

And whereas We, as Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom, have found it necessary for the protection of the harbour or haven of the Humber, and of the shores and banks thereof, to prohibit the taking of any ballast or shingle from the shore or banks hereinafter specified; and We do therefore order, that no person or persons shall take any ballast or shingle from the shore or banks, or any portion of the shore or banks at Spurn Point, from the Low Light-house southward to the extreme of the point at low-water, and northward two and a-half statute miles on both sides of the Spurn Point.

Given under our hands this 21st day of March 1850.

*M. F. F. Berkeley,
Houston Stewart,*

Two of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom.

EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS IN 1851.

Notice regarding Prizes.

"Her Majesty's Commissioners for promoting the Exhibition of 1851 have had under their consideration the subject of the prizes to be awarded to exhibitors, and have resolved to take immediate steps for having medals struck of various sizes and different designs, it being their opinion that this is the form in which it will, generally speaking, be most desirable that the rewards should be distributed. They will endeavour to secure the assistance of the most eminent artists of all countries in producing the medals, which will, they hope, be valuable as works of art of the highest class, besides serving as records of distinction in connexion with the Exhibition. They have decided to select bronze for the material in which the medals are to be executed, considering that metal to be better calculated than any other for the development of superior skill and ingenuity in the medallic art, and at the same time the most likely to constitute a lasting memorial of the Exhibition. A notice, stating the conditions of competition, will be issued without delay.

"With regard to the mode in which the prizes are to be awarded the Commissioners think it inexpedient to establish beforehand rules so precise as to fetter the discretion of the juries upon which the task will ultimately devolve. It will be sufficient for the present to indicate the general principles to which it will probably be advisable to conform in the award of prizes for successful competition in the several departments of the Exhibition.

"In the department of Raw Materials and Produce, for instance, prizes will be awarded upon a consideration of the value and importance of the article, and the superior excellence of the particular specimens exhibited; and in the case of prepared materials, coming under this head of the Exhibition, the juries will take into account the novelty and importance of the prepared product, and the superior skill and ingenuity manifested in the process of preparation.

"In the department of Machinery, the prizes will be given with reference to novelty in the invention, superiority in the execution, increased efficiency, or increased economy, in the use of the article exhibited. The importance, in a social or other point of view, of the purposes to which the article is to be applied will also be taken into consideration, as will also the amount of the difficulties overcome in bringing the invention to perfection.

"In the department of manufactures, those articles will be rewarded which fulfil in the highest degree the conditions specified in the sectional list already published, viz.:-

"Increased usefulness, such as permanency in dyes, improved forms and arrangements in articles of utility, &c. Superior quality, or superior skill in workmanship. New use of known materials. Use of new materials. New combinations of materials, as in metal and pottery. Beauty of design in form, or colour, or both, with reference to utility. Cheapness, relatively to excellence of production.

"In the department of Sculpture, Models, and the Plastic Art, the rewards will have reference to the beauty and originality of the specimens exhibited, to improvements in the processes of production, to the application of art to manufactures, and, in the case of models, to the interest attaching to the subject they represent.

"These general indications are sufficient to shew that it is the wish of the Commissioners, as far as possible, to reward all articles in any department of the Exhibition which may appear to competent judges to possess any decided superiority, of whatever nature that superiority may be, in their own kind. In selecting the juries who are ultimately to guide them in making their reward, the Commissioners will take the greatest pains to secure the services of men of known ability to form a judgment, above the suspicion of either national or individual partiality (for which purpose they will be composed partly of English and partly of foreigners); and who may be expected to recognise and appreciate merit wherever it may be found, and in whatever way it may shew itself. The names of persons selected to act on these juries will be published when decided upon.

"A question having been put to the Commissioners as to the parties who will be allowed to exhibit, and who will be considered to be entitled to the prizes, they avail themselves of this opportunity to state, that all persons, whether being the designers or inventors, the manufacturers or the proprietors, of any articles, will be allowed to exhibit, and that it will not be essential that they should state the character in which they do so. In awarding the prizes, however, it will be for the juries to consider in each individual case how far the various elements of merit should be recognised, and to decide whether the prize should be handed to the exhibitor without previous inquiry as to the character in which he exhibits.

"Lastly, the Commissioners have to state that, in announcing their intention of giving medal prizes, they do not propose altogether to exclude pecuniary grants, either as prizes for successful competition, or as awards under special circumstances, accompanying and in addition to the honorary distinction of the medal. There may be cases in which, on account of the condition of life of the successful competitors (as, for instance, in the case of workmen), the grant of a sum of money may be the most appropriate reward of superior excellence; and there may be other cases of a special and exceptional nature, in which, from a consideration of the expense incurred in the preparation or transmission of a particular article entitled to a prize, combined with a due regard to the condition and pecuniary circumstances of the party exhibiting, a special grant may with propriety be added to the honorary distinction. The Commissioners are not prepared, for the present at least, to establish any regulations on these heads. They consider it probable that a wide discretion must be left to the juries to be hereafter appointed in