

Gen. Hertzog and the Voortrekker Memorial

RUMOURS that widespread dissatisfaction had been caused in certain circles by the invitation to the Prime Minister, General J. B. M. Hertzog, to lay the foundation stone of the Voortrekker Memorial at Pretoria were flatly denied in official circles yesterday and were described as “mischievous.”

Apart from one or two small country committees, which have urged that the proper person to lay the foundation stone was the eldest surviving direct relative of the Voortrekkers, and who object to the choice of General Hertzog on the grounds that he is actively associated with party politics, the invitation to the Prime Minister has met with general approval.

It is pointed out that General Hertzog is one of the most distinguished of living Afrikaners speaking South African. As such his selection has been welcomed by all sections, including representative members of the Purified Nationalist Party.

The recent rumours have, in the circumstances, not only departed from the actual facts of the case by misrepresenting the general attitude towards the Prime Minister in this connection, but have caused a certain measure of distress in the committees responsible for the celebrations.

There are two committees in existence to deal with the Voortrekker

Memorial. The building committee is meeting with assistance from every section of the community. The festivities committee is now engaged in bringing their plans to finality.

ANTHEMS PROBLEM

It was suggested at one time that both “God Save The King” and “Die Stem” should be played during the actual foundation stone laying ceremony, but many rural communities, have objected to the playing of “God Save The King” on the grounds that the function to be held has reference to a period when British rule

was not an accomplished fact in South Africa.

It is learned that this section rather than run the risk of controversy, is anxious to eliminate both “God Save The King” and “Die Stem” from the programme.

The expected attendance of His Excellency the Governor-General, may complicate the position in regard to the playing of “God Save The King.” If he attends as His Majesty’s representative, the playing of “God Save The King” can hardly be avoided, it was stated yesterday.

The question, therefore, arises as to whether Sir Patrick Duncan will be able to attend in his private capacity. These matters are now being investigated, and it is hoped to achieve a peaceful solution to the problem.

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