Spectators' Mound is intended entirely for the general public, and the Amphitheatre for persons entitled to seats in the King-Emperor's Durbar and for privileged visitors, the general principle being to draw as complete a distinction as possible between the durbaris and the spectators.

3. The accommodation for the general public is uncovered, and provides for a total of some 50,000 persons, who will not be given seats, but will be ranged in parallel ranks separated by strong iron barriers, and facing the Royal Pavilion.

5,000 places will be reserved in the centre for school children, and 11,000 for persons whom it is desirable to differentiate from the general public, but who are not entitled to seats in the Durbar. No seats will be provided in this reserved space, but persons who are accommodated in it will be permitted to bring their own folding seats or camp stools.

I am to ask that a list of persons from

Madras
Bombay
Bengal
Eastern Bengal and Assam
the United Provinces
the Punjab
Burma
the Central Provinces

who are recom-

mended for places in this enclosure may be prepared and forwarded not later than the 1st October to the Invitation Officer, Foreign Department Camp, Delhi.

Tickets of admission will be issued for the reserved spaces, but the remainder of the accommodation will be open to the general public without restriction.

Both the broad and narrow gauge railways have stations at the back of the mound for the general public; and the railways will be the principal means of access to it, the roads leading to the Durbar arena being closed from an early hour to all except the holders of privileged passes, though some of them will be available for foot passengers and for persons coming from certain of the camp areas and from the city of Delhi.

4. The Amphitheatre for Durbaris, as shown in the accompanying plan, contains 26 rows of seats. These are all under cover of a roof, except the two end blocks on each side, and are arranged in groups of 4, 12 and 10 from front to back, separated by broad gangways. They are divided up into 28 radial blocks.

5. The various categories of persons to be seated in this are as follows:—

- (1) The Heads of Local Governments and Administrations and their official and private guests.
- (2) The Ruling Chiefs and their official and private guests, including their sardars and principal officers.
- (3) The Members and high officers of the Government of India.
- (4) The Colonial Governors and their staffs.
- (5) The Imperial and Provincial Councils.
- (6) The Army Commanders and Staffs.
- (7) Members of the Indian Military Orders and the holders of certain military and other decorations.
- (8) The families of military officers on duty at Delhi.
- (9) Railway officials.
- (10) Press representatives.
- (11) The guests in the Visitors' Camps.
- (12) Peers and Peersesses and Members of Parliament and families.
- (13) Foreign representatives and consuls.
- (14) Representatives of the mercantile marine.
- (15) Officers of the Army and Imperial Service Troops not on duty.

Wives and families are included under each of these heads where not specifically mentioned.

6. The seats will be divided up radially among the various provinces and states, and the internal arrangement of the provincial blocks will, subject to the remarks which follow regarding the front row, be left entirely to the Local Governments and other authorities concerned, who will no doubt order the seating in the most convenient manner with due regard to precedence from front to back, and to the requirements of the homage ceremony, for which those who have to advance to the throne should be grouped together so far as possible.

The Members and high officers of the Government of India will occupy the centre blocks, and the Local Governments and Administrations and Native States those on each side, the Local Governments being arranged alternately right and left in their order of precedence. The Native States in political relation with the Government of India are, to avoid difficult questions of precedence, similarly arranged in territorial groups. Within each group, the order in which the Chiefs will sit is left for the local political authority to determine, subject to the approval of the Government of India in the Foreign Department to whom the proposed seating should be communicated as soon as possible; and it is hoped that by suitably arranging them round the Governor or chief political officer as was done in 1903, all ground for discontent or friction will be avoided.

2
3

The grouping will thus be as follows:—

* Right.

Madras.
Hyderabad.
Bengal.
Mysore.
Punjab.
Rajputana.
Eastern Bengal and Assam.
Baluchistan.

Left.

Bombay.
Baroda.
United Provinces.
Kashmir.
Burma.
Central India.
Central Provinces.
North-West Frontier Province.
Sikkim and Bhutan.

7. All persons who have to take part in the homage ceremony must be in the first four rows and should be seated in such a way that they can leave their places for this purpose with a minimum of disturbance.

In the Provincial and Native State blocks the front row will be reserved entirely for—

- (a) The Heads of the Local Governments and Administrations and their wives.
- (b) Ruling Chiefs down to and including those having salutes of 11 guns, but not below.
- (c) The members of the provincial executive councils and their wives.
- (d) The Chief Justices of the High Courts and their wives.
- (e) The Bishops of Madras and Bombay and their wives.

A statement is attached showing the provisional list of occupants of the front row in each block.

The front row of the central blocks will include the following high officers with their wives:—

The Commander-in-Chief.

The Chief Justice and the Puisne Judges of the High Court at Fort William in Bengal.

The Metropolitan.

The Members of the Governor-General's Council.

The Naval Commander-in-Chief.

The Governors of the Asiatic Colonies.

The Chief of the Army Staff, the General Officers Commanding the Northern and Southern Armies.

Behind these, in the same radial blocks, will sit the members of the Governor-General's Legislative Council, the principal officers of the Government of India invited to the Government of India Camp, the officers of Army Head-Quarters, Peers and Peeresses and Members of Parliament and their families, the guests in the Royal Camp, the wives and families of the Durbar Committee and other civil officers on duty.

8. Chiefs having salutes of 9 guns should be seated in the second row, also the Puisne Judges of the High Courts (other than at Fort William) and their wives, and the Chief Judges of the Chief Courts of Burma and the Punjab; also, subject to such arrangement as local conditions may demand, the political officers with the chiefs in the front row and the principal sardars in attendance on the latter.

9. Non-salute Ruling Chiefs, Bishops other than those already mentioned, Judges of the Chief Courts, the Chief Secretaries of Madras and Bombay, and Judicial Commissioners, should ordinarily be in the third row. The members of the provincial legislative councils would also be accommodated in this and

* On the right of the King-Emperor when facing the Amphitheatre.