

Accounts and Papers, Post Office; Public Works and Buildings; Shipping Vol 22. 1847-1848. London. House of Commons.

Returns and Contracts Relative to the New Houses of Parliament

That they the said Henry Lee and John Lee (builders) shall and will forthwith proceed to do, perform and execute all the excavators', pile-drivers', builders', bricklayers', masons', smiths', carpenters', and all other work requisite and necessary to be done and performed in and about the forming, erecting and completing the Cofferdam, River Wall and other Works forming part of the foundations of the intended New Houses of Parliament... and also, that they the said Henry Lee and John Lee, their executors and administrators, shall and will, at their own proper costs and charges, find, furnish and provide all the stone, iron, timber, bricks, **pozzolano, lime**, gravel, sand, clay and all other materials of every kind and description whatsoever requisite or necessary for the doing and performing the said Works... and that the same stone, iron, timber, bricks, pozzolano, lime, gravel, sand, clay and other materials shall be the best of their respective sorts and qualities...

And further, that if anything shall be found to have been omitted in the said plans, elevations, sections, drawings and designs, and the descriptions upon them respectively, and the specification here under written, or any or either of them, which is necessary to the due and effectual completion in the best manner of the said Works and every part thereof, and which can be fairly considered as omissions, the said Henry Lee and John Lee, their executors or administrators, shall not obtain or claim to be entitled to any charge or recompense by reason of any such omission, but shall be obliged to complete and perform the Works hereby agreed upon as if such omissions had never been made, on the contrary, as if the work so omitted to be mentioned and described had been described with the utmost accuracy and to the greatest advantage, and that in the most sound, substantial, complete and workmanlike manner...

Schedule of works for Cofferdam, River Wall and other Works forming Part of the Foundation of the proposed NEW HOUSES of PARLIAMENT.

... The concrete of the foundations of all the walls is to consist of 6 measures of gravel and sand to 1 of ground lime, **mixed dry, and then well worked together with water**, and in this state teemed and thrown into the work from a height of at least 10 feet, and is to be brought to a level surface at the proper depth to receive the first footing-course, which is to bed solid upon it....

The stonework is to be laid out on a thin bed of mortar prepared as hereafter directed, the front joints being pointed with cement and then grouted full, and all the stones are to be worked on the ground and set with lewises and proper tackling....

The space between the river wall and the front wall of the building is to be brought up to the level of the top of the walls with concrete composed of 10 measures of gravel and sand to 1 of unslacked lime washed in with water, and levelled in regular and thin courses as the work proceeds.

MORTAR AND CONCRETE. The mortar throughout is to be composed of 1 measure of the best fresh-burned Merstham, Dorking or other equal and approved lime, 1 measure of finely-ground genuine Italian pozzuolana, and 2 measures of sharp above-bridge river sand, all clean and free from rubbish, dirt and other impurities; the proportions are to be correctly ascertained, after which the lime (which is to be brought from the kiln in small quantities, as required, and kept dry under cover) is to be slacked and mixed with the pozzuolana and sand; **they are then to be passed together in the dry state through screen, the water added, the mortar well tempered and worked to a tough and proper consistency in horse or pug mills for the work generally, but for the stonework, ground with edge stones worked either by horses or by means of gear attached to the steam-engine for pumping the water out of the dam.** Fresh-burned lime of the above description, and clean coarse river gravel, having mixed with it a proper quantity of sharp sand, are also to be used in proportions stated in making the concrete that has been specified for the foundation of the walls and the backing.

(Further foundation works -)

BRICKLAYER. The bricks to be sound, hard, well burned square stocks, equal to a sample to be approved by the Architect and deposited with the Clerk of the Works ; the whole of the brickwork to be laid English bond, and no four courses to exceed 11 ½ inches., and every course flushed up solid in mortar. **The mortar to be composed of stone lime and sharp river sand, in the proportion of three measures of sand to one of lime, the whole well mixed in a pug-mill.** The lime to be kept in an inclosed shed, and no more mixed at one time than is sufficient for the day's consumption.

Signed Charles Barry (Architect), Henry and John Lee 08.11.1837

For completing Carcase of the River Front, and the North and South Flanks of the Building.

Thomas Grissell and Samuel Morton Peto, both of Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, Builders and Co-partners (submitted lowest tender and were accepted)...Charles Barry.

BRICKLAYER. The backing up of the stone facing of the external walls and the whole of the inner walls of the building, shown by a tint of red, are to be of brickwork, and built of the several heights and thicknesses as shown on the accompanying drawings, of the best hard, well- burnt, sound stock bricks, laid in mortar composed of the best Dorking or Merstham or other equal and

approved stone lime, and clean sharp river sand, free from all filth and impurities, well mixed together in the proportion of two equal measures of sand to one equal measure of lime, ground and tempered in a pug or horse-mill until it becomes of an equal and proper consistency. The lime is to be thoroughly and freshly burnt, and must be kept in an enclosed shed ; and no more mortar is to be made at one time than is sufficient for each day's consumption....

The backs of the stone parapets to be rendered with Keen's Patent Cement, properly jointed with the flashings.

All the Roman Cement to be composed of one measure of the best fresh-ground Roman Cement that can be procured, mixed with one equal measure of clean sharp sand, to be well chafed up for use in small quantities and used immediately.

MASON

The plinth of the external walls... is to be of the best granite from the Fogging Tor Quarries, Devonshire, from Penryn, or from the Island of Guernsey, of a fine grain, similar to that of the best Aberdeen, or from Aberdeen, and of an even colour throughout, being entirely free from large crystals of quartz or felspar, as well as from redness or stains....

The granite work throughout is to be laid on a thin bed of mortar prepared as hereafter described, the face of the joints being pointed with cement, and the rest grouted full with mortar....

The mortar for the granite work is to be composed of one measure of fine ground genuine Italian pozzolana, two equal measures of clear river sand, and one equal measure of good fresh burnt Dorking lime mixed with water and well worked to a proper consistency, and in that state ground with edge stones....

(Cramps to be grouted in with Roman Cement; window stones etc to be bedded in the same).

Signed 26.09.1839

SPECIFICATION of WORKS to be performed and Materials used in forming the Foundations of a Portion of the South Flank of the Building, the Royal Staircase and adjoining Rooms, the House of Lords and its Appuitenances, the Public Corridors and Central Hall, and the House of Commons and its Appurtenances.

The mortar is to consist of the best **fresh burnt Merstham or Dorking lime, and clean sharp river sand, in the proportion of three measures of sand to one equal measure of lime, well compounded together in a proper pug-mill.** The lime is to be kept in an inclosed shed, and the supply to be duly regulated by

the quantity of work in hand, so that the same may be **used in a fresh state**; and no more mortar is to be made up than is required for the day's consumption....

Contract No.7

For the internal Finishings of the Building generally.

BRICKLAYER. Brickwork, including Scaffolding — the Bricks to be all bedded, drawn up and flushed with Mortar.

Reduced brickwork done with hard well-burned sound grey stocks, **chalk lime** and river sand... Rubbed and gauged arches, straight on the plan, either circular or camber soffites, with red stocks or malms **set in putty** with 4-inch soffites... Flat joint pointing with coal ash mortar, including raking, dubbing and scaffolding ----- Ditto, ditto in cement ----- Tuck pointing with a neat joint to new work, including scaffolding - Tuck pointing to old work, including scaffolding, raking out the joints, cleaning down and staining the brickwork...

TILING. Pantiling, laid dry, including hips and ridges, laid in mortar, heading and filletting Pantiling, bedded and pointed inside with lime and hair... Pantiling, bedded and pointed outside with lime hair... - Pantiling, bedded and pointed inside and outside with lime and hair... Pantiling, laid dry, including hips and ridges laid in mortar, all but tiles Pantiling, bedded and pointed inside with lime and hair...

LIME, MORTAR, SAND, &c. Delivered at the Works.

Dorking or Mertsam lime
Chalk lime
Lime and hair
Pargetting
Fine stuff
Blue pointing mortar
Darkened or coloured pointing mortar
Stopping mortar for tuck pointing
White mortar for ditto
Cement
Windsor loam
Stourbridge ground clay
Clean river sand
Plaster

INTERNAL WORKS, WITH CHALK LIME AND FIR LATHS.

(from table of measured rates; rates removed here)

Pugging

Lathing only with cast nails

Lath and plaster, one coat

Ditto, circular or elliptical

Lath and plaster, one coat and set

Ditto, circular or elliptical

Lath and plaster, two coats and set

Ditto, circular or elliptical

Floted lath plaster, not set

Add, if set with putty and plaster

Trowell'd stucco on laths

Labour to gauging, one coat

Ditto two coats

Ditto three coats

Gauging two coats, labour and plaster "

WHITING, COLOURING, &c. including cutting out Cracks, stopping, etc. with Putty and Plaster, and cleaning off Splashes from Walls, Wood Work, and, Floors,

Clearcole and white to new work

Ditto plain mouldings

Ditto enriched ditto

Clearcole and colour to new work

Ditto straw

Ditto French grey

Wash and stop

Wash, stop, clearcole and white

Ditto, ornament ceiling

Ditto plain mouldings

Ditto enriched mouldings

Lime whitening, twice done (first cleaned and stopped)

Clearcole and common colour (first washed and stopped)

DAY WORK.

Coarse stuff

Outside lime and hair stone lime

Fine stuff

Putty

Stucco

Roman cement

Mastic Linseed oil .

Boiled oil

Washed and dried sharp sand

Plaster

Whiting Double size

Ditto Lime white

Whiting and size

Colour....

PAVING. Laid on Screened Gravel, including the forming of the Ground.

Grouting, and forming foundation for paving, with six parts of screened ballast, and one of stone lime, or Dorking lime, properly mixed

Grouting to granite paving with lime and sand.