

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

For the first mile the canal is in a cutting 110 feet deep, in a formation of irregular beds of soft sandstone and clay. On this cutting, the excavation of which represents a vast quantity of work, labour-saving appliances have been used freely, and the staff and labour gangs have worked continuously for three years night and day in two shifts. The work has been of a trying and arduous nature, owing to the stillness of the air, the high temperatures in the cut and the radiated heat from the low hills.

The canal for the first 60 miles of its course is situated on the side-long ground of the lower slopes of the Pabbis, following generally a suitably descending contour, and thereafter, for the remaining 28 miles, across the plain of the Gujrat "Bar" to the Chenab River above the Khanki works. For the first 50 miles it runs through a tract furrowed by numerous deep and well defined hill torrents, having discharges ranging from 750 to 150,000 cusecs, and flowing in shifting sandy beds with steep gradients. For the rest, it lies in a flood-swept tract presenting all the difficulties attending the uncertain flow of deltaic streams. Not only are the cross drainage works numerous and large, but the channel passes rapidly and frequently from deep cuttings to high embankments—all costly and slow in excavation and formation. Almost every one of the 70 torrent works has had to be specially treated. There are four level-crossings, the largest of which is nearly as long as the level-crossing on the Ravi River at the head of the Lower Bari Doab Canal.

Work carried on for 10 years, in connection with hill streams, requiring the gradual building of works and the throwing up of long embankments, has not been without its anxieties and difficulties for the staff employed on construction. It was quite an unexpected disaster which overtook the Mangla works in April, 1914. On that occasion the river rose to a level higher than in the previous monsoons, and burst through the soft rock dividing the river and the canal, submerged the Regulator, then at a low level of construction, and passed down the cut, shingling up the stream navvies and covering the tramway lines. This was a serious blow to the local staff and resulted in a long set-back to the completion of the canal and to this inauguration ceremony.

At one time in the history of construction, grave anxiety was felt, that the long and high embankments would be so slow in formation, as to delay the completion of the canal. Many miles of tramway, with locomotives and suitable rolling stock, were

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

procured and the work people trained to use these unfamiliar appliances. Thus this difficulty was successfully overcome. Our visitors to-day have travelled over 28 miles of the canal auxiliary railway constructed and maintained entirely by the Irrigation officers, but this is less than half the total length of railway line which was required to assist in the building of this canal.

It is difficult to convey in figures an idea of the magnitude of the undertaking, but the maximum expenditure in one year in the height of progress was Rs. 79 lakhs, while the average for 10 years is over 40 lakhs annually. This rate of progress is a long way ahead of that on the earlier canals in this province, and was effected in spite of the shortage of labour due to plague mortality and agricultural expansion on the colony canals.

The quantity of earthwork of cuttings, embankments, etc., has been 49 million cubic yards, equal to the contents of a pyramid of $\frac{1}{4}$ square mile base, and 2,270 feet high, or of a trench 5,000 miles long, 5 feet wide and 10 deep. The quantity of stone masonry, brick-work concrete, etc., combined has been 33½ million cubic feet, which would be equivalent to a pyramid of 400 feet side of square base and 430 feet in height, or build a wall 10 feet high and 2 feet thick, from Amritsar to Peshawar. The officials on this canal undertook to supply all the quarry stone required for the entire Triple Project and in addition for the Lower Chenab and Lower Jhelum Canals. The quantity was 444½ lakhs cubic feet. It has been estimated that if all the trains run out from the quarries were placed on end, in one long train, it would cover the North-Western Railway line from Mangla to Delhi.

As already noticed, the canal as a whole is not complete, but it is ready to carry water to the Chenab River and to start on its career of usefulness. The bank between the river and regulator, through which three tunnels have been pierced to supply water at present, has still to be removed. The Gujrat Branch, the only branch of this canal, is practically complete, whilst the distribution system will be ready for irrigation for the coming *kharif* season.

The first 19 miles of the canal are situated in Kashmir territory. His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, whom we are glad to welcome here to-day, made a generous concession in giving all the land required for the canal within his territories free of cost. I take this opportunity of thanking His Highness on behalf of the Punjab Government for the facilities he has given us from the beginning of the surveys till the completion of this work. This canal will also

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

be beneficial to the State, in that some six thousand acres will be annually irrigated from distribution channels that the Kashmir Durbar are now busily constructing.

A work that has been for 10 years under construction has naturally brought into prominence a great many officers and subordinates who have done exceptionally well, in hastening the progress and in making it possible to bring about its inauguration to-day. While reserving for an official communication in its proper place the names of all such officials, I would beg permission of Your Excellency to mention the names of a few of the officers.

The great designer of this canal was Sir John Benton, who for many years had the privilege and advantage of watching it grow in the capacity of Inspector-General of Irrigation; Mr. J. J. Mullaly, since retired, was the first Chief Engineer, and for five years guided its construction; Mr. W. E. T. Bennett, since retired, was for three years Chief Engineer; Mr. R. Egerton Purves, since retired, was for nearly 10 years connected with the canal as Executive, Superintending and Chief Engineer in turn; Messrs. Farrant, Wadley, Taylor, Parsons, Ashford, Loughran, Hadow, Middleton, Murphy, Fane, Elsdon, Robertson, Leggett, Bond, Townsend, Jackson and Gyan Chand have all contributed their very best efforts to the successful completion of the Project.

I acknowledge on behalf of the staff of the Triple Canals Project in general, and this canal in particular, the generous help at all times received from the officers of the other departments of Government connected with this enterprise, more especially the North-Western Railway Administration and staff, the District, the Police, the Medical, the Jail and the Post and Telegraph officers; and last but not least the Accountant-General's Department, who have co-operated to keep the accounts straight and so enabled the Engineers to strive more effectively with nature in wresting the blessings of these rivers from the grip of the sea.

With the permission of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I am to ask that Your Excellency will be good enough to proceed to the Regulator to open the canal by raising one of the sluices, after distributing these tokens of favour to those among the subordinates, contractors and Kashmir State officials, who have been most conspicuous in good work during the construction of this canal.

The speech concluded with a long list of officers who had been prominently connected with or had rendered efficient service in the construction of the canal.

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

His Excellency the Viceroy said :—]

Your Honour, Your Highness, and Gentlemen,—
When just two and an half years ago I had the honour of opening the Upper Chenab Canal at Merala, which formed the first completed instalment of the great Triple Canal Project, I hardly hoped that the privilege would fall to me of being present at the ceremony arranged to celebrate the completion of the project. The very interesting report which we have just heard read by Mr. Ward has given us some idea of the difficulty of the problems which beset this great undertaking and of the ingenuity, determination and energy which have been so unsparingly devoted to its accomplishment. The ingenious manner in which the water of the Jhelum is now to be conveyed to the headworks of the Lower Chenab Canal at Khanki so that it can be used for the irrigation of the Lyallpur Colony is indeed a striking example of the advances which have been made during recent years in engineering skill. Mr. Ward has told us the names of those officers to whose unremitting labour and care this achievement is due. I should like to express my most cordial agreement with his words and my whole-hearted admiration of the undaunted manner in which they have met and surmounted all their difficulties and disappointments. Without in any way depreciating the work of those in less prominent positions, I should like to select for special mention Sir John Benton, who designed the canal, Mr. Mullaly, who for five years as Chief Engineer directed the work of construction, and Mr. Purves, who was connected with the work for ten years in various capacities. I am very glad that Mr. Purves has been able to be present to-day and to see the results of his labours. May I also express the pleasure it has been to me to-day to meet here my devoted friend, His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, to whose generos-

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

ity we are indebted for a free gift of territory through which the first section of 19 miles of the canal has been constructed. I trust that this generosity may be to some extent repaid by the benefits which a portion of His Highness's territory will derive from this canal. But in the great work of bringing under the plough arid tracts from which only indifferent grazing has been hitherto obtained, the construction of canals and distributaries is only the first step. There still remains the important task which lies both upon the civil revenue officers and the engineers in charge of the distribution of equitably dividing the precious but variable, and often unexpectedly restricted, cold weather flow of the three rivers among the seven canals that make up the whole system. We can only appreciate the difficulty of this problem when we remember that the country which these canals will command includes both submontane districts and desert tracts, in the former of which the rainfall is 40 inches and in the latter only 8. The classes of cultivators whose needs and wishes will have to be considered are no less varied and the best results can only be obtained if there is cordial co-operation and goodwill between Government officers and cultivators and also among the cultivators themselves. I am confident that the officers to whom this work is entrusted will spare no efforts in devising the best means for fulfilling the objects aimed at. Apart from the increase of wealth and prosperity which will follow this extension of irrigation, we may, I think, also hope for other benefits, such as the promotion of friendly feelings between the officers of Government who will be responsible for the distribution and the cultivators whose lands will receive water from the system. We may hope that with the guidance and help of the Agricultural Department improved methods of agriculture will be adopted in the tracts which will now

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

for the first time become available for cultivation. In this connection I wish to say a few words about the distribution which Government intends to make of the waste land belonging to them in the areas commanded by these new canals. It is of great importance to secure that their proper share in the benefits of colonisation schemes shall reach the genuine cultivators and other classes which have deserved well of their country. In the present scheme only a small proportion, amounting to less than one-sixth of the total available, will be sold by auction and the remainder will be granted on easy terms to carefully selected persons and classes of cultivators. The objects which Government have mainly kept in view when formulating their scheme are to foster good cultivation and the use of improved methods, to encourage horse-breeding without, as formerly, making it a necessary condition of a grant of land to compensate those who have lost land owing to acquisition by Government or to the vagaries of the Punjab rivers, to assist the depressed classes and criminal tribes to raise themselves by their own efforts, and, lastly, to reward in a generous manner those who have done good service either as soldiers or by rendering assistance to the criminal administration. Of the total number of rectangles available for distribution in the Lower Bari Doab Canal area nearly one-fourth has been reserved for ex-soldiers, and, in the other areas also, a considerable acreage has been similarly reserved. These grantees will be selected by the military authorities after the war and will probably be for the most part retired officers and non-commissioned officers who have distinguished themselves. Another interesting innovation will be the provision of land for members of the hereditary landed gentry, a class which has hitherto derived little benefit from colonisation schemes and has for some time past been declining in prosperity and in-

Opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal.

fluence owing to the frequent partition of ancestral land. Their loyalty and courage have, however, been most clearly demonstrated by recent events, and it is hoped to strengthen their position and influence by granting them land in this way.

The facts which I have just stated will, I think, convince even the most severe critics of Government policy that we are not unmindful of those who do good and faithful service, and I will take this opportunity of saying how very highly I appreciate the spirit which has been shown by the cultivating classes in the Punjab during the difficult times through which we are passing. Whether they have been called on to resist the persuasive influences of foreign agitators or to tract down armed desperadoes, often at the risk of their lives, or to supply recruits to fight for the British Empire, their pluck and loyalty have been beyond all praise. It is, therefore, with special pleasure that I am assisting to-day in the inauguration of a scheme, the benefits of which will specially accrue to the cultivating classes. There is something not a little solemn and awe-inspiring in bending the service of this great God-given river to our will, and I turn now to the task that has been allotted to me with an earnest prayer that God's blessing may rest upon the work of our hands.

May these life-giving waters bring plenty to the land and contentment to its peasantry. May that peasantry ever retain the virile qualities for which it is so justly famed, and may it also utilise its prosperity to advance, at the same time, in the nobler paths of intellectual and moral progress and enlightenment.

OPENING THE REGULATOR.

[At the close of the Durbar His Excellency proceeded to the Regulator, being accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor, the

Opening of New Veterinary College at Lahore.

Maharaja of Kashmir, the Bishop of Lahore, the Ch of Engineer, Mr. J. N. Taylor, Mr. A. N. McL. Robertson, Mr. Jackson, Sub-Divisional Officer in charge of cutting, and Mr. Crump, Sub-Divisional Officer in charge of Regulator. His Excellency released one of the counter-weights of the Canal Regulator gates admitting the water, and declared the canal open. The Bishop of Lahore offered thanksgiving and a short prayer invoking the Almighty's blessing, Mr. J. N. Taylor on behalf of the engineers presented His Excellency with a silver rose bowl and cabinet as a souvenir of the occasion. The rose bowl, which was designed by the Punjab School of Art, bore an inscription and representations of several important features of the work. The opening and presentation ceremonies were witnessed by the guests from the right bank of the Canal above the level of the Regulator.

After a close inspection of the Regulator His Excellency returned to partake of breakfast, and later accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor proceeded by motor-car to the railway terminus. The Lieutenant-Governor and certain officials travelled in the Viceregal train to Juth, where His Excellency was shown the working of the gates and of the releasing gear. The party then proceeded by motor car 15 miles along the canal bank to Serai Alamgir, seeing *en route* two smaller level-crossings, and different types of drainage works and high embankments. At Serai Alamgir His Honour joined his train and left for Lahore. His Excellency's train left shortly afterwards.]

OPENING OF NEW VETERINARY COLLEGE AT LAHORE.

10th Dec. [During his visit to Lahore in December 1915, His Excellency
1915. the Viceroy opened the above College on the morning of the 10th
December :—

His Excellency who was accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor arrived at the College by motor car from Government House. The Viceroy was received by Colonel H. T. Pease, Principal of the College. The police band played the National Anthem and His Excellency inspected the guard-of-honour of the 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifles under Captain Longdin. Sir Valentine Chirol came with the Viceroy. A procession was formed at the door of the shamiana and escorted the Viceroy to the dais, the order being : the Lieutenant-Governor's Staff, Colonel Pease and Mr. C. H. A. Townsend, Director of Agriculture, Punjab; the Hon'ble Mr. C. A.

Opening of New Veterinary College at Lahore.

Barron, Chief Secretary, Punjab,- His Excellency's Staff, His Excellency and the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Chief Secretary declared the proceedings open.

Mr. Townsend introduced to His Excellency the following professors of the College: Mr. E. Burke, Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. W. A. Pool, Khan Bahadur Sayid Gulam Mahitab Shah, Khan Sahib Sayad Gulam Sharda Shah, Khan Sahib Gulam Hussain Khan, and Khan Bahadur Dr. Amir Shah (retired).

Mr. Townsend then read an address to the Viceroy in the course of which he gave the history of the College and traced its rise from humble origin to its present position of being the finest veterinary college in the East. He referred to the ever-increasing demand for more highly trained veterinary assistants resulting in 1899 in the introduction of a new course of training for civil veterinary assistants. Of late years the College staff had been greatly strengthened, and it was decided in 1914, while keeping the ordinary three years' course for military students, to introduce a four years' course for civilian students and also to institute a post-graduate course in English to last for one year.

The Viceroy said —]

Your Honour and Gentlemen,- The address that has just been read has given us a most interesting account of the development of veterinary teaching in the Punjab from very small beginnings and Colonel Hallen would have been a proud man could he have lived to see this day and realise that this splendid College has been evolved from the small class for veterinary instruction that he originally started at Hapur. That class contained the nucleus of a great idea that has gradually developed and forced its way to the ample recognition we see bestowed upon it to-day. But I do not think that this result would have come about unless the successors of Colonel Hallen and the professors and lecturers who have done such excellent work had played their own part with zeal and enthusiasm and these qualities have been especially conspicuous in the present Principal, Colonel Pease, who after five years' absence on other duties,

Opening of New Veterinary College at Lahore.

returned to the College and now has the happiness to see crystallised in this building the result of many years of effort, thought and labour.

I have been particularly interested to learn that the main course of studies is conducted in the vernacular, while English is the language of the post-graduate course. There is more than one school of thought as to whether the medium of instruction in our higher educational institutions should be English or the vernacular, but I think few will be found to question the wisdom of the policy adopted here, for many of those who are most fitted by their home surroundings for a useful veterinary career have neither the time nor the inclination to become versed in Western culture, and it is hardly open to question that it must be far easier for them to imbibe a knowledge of veterinary science when imparted in their own tongue than if it was complicated by the mysteries of a foreign language. On the other hand post-graduate courses necessitate the study of a wider range of literature, and there are obvious reasons for their being conducted in the English language.

These buildings have been designed on a generous scale and it is well that it should be so, for the demand for veterinary experts is rapidly increasing. The number of students has just doubled in the past ten years, and whereas 20 years ago there were only 26 veterinary dispensaries in the old undivided province of the Punjab, there are in the present province no fewer than 121. In the same period the number of animals treated has risen from 50,000 to 400,000. The address claims that this is the finest Veterinary College in the East and I can well believe it is true, nor is it altogether unfitting that the Punjab should take the lead in veterinary enterprise.

Opening of New Veterinary College at Lahore.

This province has long been famous for its breeds of cattle and horses. The bullocks of Hissar, the buffaloes of Rohtak, the cows of Montgomery and the sturdy speckle cattle from the Dhami tract of the Salt Range are all well known to fame, while the horses from the Dhami tract and Dera Ghazi Khan have more than a local reputation. The sardars and maliks of the Punjab have always loved their horses. Perhaps that is partly the reason why more has been done in this province than in any other for horse-breeding. The horse-breeding scheme in the Lower Jhelum colony has recently been subjected to a very severe test on account of the demand for remounts due to the War and has been able to meet it with conspicuous success. Under the operation of this scheme there has now for several years past been an average of something like 1,800 foals born every year, and it is believed that the limit has not yet been reached. It is hoped that in a year or two Government will be able to rely on a steady supply of a thousand mules a year from the Lower Chenab colony alone. Of the four Camel Corps at Lyallpur three have now been called up for active service. Large areas of land have been set apart on the Lower Bari Doab Canal for the encouragement of horse and mule breeding, and under the conditions of that scheme the grantees will maintain no less than 7,000 mares for breeding purposes.

We have been told that many old students of this College are at the front on active service in France and Mesopotamia and they will there have opportunities of first hand observation of the wonderful work that is being done under the auspices of the Blue Cross Association to alleviate the suffering of sick and wounded horses. I have no doubt that they, like their brothers in the fighting forces, will play and have played their part in maintaining the high reputation of India, and I can wish this

King Edward Memorial: New Medical College Hall, Lahore.

College no better fortune than that the young men who pass out of her portals may bear upon their brows the seal of enthusiasm for their profession and carry wherever they go a reputation for care and skill and tenderness for those dumb creatures to whom mankind owes such a heavy debt of gratitude. I congratulate all who have had a share in bringing this building to a successful completion and not least to Mr. Sullivan, whose architectural designs have so happily materialised and I now declare this College open.

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL: NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE
HALL, LAHORE.

10th Dec. [After the opening of the Veterinary College His Excellency drove
1915. straight to the New Medical College hall to open the first completed instalment of the King Edward Memorial. His Excellency who was accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor was received at the entrance to the Memorial Hall by the Hon'ble Sir Donald Johnstone, President of the Executive Committee, and Lieutenant-Colonel Sutherland, Principal of the College.

After a guard-of-honour of the 1/6th Devonshire Regiment which was drawn up on the lawn facing the College had been inspected a procession was formed to the dais in the following order:—Lieutenant-Governor's staff, President and Principal, Medical College, His Excellency's Staff, His Honour, His Excellency. The Viceroy having taken his seat, the President of the Memorial Committee presented in turn the Members and Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee, Professors of the Medical College and officials of the Public Works Department connected with the construction of the memorial buildings. The President of the Committee then read an address in which he traced briefly the history of the Lahore Medical College and the Mayo and Albert Victor Hospital. He then described the movement to create a provincial memorial to the late King Edward and the part taken in organising and directing it by Sir Louis Dane, Sir Arthur Reid, Mr. Montagu Butler, Mr. Ferguson, Lala Amar Nath, Honorary Secretary of Committee, and others, explaining the finances of the scheme. He said that the total funds at the disposal of the Committee were

King Edward Memorial: New Medical College Hall, Lahore.

Rs. 32,08,863, including a grant of 10 lakhs from the Imperial Government and 4½ lakhs and other substantial aid from the Provincial Government. The total cost of the whole scheme including direct and indirect charges was Rs. 40,62,580, this including the valuable sites given by the Government and remitted departmental charges. They could justly claim that the memorial would be worthy of the August Sovereign it was intended to commemorate and it was most auspicious that the opening should have fallen to the lot of the Viceroy who was a companion of King Edward in his missions of peace and the grandson of one whose name shone brilliantly in the annals of the Punjab.

His Excellency then made the following speech :—]

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Glad as I am to have the privilege of opening the first completed instalment of this splendid memorial to one whose memory will ever live in history and be dearly treasured in the hearts of those who knew him, the occasion cannot fail to bring us sadness when we think of the great struggle which now threatens the progress of civilisation in every continent of the world. Throughout his reign King Edward strove, and strove successfully, for the maintenance of peace with honour and of amity among nations. How much he accomplished is fully known only to the few who had the privilege of sharing in his labours, but there can be no doubt that but for those efforts the position of the British Empire both as to internal unity and as to perfect concord with her Allies would be vastly different from what it is to-day.

As Sir Donald Johnstone has said in his address, the welfare and happiness of his people were always very near to King Edward's heart, and there could have been no more suitable means of perpetuating his memory than by the provision of a medical college and hospital and thus to spread the knowledge by which comfort and healing may be brought to the many who now need it. We have heard to-day of the manner in which the

King Edward Memorial: New Medical College Hall, Lahore.

scheme was initiated, and I am sure you will all agree with me that we cannot appreciate too highly the part played by Sir Louis Dane both in the conception of the idea and in the raising of the necessary funds. His intimate knowledge of the people and his ready eloquence brought home to the imagination of the Punjab as nothing else could have done both the grandeur of the memorial and the nobility of the character of him to whose memory the college and hospital were to be dedicated. The work so favourably begun, so generously supported both by ruling chiefs and by the wealthy as well as by the peasant classes throughout the province according to their means has been carried on with the most praiseworthy energy and ability by those who have had but little leisure from their ordinary avocations for honorary work of this kind. There are many names which I would like to mention in this connection, but I feel that special reference should be made to the labours of Sir Arthur Reid, Sir Alfred Kensington and Sir Donald Johnstone who have filled in succession the position of President of the Memorial Fund and to those of Mr. Montagu Butler, Rai Bahadur Mohan Lal and Sheikh Mohamed Ali Khan who did much arduous and valuable work as honorary secretaries. Much still remains to be done before the final stone of this great memorial is set in place, and its completion may perhaps be delayed beyond the normal time by the necessity for economy which this great War imposes upon us at the present time, but these gentlemen who have laboured so unselfishly have the satisfaction of seeing some portion already finished and the remainder on the way to completion.

The nature of the memorial has been fully described in the very interesting address which the president has just delivered, so I will not weary you with any further

New Medical College Hall, Lahore.

details, but I should like to refer to the use to which some portion of it has already been put. When the War began the Punjab Government set aside 50 beds for wounded soldiers in the Mayo Hospital which is to be incorporated in the Memorial Hospital. These are not generally occupied in full, but we may hope that something has already been done in memory of King Edward to alleviate the suffering of our gallant Indian soldiers who have been wounded in an Imperial cause.

When this great struggle ends, as we all pray that it may shortly, we shall emerge with greater knowledge regarding many things. Perhaps the most valuable, and we may hope the most considerable advance of knowledge will have been made in the science of medicine, sanitation and the prevention and alleviation of human suffering by humane means. To spread this knowledge in India is a work worthy of your highest endeavours and one in which you, who will direct the teaching, may well draw inspiration from the bright examples of your predecessors. Some who laboured for years as members of the staff and did much to bring the Lahore Medical College to its present high efficiency have now passed on to eminent and responsible positions in England. One at least has left his well earned rest to help his country in her need and to take up again his old duties in this College. Their tradition of unselfish labour will, I know, be faithfully preserved in the greater College which is now coming into existence under the able guidance of Colonel Sutherland, who has been connected with the College for nearly 20 years and has given invaluable help in working out the details of the present scheme.

To those who will be students in this College I will only say that their lives will be spent in the finest work that man can do—the bringing of comfort and healing to your sick and afflicted fellowmen. I know that they

Reception of Indian Military Officers at Lahore.

will strive to do it worthily and I pray that God may give them strength to employ to the best advantage the knowledge which they will gain within these walls.

RECEPTION OF INDIAN MILITARY OFFICERS AT LAHORE.

11th Dec.
1915.

[The last public function of the Viceroy's visit to Lahore took place on the 11th December 1915 at cantonments when a reception of retired Indian Officers was held. Between 1,500 and 2,000 retired officers attended. The Viceroy accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady O'Dwyer, Sir Valentine Chirol and the staffs of His Excellency and His Honour motored out from Government House. The Viceroy was received by General Barratt, Commanding the Lahore Divisional Area, and inspected a guard-of-honour of the 6th Devonshires. A number of the general public from cantonments and civil station were present. The retired officers were drawn up in a hollow square and presented an imposing spectacle in their brilliant and varied uniforms. Many were of great age and bent with the weight of years and practically all proudly displayed war medals earned in many different campaigns. Noticeable among the throng were some wounded officers recently returned from the front. They were arranged in sections and the members of each section were introduced to His Excellency by their respective Deputy Commissioner or officer in charge.

His Excellency accompanied by Sir Michael O'Dwyer and General Barratt and staffs walked along the line shaking hands and touching the sword belt of each officer. So large was the gathering that His Excellency was unable to greet separately those towards the end of the line. At the conclusion of the reception His Excellency took his stand at the saluting post and addressed the gathering as follows :—]

Indian Officers.—It is now nearly four years since I had the pleasure of meeting some 500 of you here in Lahore but I carried away such happy memories of that day that I always hoped to repeat it before I left India. And now that I have been able to repeat my invitation to you to come and see me, the King-Emperor's representative, you have shown your eagerness to accept it by coming not in hundreds as on the last occasion but in

Reception of Indian Military Officers at Lahore.

thousands and it is a response which I need not tell you gladdens and warms my heart, for it convinces me that by coming in such great numbers, the majority of you from great distances, your desire has been to emphasise the steadfast loyalty of the Punjab to the King-Emperor at a time when the Empire is fighting with its whole strength in a righteous cause and against powerful and ruthless enemies. And what more splendid representatives of Punjab loyalty and martial spirit could I wish to see before me. Your war medals tell me of service in all parts of the world—China, East Africa, West Africa, South Africa, Somaliland, Egypt and the frontiers of India and Burma. Some even among you are back from the present war scarred with honourable wounds. Your well-earned titles and decorations again remind me of long and faithful years of service, of valour in the field, of brave and courageous acts in times of peace. Nor is this all that your presence tells me for I see in you not only the fathers of many thousand gallant sons now serving and fighting for the King-Emperor but an influence for good, that most important factor at all times and particularly in days like the present. The influence of men like you who have eaten the Government salt, fought the Empire's battles and received in various form the Emperor's rewards and Government recognition can be, should be and is an asset of inestimable value to Government and one of the things which I most wish to tell you to-day is how fully I realise and how deeply I appreciate the manner and the measure in which you have used that influence for the benefit of Government and for the good of the province. Evidence of it is apparent in many directions, but particularly in the strong and constant flow of recruits in the vastly greater numbers demanded by the War and in the tranquillity of your province which in spite of certain unruly

Reception of Indian Military Officers at Lahore.

elements that have attempted to disturb the peace, in spite of hard times and in spite of rumours and alarms to which a great War always gives rise, has maintained its great tradition and high reputation for loyalty.

Sardars, I thank you for this further service to your Government—service performed after retirement to your homes on your well-earned pensions. Continue to perform it each of you according to your ability and opportunity, not only during the progress of the War but after it. Breathe the martial and loyal spirit of yourselves and of your sons into your grandsons and great-grandsons so that they may follow your example and may show the world when next the Punjab is called upon by the King-Emperor that its answer is no less splendid than it is to-day. Nor must I omit to mention the great pleasure I feel in seeing His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala at the head of the splendid contingent from his State. It is characteristic of this great Punjab chief to come here and to present to me personally the band of gallant Sikh officers born and bred in the cradle of Sikh chivalry, Patiala. I thank His Highness for doing so. I thank him in the name of the King-Emperor for the Imperial Service Troops he has sent to the War. Some of them are now engaged in the Dardanelles, which is one of the most arduous theatres. And finally for his well known efforts in stimulating recruiting for the Army from the people within his borders.

And now before I make an end to these few words of grateful acknowledgment of your services, past and present, and exhortation for the future, let me tell you that it is only the generosity of your response to the invitation to meet me which has obliged me to forego the pleasure of shaking each of you by the hand for had I indulged in and allowed myself a word here and an enquiry there as I passed down your long lines I should

Unveiling of statue of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior.

not have reached the last few hundred of you till they and perhaps myself had collapsed from fatigue. Yet though this personal touch is denied me I cannot but rejoice at the reason for its denial—your large numbers; and I shall this evening inform His Majesty the King-Emperor by telegram of my meeting with this splendid body of his subjects and assure him of your undiminished loyalty and devotion.

[This speech was afterwards translated into Urdu by Sir Michael O'Dwyer.]

UNVEILING OF STATUE OF MAHARAJA JAYAJI RAO
SCINDIA OF GWALIOR

[During the Viceroy's visit to Gwalior in December 1915, His 30th Dec
Excellency unveiled the above statue on the 30th instant 1915]

The route from the Palace to the Jayaji Chowk, a distance of a mile and a half, was lined by troops on both sides; the houses in the city were decorated with flags and bunting, and presented a most picturesque appearance. The stone screen work for which Gwalior is famous was seen to great advantage along the whole route, and its delicate lace-like texture added charm to the scene.

On arrival at the Jayaji Square, His Excellency, who was accompanied by His Highness, was received by Mr. G. J. M. Hamilton, the President of the Lashkar Municipality, and the three Vice-Presidents, Sardar Major Yado Rao Bapu Ghorpade, Rai Bahadur Pundit Pran Nath Sabha Bhushan, and Sardar Mivan Ghani Mahomed Hazratji. The Square was lined with troops, the guard of honour presented arms while the Band played the National Anthem and the guns of the historic Gwalior Fort boomed the usual salute. His Excellency and His Highness, followed by their respective staff, proceeded to the dais which was placed under a pretty crescent shaped pandal which was tastefully decorated. The President followed by his three Vice-Presidents advanced and Mr. Hamilton read the following address:—

Your Excellency,—We, the members of the Lashkar Municipal Council, esteem it a high privilege to have this opportunity of offering to Your Excellency a loyal welcome on behalf of this City

Unveiling of statue of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior.

Knowing the interest and affection which Your Excellency has so often evinced towards the State and its Capital during previous visits to Gwalior, we think it unnecessary to refer to the past history of Lashkar; still less is it needful to discourse on the origin, growth, and aims of the Municipality. Such a disquisition might be appropriate in the case of a stranger who visited the City, but we are happy to think that Your Excellency is no stranger to Lashkar. We will only say that like many other similar institutions elsewhere, we are doing our best and learning many valuable lessons by practical experience.

It would be out of place for us to dilate on the many noble qualities of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia. Suffice it to say that in the Great Delhi Durbar of 1877 he was the first Prince to rise and spontaneously echo the feelings of the Princes and the peoples of India in the words, "Shah-in-Shah, Padshah, May God Bless you! The Princes of India bless you, and pray that Your Sovereignty and Power may remain steadfast for ever."

In his long rule of forty-three years he made this State something more than a geographical expression; he laid those firm foundations on which the structure of modern Gwalior is being built up steadily day by day. Even those who did not know him cannot but be grateful that when he passed away he bequeathed to Gwalior and to the British Empire his son, our present Maharaja.

The building in which this statue rests was designed by and constructed under the personal supervision of Sardar Balvant Rao Sahib Scindia, C.V.O., Madar-ul-Moham. We consider that it is a fine centre to this Square, the Jayaji Chowk.

With every assurance of our deep respect we beg that Your Excellency will do the Lashkar Municipality the honour of unveiling the statue of His Highness the late Maharaja of Gwalior, Major-General Sir Jayaji Rao Scindia.

Rai Bahadur Pundit Pran Nath Sabha Bhushan had the honour of presenting the casket containing the address which had six paintings of the different handsome buildings of the Jayaji Chowk.

His Excellency said :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I should like to thank the members of the Lashkar Municipal Council very warmly for the cordial welcome they have given me. I need hardly dilate upon the great pleasure my visits to Gwalior always afford me. Their frequent repetition

Unveiling of statue of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior.

constitutes of itself sufficient testimony but it is most pleasant to find the warm friendship that subsists between your distinguished Maharaja and myself so heartily reflected in the kind words that you have used. In inviting me to perform the ceremony of unveiling the statue of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia you remark that when he passed away he bequeathed to Gwalior and the British Empire his son, the present Maharaja. That strikes me as a very happy phrase and indeed that fact alone gives him no small claims upon the gratitude of posterity. There can be no doubt that one owes much of one's temperament, gifts and character to one's father and it would be an interesting study for some one who has known them both to trace how far your present Maharaja owes to his father those great qualities that have enabled him to make the state of Gwalior what it is. I am afraid I am not qualified for the task as I never had the privilege of knowing him whose statue stands before us but this I do know from what I have heard and read that he was a man of very remarkable character. He was a Maratha to the backbone, proud of the glories of his family and proud of the traditions of his race that have in the past months of war been so splendidly upheld by the Marathas of to-day fighting for the Empire in Mesopotamia and elsewhere. He was passionately fond of military pursuits and took the greatest possible interest in the training of his forces and perhaps the rank and title that gave him the greatest pleasure was that of General of His Majesty's Army which was conferred upon him at the Imperial Assemblage of 1877. In his earlier years he busied himself with schemes for the reform of the administration and the energy, perseverance and the practical wisdom that were such striking features of his character enabled him before he died to lay the foundation for those great developments which His Highness your present Maharaja has so successfully carried out in so many directions.

Unveiling of statue of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior.

But the greatness of Maharaja Jayaji Rao Scindia was destined to be put to the proof by severer tests than the peaceful government of his state could afford and it was not until the Mutiny broke out and its contagion affected his own troops that his steadfast loyalty and courage were exhibited in their real light. True as steel there was no stauncher ally of the British Government and this in the face of so much opposition that he actually had for a time to leave his state. No man could offer higher proof of loyalty. His relations with the British Government were always cordial and he gave a further testimony of the same spirit at a later date when the war was thought to be imminent with Russia and he offered the services of his troops. He was one of those who loved to look into every detail of the administration himself and a story is told of him that in 1868 when there was a famine in Central India and he learned that his people were in great distress, with an energy all his own he mounted his horse and with a handful of followers rode from tahsil to tahsil to see things with his own eyes and having satisfied himself how great was the threatened calamity, immediately raised funds to preserve the people from starvation.

I think you will all agree with me that the few remarks I have made about His Highness Sir Jayaji Rao show that many traits of his character reappear in that of his son, His Highness Sir Madho Singh. Just ten years ago, when His Majesty, then Prince of Wales, visited Gwalior, he said of him: "His goal is the stability of the British Empire and to attain that goal he is striving with all his characteristic energy to improve the condition of his people." Those words stand firm to-day. Who is there in India who knows more about the administration of his state or takes a greater personal interest in its dealings? The stormy days of the Mutiny find their counterparts now in the great crisis of war through which the Empire

Opening of the Patna High Court at Bankipore.

is passing and who is there in India who has given more thought and care to devising means by which he might help the Empire in the great struggle? I will not dwell on this pleasant topic but I do feel that if he in whose memory this statue is erected could have known how worthily his son was to follow in his footsteps to what distinction he was to raise the name and fame of Gwalior, then indeed he would have been a proud and happy man. I will now proceed to unveil the statue.

[On His Excellency pressing the button which released the curtain covering the statue the whole of the Durbar rose, the Band played the Scindia National Anthem while the guns fired the usual salute

After *pan* and *uttar* had been distributed and inspection of the statue, His Excellency and His Highness returned to the Palace]

OPENING OF THE PATNA HIGH COURT AT BANKIPORE.

[His Excellency the Viceroy visited Bankipore on the 3rd 3rd Feb.
February 1916 for the special purpose of opening the new buildings 1916.
of the Patna High Court, the foundation stone of which the Viceroy
laid some two years before

Never before in the history of Patna, ever since its downfall as the capital of the ancient and mighty empire of Chandragupta and Asoka, had any public function attracted such a large and influential gathering as assembled at the ceremony of the opening of the Patna High Court, and the reason was not far to seek. The long cherished ambition of the Biharis was to be fulfilled in its utmost reality, and alert as they are in expressing their gratefulness to their benefactors, they had turned out in very large numbers from all parts of the province. The number in the shamiana, which was very prettily decorated, was the largest on record not only to witness the ceremony but also pay their last homage to the great and illustrious Viceroy who not only raised them to the status of a self-contained province but granted them their High Court and their University. It was only four days before that they had shown their respect and devotion to their ruler when the Lieutenant-Governor unveiled His Excellency's statue, but their enthusiasm knew no bounds when they welcomed His Excellency *en route* to the shamiana and when he

Opening of the Patna High Court at Bankipore.

addressed the vast assembly. His Excellency was deeply touched by the greeting, and acknowledged it with his usual grace.

Long before the appointed hour the shamiana was full to overflowing, Rajas, Nawabs, Zamindars, durbaris, officials, lawyers and the public (including ladies) all occupying their seats in their respective blocks, and the ladies in their dresses, the Rajas and zamindars in their rich gay costumes, the judges and lawyers in their gowns, wigs and bands and the university men in their academic dresses together presented a most picturesque scene. The road by which His Excellency arrived was gaily decorated with flags and bunting, and at various places beautiful arches were put up welcoming His Excellency and wishing success to the British and Allied arms. Among the prominent people present besides the Lieutenant-Governor, were the Chief Justice of Bengal, members of the local Executive Council, the Chief Justice and judges-designate of the Patna High Court, excepting Mr. Atkinson, who had not yet arrived from Home, the Additional Members of the Imperial Legislative Council representing Bihar and Orissa, the Additional Members of the local Legislative Council and the principal officers of Government and officers designate of the High Court.

His Excellency left Government House under the usual salute accompanied by an escort of the Bihar Light Horse and on arrival was met by the Lieutenant-Governor and staff. After inspecting the guard-of-honour of British and Indian Infantry which was drawn up in front of the shamiana, His Excellency entered the shamiana in procession amidst a flourish of trumpets. The Lieutenant-Governor, after His Excellency had taken his seat on the dais, introduced the Chief Justice and the judges-designate, the District and Sessions Judges, the Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, and the Registrar-designate.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor then requested His Excellency to open the High Court. He said.—

“Very little more than two years have elapsed since Your Excellency laid the foundation stone of the building before us. Since then the financial situation resulting from the war has made it necessary largely to reduce the expenditure on our new capital, and the construction of the Secretariat and other buildings has been retarded, but it was recognised that whatever else might suffer, nothing should be allowed to delay the establishment of the provincial High Court. The construction of this building was thereafter pushed on with the utmost possible expedition, and our thanks are due to Mr. Searight and the officers who worked under him, and to the contractors, Messrs. Martin & Co., for their unsparing exertions

Opening of the Patna High Court at Bankipore.

which have had such a satisfactory result. Our thanks are also due to the Government of the United Provinces for allowing us to make use of the plans which had been prepared for the Allahabad High Court by their architect, Mr. Lishman, and thereby enabling the work to be started at a much earlier date than would otherwise have been possible. It is a matter of great gratification to the people of this province that this building has been completed before Your Excellency lays down the reins of your exalted office, and that on the eve of your departure from India you have been able to find time to come once more to Patna to declare then High Court open."

His Excellency then rose amid tumultuous cheering and spoke as follows :—]

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,--In the first place let me give expression to the feeling of immense pleasure that this opportunity has given me of revisiting Bankipore and seeing once more my many friends of Bihar and Orissa, and to be able to leave India in a few weeks' time with the feeling and knowledge that all is well in this young but sturdy and loyal province, and that its progress and development are assured under the able and sympathetic guidance of Sir Edward Gait, your Lieutenant-Governor.

In opening the building in which the new Court created by His Majesty for this province will begin its work within the next few weeks, I am about to perform an almost unique duty and one which I do not think has fallen to the lot of any previous Viceroy. The Chartered Courts of the presidency towns are the children of the old Supreme Courts, and as such have been sitting continuously from the days of Warren Hastings; so we can hardly look for a precedent in their case for the present ceremony. The only other existing Court established by His Majesty's Letters Patent is the High Court of Judicature for the North-Western Provinces, and, as far as I have been able to ascertain, no public ceremony marked the inauguration of that Court in the year 1866, or at any rate if there was one it was not performed by

Opening of the Patna High Court at Bankipore.

the Viceroy of that day. It is therefore my peculiar privilege to stand alone among those who have represented the Crown in the Indian Empire in presiding at the opening ceremony of a building which is to house a new Chartered High Court. This is particularly gratifying to me, as it permits me to witness the final step, I may say, the placing of the coping stone of a great administrative reform which I am happy to say has been brought to its fruition before the close of my term of office, and which I believe to be full of hope and promise for the future, and tending towards the steady and progressive development of India in accordance with the legitimate aspirations of her people. The new province of Bihar and Orissa, at whose birth I assisted, when the announcement of its creation was made by His Majesty the King-Emperor at the Delhi Coronation Durbar, is now to receive what has always been regarded as the outward and visible sign of the full development of a province—a development to which other provinces of India have aspirations—but which you are now about to see realised. I think, when I look at this fine building, that the people of this province may congratulate themselves in many ways on their new institution. It will be adequately, and even magnificently, housed, and the building itself an emblem of the great functions the Court has to discharge—great not only in its decrees as between man and man, but as great and perhaps even weightier in its decisions as between the individual and the State. You are also greatly to be congratulated on the *personnel* of the Judges of your new Court, which is such as I am sure will create confidence amongst all classes.

You are indeed fortunate in your future Chief Justice, as Sir Edward Chamier is a lawyer of great reputation and of the ripest experience who has won his spurs both in the Courts and on the Bench. You have in

Opening of the Patna High Court at Bankipore.

Mr. Atkinson a Judge fresh from the traditions of the home Courts. The civilian element includes officers of wide experience of the province, while in Mr. Justice Sharf-ud-din and Mr. Jwala Pershad you have men who were born amongst those to whom they will administer justice.

The Court, then, will commence its work under the most favourable auspices. In one sense it reaches back in historical connection, through the High Court of Calcutta, to the days of Sir Elijah Impey, and in another sense it is a new Court which will have its own traditions and reputation to establish, and I trust and have no doubt that the traditions and reputation it will create will be such as to make it respected and honoured by the people amongst whom its work will be done.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my pleasure at seeing here on this occasion the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, for I feel that it is a fitting occasion to acknowledge very warmly the assistance and sympathy which the Judges of that Court have so unsparingly given in solving the problems and the difficulties that have arisen in the establishment of this new Court. These difficulties have now, I hope, been successfully surmounted, and we can rest assured that the duplication of Courts will enable both alike to keep in the most intimate touch with the local conditions that prevail within their respective jurisdictions and also to exercise a close supervision and control over the proceedings of the subordinate judiciary.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has referred in his speech to the fact that, even under the shadow of the great war, this building has been proceeded with in order to enable the new Court to come into existence at the earliest possible date. I think there is something in this which might give our enemies ground for reflection.

Opening of the Patna High Court at Bankipore.

It seems to me that they might find a lesson in the fact that the British Government, even under the distractions of this troubled time, pursues with unflinching vigour the aim which it has always proposed to itself as one of the fundamental objects of all good government—the desire to facilitate the administration of justice to all its subjects. The greatest credit is due to those members of the Public Works Department and others who have helped to raise the building within so short a space of time. It seems only the other day that I was laying the foundation stone and now the stately fabric is completed.

This happy result is very largely due to the energy and ability of those entrusted with the construction of the building, and I wish to associate myself most heartily with what Sir Edward Gait has said regarding Mr. Searight and the officers who worked under him and regarding the contractors Messrs. Martin & Co., whose distinguished senior partner, Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, I am very glad to see here to-day. My only regret is that my old friend, Sir Charles Bayley, to whose tact and determination the completion of this building owes so much, is not present to-day to see the fruition of his labour.

Anxious as your province has been to possess her own High Court, I am aware that you also look forward eagerly to the time when you will have your own University and your own Engineering and Medical Colleges. These are very proper aspirations and will no doubt be fulfilled in due course of time, and you need have no fear that your ambition will suffer from any lack of sympathy on the part of the Government of India. But in the meanwhile I would ask you to remember that, though the war has not been permitted to interfere with the steps necessary to the foundation of this Court, yet many other excellent schemes have had to be suspended

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

on account of their cost, and all of us have had to make sacrifices to try and ensure the ultimate triumph of our Empire and of our ideals.

The noble edifice of our great Empire is founded on justice and cemented with mercy, and I am proud to think that during my Viceroyalty this fresh contribution to its stability has been completed and to feel that I am here to-day to bear witness to it. With my most earnest wishes that the labours of this Court may be inspired with wisdom, justice and mercy, I will now proceed to open the building.

[At the close of the ceremony His Excellency proceeded to the main door of the High Court accompanied by his staff, the Lieutenant-Governor and his staff, the Chief Justice of Bengal and the members of the local Executive Council, and the Chief Justice and Judges designate of the High Court. On arrival at the main door Mr. Searight, late Chief Engineer in-charge, Mr. Brebuer, Executive Engineer-in-charge, and Sir Rajendra Nath Mukerjee, representative of Messrs. Martin & Co., contractors, were introduced to His Excellency. Sir Rajendra presented His Excellency with a golden key and His Excellency opened the High Court. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Chief Justice-designate then conducted the Viceroy to the Chief Justice's Court and showed His Excellency the other principal rooms of the building. The Viceroy showed great interest in the inspection, after which he returned to Government House.]

LAYING FOUNDATION STONE OF HINDU UNIVERSITY
AT BENARES.

[After the opening of the High Court buildings at Bankipore the Viceroy visited Benares for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the Hindu University, the Bill for which had been passed in the Legislative Council held at Simla in October. His Excellency performed the ceremony on the 4th February in the presence of an immense gathering of people. Long before midday the huge amphitheatre began to fill. The entire place, clothed in yellow, looked most impressive with the multitude of people in variegated costumes occupying all the available space. Guards-of-honour furnished by

4th Feb.
1916

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

the 1/5th Hampshire Regiment and the 7th Rajputs filled the space on both sides of the central dais, where the foundation stone was mounted on white. The Central Hindu College cadet corps was stationed round the dais.

Punctually at midday, the entrance of His Excellency the Viceroy to the amphitheatre was signalled by the guard-of-honour presenting arms, and the National Anthem was played. His Excellency took his seat on the dais in the centre of the amphitheatre. On his immediate right were seated the Maharajas of Kashmir, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kotah, Kishengarh, Idar, Alwar, Dungarpur, Datia, Benares, Jhalawar and Nabha. On his left were Lord Carmichael, Governor of Bengal; Sir James Meston, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Sir Edward Gait, Sir Sankaran Nair, the Maharaja of Darbhanga, Sardar Daljit Singh, Dr. Sundar Lal, Dr. Deva Prasad Sarbadhicary, Sir Guru Das Banerjee, Pandit Madanmohan Malaviya, the Maharaja of Bahrapur, Sir P. S. Pattani and Mr. N. M. Goculdas.

After the National Anthem had been played the pupils of the Central Hindu College girls' school sang a hymn invoking the Goddess of Learning to shower blessings on the University.

MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA'S SPEECH.

The Maharaja of Darbhanga, in asking the Viceroy to perform the ceremony, said :—

May it please Your Excellency,—It is my proud privilege to-day respectfully to offer to Your Excellency on behalf of the Hindu University Society a most cordial welcome to this ancient seat of learning, and to express our fervent gratitude for your gracious acceptance of our invitation to lay the foundation stone of the Hindu University, which will remain ever associated in the minds of the Indian people with a Viceroy whose generous support and sympathetic encouragement have contributed so much to the realisation of the earnest hopes and aspirations of Hindu India, which will now take concrete shape in this institution. The history of the movement for the establishment of the university is briefly told. It carries us back to the year 1904, when at a meeting held under the presidency of His Highness the Maharaja of Benares, the proposal to found a Hindu University was first put forward. The idea took some years to mature, and led in 1911 to the formation of the Hindu University Society, which was registered under that name. The Society was successful in obtaining the very next year, through the

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

support of Your Excellency's Government, the approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India of the proposal to establish a teaching and residential University on the lines proposed. A short period of a little over two years spent in the discussion of details saw the Benares University Bill passed into law and placed on the statute book of the land on October 1st, 1915. It is a source of deep gratification that the idea has effectively touched the hearts of the people of the land. The great and noble Princes, the landed gentry and the general public have all come forward as one body generously to support the movement. Their contributions to the University funds now amount to close upon one crore of rupees, including the capitalised value of the annual grants sanctioned by the Ruling Princes, to which Your Excellency's Government has been pleased to add an annual grant of a lakh of rupees.

The selection of a suitable site affording full facilities for the ever-progressive development of a great University, growing and expanding with the growth of ideas and ideals as well as the multifarious demands and needs of modern life and its many sided activities, was the first measure which engaged the attention of the Society, and the site on which we are assembled to-day, extending over more than 1,200 acres, was selected after much consideration. The incorporation of the Central Hindu College in the new University had been contemplated from the beginning, and thanks to the ready co-operation of Mrs. Annie Besant and the other trustees of the college, whose labour of love and devotion had built up that institution, the college has been transferred to the Society to serve as the nucleus of the University. The movement reaches its culminating point to-day when we are met to witness the foundation of the University being laid by Your Excellency.

The reasons which demand the establishment of such a University may also be briefly stated. It is impossible to recall the state of education which existed in India at the beginning of the British rule and compare it with the stage it has now reached, without a sense of deep gratitude to the Government which has brought about this momentous change. Great also in our indebtedness for our existing Universities, which have contributed in so large a measure to the diffusion of higher education among our people. But these Universities are at present mainly examining bodies, and there is an ever-growing consensus of opinion that those Universities alone can best discharge their high function and fulfil their mission which teach as well as examine, which impart not only literary but also scientific and technical education combined with research, and which mould the character of their alumni by helping them to

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

live their academic life in healthy environments under the personal influence and loving care of good and capable teachers.

There was another equally powerful reason for inaugurating this movement. While we highly appreciate the value and need of education in European arts and sciences, we cannot divest ourselves of the consciousness that we have inherited a culture and civilisation of our own, which reaches farther back in time than that of any other people, and which possesses, as we believe, in a special degree, the elements of social stability as well as the fundamental principles of physical, intellectual and spiritual progress and welfare. Amidst all the vicissitudes through which Hindu society has passed it has in all essentials clung to that civilisation, and has ever been governed by it. There was naturally a widespread desire in our community that we should have a central educational institution of our own, to preserve and promote our distinctive civilisation and culture, and to instruct our youth in the sacred precepts of our religion. The promoters of the University believe that if our students are brought up in our traditions and culture and instructed in the precepts of our religion, they will grow up into men of vigorous intellects and high character, who love their Motherland, are loyal to the King and are in every way fit to be useful members of the community and worthy citizens of a great Empire.

Deep, therefore, is our gratitude and great our joy that under the dispensation of a benign Providence, with the generous support of the suzerain power, of the Rulers of Indian States and of the public, we witness here to-day the foundation of a great institution which seeks to combine the usefulness and efficiency of the modern system of education with the high spiritual ideals of ancient India. This auspicious day will ever remain memorable in the history of our country. Never before, perhaps, in that history did the highest representative of the Sovereign and the Rulers of so many States and Provinces meet to co-operate with the people to bring into existence an educational institution like the proposed University. The gratitude that we feel towards Your Excellency is too deep for words, for our success is in the largest measure due to the generous sympathy and support which the movement has received at Your Excellency's hands. Nor should we omit to express our obligations to the Hon'ble Sir Harcourt Butler for his valued advice and friendly help at every important step in our progress. We are also deeply thankful to the Rulers of Provinces and Indian States who have honoured and encouraged us by their presence. Equally grateful are we to the distinguished scholars and educationists who have by so kindly responding to our invitation given us an assurance of their guidance

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

and co-operation in the great task that lies before us of building up an ideal University and making it in every way worthy of the continued patronage and support of all well-wishers of this land.

We take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to all subscribers to the funds of the University, particularly to Ruling Princes and other principal donors, who have helped us with liberal contributions. Time will not permit of our mentioning the names even of all donors of large sums, but we may be allowed especially to express our obligations to His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur, His Highness the Maharaja Gackwar of Baroda, His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur, His Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior, His Highness the Maharaja Holkar of Indore, His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, His Highness the Maharao of Kotah, His Highness the Maharaja of Kishengarh, His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar, His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha, His Highness the Maharaja of Benares, His Highness the Maharaja of Karpurthala, His Highness the Raj-Rana of Jhalawar, His Highness the Maharaja of Datia among the Ruling Princes, and to the Hon'ble Maharaja of Darbhanga, the Hon'ble Maharaja of Balranpur, the Hon'ble Maharaja of Kasimbazar, Sir Rash Behari Ghosh, Thakur Surajbakhsh Singh of Sitapur, Babu Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhuri, the Hon'ble Babu Moti Chand, and the Hon'ble Dr. Sunder Lal, who have each contributed a lakh or more to the funds of the University. We also desire to thank the Government of India for the handsome grant of one lakh a year. We fully realise that we require a much larger sum than we have yet been able to secure, but we have every hope that the generous public will help us with all the funds we need to build up this new and great temple of learning.

Your Excellency's administration, which we are grieved to think is drawing to a close, will ever be memorable for the spirit of true and active sympathy with our national sentiments and aspirations and for an earnest endeavour to appreciate and satisfy popular needs. Many are the wise and beneficent measures which have distinguished Your Excellency's Viceroyalty. Among these the support you have given to the cause of education in general, and of higher education in particular, the inauguration of residential and teaching Universities, and the liberalisation of educational policy by sanctioning the establishment of a private University, will stand out conspicuous and be gratefully cherished in the memory of the people. These measures have won for Your Excellency the deep admiration and grateful affection of all classes and sections of the community, and

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

have secured for you a highly honoured place in the history of our land. As a memento of the deep and kindly interest which Your Excellency has taken in the Hindu University, the Jodhpur Durbar have endowed a chair of Technology, with an endowment of Rs. 24,000 a year, which they and we desire to associate with your honoured name, and we crave Your Excellency's permission to our doing so. That endowment will, we hope, serve as a nucleus for the development of the Faculty of Technology of the University in the near future.

We are also deeply indebted to His Honour Sir James Meston for the keen personal interest he has taken in our work and we take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude both to him and to the officers of his Government for the invaluable assistance and co-operation we have received from them in making the requisite arrangements for this function. We cannot conclude without giving special expression to our gratitude to His Highness Maharaja Sir Prabhu Narain Singh of Benares for the paternal interest he has taken, and the fostering support he has always extended from the very beginning of its life to the Central Hindu College and to the scheme of the University itself, and lastly for the liberality of his co-operation in arranging for the reception of our distinguished and honoured guests on this occasion.

Now I humbly request Your Excellency to be pleased to perform the great ceremony which has brought us here to-day, and we fervently pray to the God of all nations that He may bless the great work which Your Excellency is about to inaugurate, so that it may fulfil in ever greater and greater measure, its pure and noble purpose of welding together the noblest cultures of the East and of the West, and that He may vouchsafe health and happiness to Your Excellency, peace and prosperity to this ancient land and to the great Empire of which it forms a part, and long life, glory and power to the noble and gracious King-Emperor who rules over this Empire.

The address was enclosed in a silver casket, which was a facsimile of the Holy Temple of Siva.

In replying to the address His Excellency spoke as follows :—]

Your Excellency, Your Honours, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It has seldom fallen to my lot to address a more distinguished gathering than that which I see before me to-day including as it does the Governor of Bengal, a constellation of Lieutenant-

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

Governors, a veritable galaxy of Ruling Princes and so much of the flower of India's intellect. What is it that has brought together this brilliant assemblage from so many distant parts of Hindustan? What is the lodestone that is exerting so powerful an influence? It is there in front of us; a fine block of marble, but little different in outward appearance from many others that I have helped to set in their places during the past five years. But, in spite of its apparent simplicity, it possesses a deep significance, for it betokens a new departure in the history of education in India, and one that has attracted the most intense interest on the part of all good and thoughtful Hindus.

This foundation stone will mark a definite step in the advance towards an ideal that has stirred to its very depths the imagination of India. The demand for enlightenment and educational progress grows ever stronger, and the ceremony, we are gathered here to perform, offers some small response to that demand, and may perhaps pave the way for its more rapid fulfilment.

To such an audience, as I have before me here, it is unnecessary to enlarge upon the need for providing greater facilities for University education in this country. We all know or have heard of the pressure that exists in our existing University centres, of the enlargement of classes to unwieldy dimensions to admit of the inclusion of the ever-increasing numbers of students, of the melancholy wanderings of applicants for entrance from college to college, when all colleges were already full to overflowing.

There is a great division of opinion between the advocates of quantity and the advocates of quality, and there is much to be said for both; the charge is frequently brought against Government that they are too eager for quality, and too ready to ignore the demand

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

for quantity, and comparisons are made, that do not lack force, between the number of Universities in England, America and other countries and the number available to the 300 millions of India. Nevertheless, it is the declared policy of the Government of India to do all within their power and within their means to multiply the number of Universities throughout India, realising as we do that the greatest boon Government can give to India is the diffusion of higher education through the creation of new Universities. Many, many more are needed, but the new Universities to be established at Dacca, Benares and Bankipore, soon to be followed, I hope, by Universities in Burma and the Central Provinces may be regarded as steps taken in the right direction.

Here, at any rate, in this city is a case where we can all stand together upon a common platform, for no one can dispute that the Benares Hindu University will add to the facilities for higher education and take to some extent the pressure off existing institutions; while it is the proud boast of at least one of those who have so successfully engineered this movement, that the degrees of the Benares Hindu University shall be not only not lower, but higher in standard than those of existing Universities. It has even been claimed that this University will only justify its existence when the education given within its precincts shall make it unnecessary for Indian students to go to foreign countries for their studies, and when such expeditions will be limited to advanced scholars and professors who will travel abroad to exchange ideas with the doctors and learned men of other Continents, in order to make the latest researches in all branches of knowledge available to their own alumni at Benares.

That is a great and noble aim; and, if it is fulfilled, as I hope it may be, this University will satisfy the claims alike of quantity and quality; and I think all will

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

admit that Government have not been backward to give their co-operation and assistance to a scheme so full of promise.

But this University is going to do something more than merely increase the existing facilities for higher education. Its constitution embodies principles that are new to India, in that this is to be a teaching and residential as contrasted with an affiliating and examining University. I am not ignorant that these principles have already secured general acceptance from most thoughtful men, but they were not fully recognised when our older Universities were established, and they can only be partially applied to their constitutions. Perhaps I was wrong to say that these principles are new to India, for, though in ancient times there was nothing quite like a modern University, its prototype may be dimly discerned in the far distant past and the tradition that comes down to us is one of thousands of students gathered round such great teachers as Vashishtha and Gautama, and indeed the whole Indian idea of education is wrapped up in the conception of a group of pupils surrounding their *Guru* in loving reverence, and not only imbibing the words of wisdom that fall from his lips, but also looking up to him for guidance in religion and morality, and moulding their characters in accordance with his precept and example. To this and similar schemes my Government have consistently given their support, and I and my advisers came to the conclusion, at an early stage in the history of the movement, that it would be wrong and impolitic on the part of Government to resist the desire shown by the Hindu and Mahomedan communities of India to inaugurate special Universities of this new type.

But whether the idea of a residential teaching University be new or old, there is no doubt that it is a

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

departure from the existing model, nor is this the only departure that characterises this enterprise, and indeed I do not myself think that important as the distinction may be, it is going to have so great an influence upon generations yet unborn as that other departure that the constitution of this institution embodies, and that is indeed of the very essence of its creation—I mean its denominational character. There are some who shudder at the very word denominational, and some who dislike new departures of any kind. Controversy has raged around such points in England, and educational problems have a way of stirring up more feeling than almost any other social question. I do not think this is unnatural, for their importance cannot be exaggerated. If you realise that the object of an educational system must be to draw out from every man and woman the very best that is in them, so that their talents may be developed to their fullest capacity not only for their individual fulfilment of themselves, but also for the benefit of the society, of which they find themselves members—if you realise this, is it not well that men should strive with might and main to attain, and be content with, only the very best, and is it not natural that the strife should produce a mighty clash of opinion and conviction?

But the questions at issue cannot be settled by theory and discussion; education is not an exact science and never will be, we must also have experiment, and I, for one, consider that Lord Ripon was a sagacious man when he deprecated that the educational system of this country should be cast in one common mould and advocated, as he was never tired of doing, that variety, which alone, he urged, can secure the free development of every side and every aspect of national character. I should like to remind you, too, that this new departure of a denominational University is not quite such a novel

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

idea as some of you may think, for the Education Commission appointed by Lord Ripon, while recognising that the declared neutrality of the State forbids its connecting the institutions directly maintained by it with any one form of faith, suggested the establishment of institutions of widely different types, in which might be inculcated such forms of faith as various sections of the community may accept as desirable for the formation of character and awakening of thought.

They recognised the danger that a denominational college runs some risk of confining its benefits to a particular section of the community, and thus of deepening the lines of difference already existing.

But I am not terrified by the bogey of religious intolerance; rather do I think that a deep belief in, and reverence for, one's own religion ought to foster a spirit of respect for the religious convictions of others, and signs are not wanting that the day is dawning when tolerance and mutual goodwill shall take the place of fanaticism and hatred. That Commission touched with unerring finger the weakest spot in our existing system, for though something may be done by mental and moral discipline, and something by the precept and example of professors, these are but shifting sands upon which to build character without the foundation of religious teaching and the steadying influence of a religious atmosphere. My own personal conviction, strengthened by what I have seen in other lands, is that education without religion is but little worth.

That, then, is the great idea that has brought you all together to witness the ceremonial inception of this experiment. Here you hope in the not far distant future to see preserved and fostered all that is best in Hindu ideals of life and thought, all that is noblest of Hindu religion and tradition, culture and civilisation; and

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

grafted upon that tree—healthy and strong in its own natural soil—you hope to see growing, in it and of it, all that is good and great of Western science, industry and art, so that your young men may go forth not only inspired with pure and noble ideals, but also equipped for the development of their mother-country along the more material lines of progress and prosperity.

As regards the actual constitution, this has been a matter of prolonged negotiation with the promoters of the University movement and with the Secretary of State. Into the history of the negotiations it is not necessary for me to enter. I need merely observe that my Government have throughout been animated by one main purpose, to leave the greatest possible freedom to the University, consistently with its development on such safe and sound lines as would be approved generally by the Hindu community. I feel confident that the promoters of this scheme will zealously see to the right conduct of this institution.

I am glad to think that I shall leave the University in the capable and sympathetic hands of Sir James Meston, who is your first visitor. The position of visitor is one of dignity and influence, and I know that you will always be able to rely on Sir James Meston for wise help and sound advice.

We have not arrived at the present stage without a considerable amount of effort and hard work, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my high appreciation of the zealous but reasonable spirit in which the Maharaja of Darbhanga, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Dr. Sunderlal and others on behalf of the promoters of the University, conducted negotiations with Sir Harcourt Butler as representing the Government of India, to whose great tact and conciliatory attitude, I believe, the promoters of the scheme would pay as high

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

an eulogy as I wish to pay myself, and thus enabled the measure which gives birth to this institution to be passed through my Council in time of war as a non-controversial measure. I also tender my most hearty congratulations to the Maharaja of Darbhanga, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and other members of the deputation that spent so much time and labour in enlisting the sympathy and generosity of their countrymen for this scheme.

I watched with the greatest interest their wanderings from city to city, and noted the welcome they everywhere received, and the enthusiasm of their audiences.

Heaven helps those that help themselves, and the result is that they have succeeded in collecting a sum that guarantees a commencement upon a sound financial footing and justifies us in taking to-day this first step towards putting the scheme into material shape.

We have heard the names of many of those who have contributed with princely liberality to make this possible; and the Benares Hindu University should never forget how much she owes to the Ruling Chiefs of India. But much more will be required in the future to secure the early completion of all the requisite buildings, and I trust that the generosity of the great Hindu Community may be like an ever-flowing stream to feed this fount of learning.

What will be wanted even more than money is really competent Professors and teachers, so let me make this appeal to the whole of Hindu India, to send her best men from every quarter here, so that they may help to create a true University atmosphere and thus make this great experiment a great success. The Act which we passed last October, has still to be put into force, and I am glad to announce that the necessary steps are being taken to do so at an early date. I trust that, when the

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

University has been thus brought into legal existence, every care will be taken to proceed with due deliberation and circumspection so as to ensure that the quality of the instruction given and the surroundings in which it is imparted may be worthy of the great position which this University aspires to attain.

To my friend, His Highness the Maharaja of Benares, special gratitude is due, for not only does the Central Hindu College, which is to form part of the nucleus of the new University, owe much of its life and inception to him, but he is also making concessions in connection with the acquisition of the land for this great new experiment.

And where could a Hindu University be more happily placed than here in Benares, the ancient seat of learning, clustered about with a thousand sacred associations? Here, if anywhere, should be found that religious atmosphere which seems to me so essential to the formation of character, and here, if anywhere, the genius of modern progress will be purified by the spirit of ancient culture.

For the moment provision will be made by the transfer of the existing Arts, Science and Oriental Departments of the Central Hindu College to the University, so that facilities for teaching these subjects may be supplied. I understand also that His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur in addition to a lump sum grant has promised an annual grant of Rs. 24,000, which may render possible the inauguration of the study of some special technical subject. And I accede with pleasure and pride to the request that has just been made that my name should be associated with the chair of Technology which it is proposed to found with that endowment, but I trust you will not let your ambitions be satisfied with this, but will steadily keep before you the aim of creating colleges or departments of science, of agriculture and

Laying Foundation Stone of Hindu University at Benares.

commerce and medicine, so that the Benares Hindu University may be a place of many-sided activities prepared to equip young men for all the various walks in life that go to the constitution of modern society, able to lead their countrymen in the path of progress; skilled to achieve new conquests in the realms of science, art, industry and social well-being; and armed with the knowledge as well as the character so essential for the development of the abundant natural resources of India. Let it be our prayer that this stone may contain within it the germs of all that is good and beautiful and wise for the enrichment of the educational system of India, the enlightenment and happiness of her people, and the glory of God.

[On the conclusion of his speech the Viceroy walked down to the central dais and taking the paly from the Maharaja of Darbhanga's hand laid the foundation stone and declared it well and truly laid. The guard of honour presented arms and the band played the National Anthem.

His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner in thanking the Viceroy said :—

Your Excellency,—I feel it a great honour that I should have been asked to tender on behalf of my brother Princes and of the Hindu community our most grateful thanks to Your Excellency for laying the foundation stone of the Hindu University of Benares. By this crowning act of sympathy with the hopes and aspirations of our community, which constitutes the great bulk of the population of this ancient land of Bharatvarsha, Your Excellency has laid us all under a deep and lasting debt of gratitude. The idea of an institution like the Hindu University, which though designated by a special name will yet be entirely non-sectarian and undenominational in throwing its doors open to students of all creeds and of both sexes has, as we hoped, been successful in gaining the support of Your Excellency's Government, but we were particularly fortunate in having been favoured from the very outset with Your Excellency's own personal interest and sympathy, and I can assure Your Excellency that your taking the trouble to come here with the special object of performing this ceremony is greatly appreciated throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

The movement has received the sympathetic support of rulers of Indian States as well, as is evidenced by the munificence of the donations and their strong representation at to-day's function, because we share with the rest of Hindu India pride in the achievements of our ancestors in the field of religion, philosophy and science, and the desire to preserve our distinctive culture; and because of the manifold advantages of a residential and teaching University of the modern type which will afford special facilities for instruction to our subjects, and in the constitution and governance of which representatives of Indian States will under the statute have a recognised position and a substantial voice. Your Excellency, as the Hindu University under God's providence grows in usefulness and importance, generations of Indians yet unborn will in an ever increasing number recall with deep gratitude the honoured name of the Viceroy who helped to foster the movement and whose impending departure all India so deeply regrets.]

OPENING OF LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN IN DELHI.

17th Feb. [The Viceroy opened the Lady Hardinge Medical College and
1916. Hospital for Women in the area of the new city on the afternoon of the 17th February. The weather, which was very wet in the early morning, cleared up in the afternoon and the Viceroy arrived in an open carriage with the Hon'ble Diamond Hardinge, attended by outriders and the full bodyguard. The ceremony took place in a huge *shamiana* erected opposite the college main entrance.

There was a large and distinguished gathering, the *shamiana* being quite full. Among those on the platform were Lord Carmichael, Lady Willingdon, the Commander-in-Chief, the Begum of Bhopal, the Maharajas of Gwalior, Bikaner, Kotah, Patiala and Jhind, General Baber Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur of Nepal, the members of the Viceroy's Council, the committee of the hospital and the Viceroy's staff.

The proceedings opened with the following address by Sir Pardey Lukis, Chairman of the Hospital Committee :—

Your Excellency,—On behalf of the Managing Committee, allow me to express the sense of our indebtedness to you for the honour you have done us in consenting to formally open to-day the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women and the Training School for Nurses at Delhi, and, at the same time, to express our gratification at having been able to push on the work in such a

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

way that it has been possible to arrange for its formal opening prior to Your Excellency's departure from India.

Before asking Your Excellency to perform the ceremony, it is as well perhaps that I should say a few words as regards the genesis of the scheme. In 1912, Her Excellency the late Lady Hardinge, when enquiring into the reasons why so few Indian women of the better class had adopted the profession of medicine, was impressed by the fact that no Medical College existed in India exclusively for women, where women could be taught by women and where they could obtain the higher degrees in medicine, and that, consequently, the higher medical education of women was conducted by male professors in mixed classes at men's colleges. Her Excellency very rightly concluded that this was the true reason why women of the right type did not come forward in sufficient numbers. Accordingly she formulated a scheme with a view to remedying this state of affairs by providing in India the necessary machinery for the higher medical education of Indian women, and she proposed to establish at Delhi a college with its attached hospital in which women would be taught by women to attend on women. She also proposed to attach to the college and hospital a separate institution for the training of nurses. After going carefully into the matter, a rough calculation was made which showed that the initial cost necessary for (1) a college of one hundred students, (2) a hospital of 150 beds, and (3) a training school for fifty nurses, would come to about 15 lakhs of rupees, exclusive of the value of the site. It was further estimated that the annual maintenance charges would amount approximately to one lakh of rupees a year.

On these lines Her Excellency made a personal appeal to her friends amongst the Ruling Chiefs, by whom donations were promised to the amount approximately of 15½ lakhs. The names of these donors and the amounts of their donations will be found on a marble tablet in the entrance hall of the College. They are as follows —

	Rs.
His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur . . .	3,00,000
His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior . . .	2,00,000
His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala . . .	1,25,000
His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad . . .	1,00,000
His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda . . .	1,00,000
His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur . . .	1,00,000
His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur . . .	1,00,000
His Highness the Maharao of Kotah . . .	1,00,000

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

	Ra.
The Maharani of Hutwa	1,00,000
The Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga	58,437
His Highness the Maharaja of Indore	50,000
Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal	30,000
. Their Highnesses the Dowager Maharani and the Maharani of Gwalior	30,000
H. M. Wadia Trust	25,000
The Dowager Begum Aga Khan	20,000
Other donors	1,00,000

In addition to this, His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir agreed to give an annual subscription of Rs. 3,500, and the Government of India undertook to make a grant of one lakh of rupees per annum towards the expenses of upkeep, whilst the Central Committee of the Countess of Dufferin Fund promises to defray the cost of the salaries of the three medical women of the Women's Medical Service for India who will fill professorial chairs. They also guarantee to present annually to the students 18 Central Committee scholarships of Rs. 25 each. These gifts represent an annual donation of about Rs. 20,000. Accordingly a Managing Committee having been constituted, plans and designs were prepared by Mr. Begg and the estimates compiled by Captain Graeme under the supervision of Mr. Keeling; thus rendering it possible for Her Excellency to lay the foundation stone of the new Medical College on the 17th March 1914, a few days before her departure for England, from which country, alas, she never returned. Since then work has been pushed steadily on, and thanks to the labours of Messrs. Begg and Glenn and Sardar Narain Singh, we are to-day in a position to ask Your Excellency to open the Institution.

In addition to the original donations, we have recently received a sum of one lakh of rupees as the Punjab Memorial to Her Excellency, and this sum has been allotted to the construction of the splendid out-patients' department which, when completed, will be the best of its kind in India. Bihar and Orissa, too, has sent us Rs. 30,000 as their share towards the Lady Hardinge Memorial, and this sum will be allocated to the construction of the cottage wards. We fear, however, that, even with this addition, we shall not have enough money to complete the whole scheme, the revised estimate for which now comes to nearly 22 lakhs of rupees. In addition to this, an extra amount of approximately 2½ lakhs is required in order to provide furniture, equipment, teaching appliances, etc., so that the

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

total expenditure may be taken roughly to be between 24 and 25 lakhs. It is also doubtful whether the grants of one lakh of rupees per annum by the Government of India and of Rs. 20,000 by the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, as well as the Rs. 3,500 promised by His Highness the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, will suffice to meet the recurring charges. Further subscriptions and endowments are, therefore, urgently required, and I may mention here that, had Lady Hardinge lived, it was her intention to appeal to the general public for the support of this scheme which is intended for the benefit not merely of Delhi and the Delhi Province but of the whole of India. Her Excellency was of opinion that India's most pressing problem at the present day is how to secure a healthy and happy population, and she regarded this College as a pioneer institution which would ultimately lead to the wide diffusion of medical and sanitary knowledge by training Indian women of the proper class as doctors, health officers and nurses.

The College buildings and hostels are now complete, whilst the out-patients' department and one of the hospital blocks are far advanced. No difficulty is anticipated, therefore, as regards the commencement of tutorial work in September next, by which time we hope to be in a position to commence the training of students for the regular degrees of M.B., M.D., etc. I may mention in this connection that we have already secured affiliation to the Punjab University as follows with effect from 1st September:—
(a) In the Science Faculty for the Intermediate Courses in Biology, Physics and Chemistry and the additional test in Chemistry, and
(b) in the Medical Faculty for the courses for the First Professional Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. Meanwhile scholarships are being given to approved candidates to enable them to complete their preliminary educational studies and obtain certificates recognised by the General Medical Council as entitling them to registration as Medical students.

Before closing I must mention a few other contributions which have been made to this College. The first is that of Their Highnesses the Maharani Sahiba and the Maji Sahiba of Bharatpur, who have contributed a sum of Rs. 7,500 for the marble flooring of the entrance hall of the College as a token of the affectionate regard in which they both held Lady Hardinge's memory. A scroll to this effect has been inserted in the middle of the pavement. I must mention also that the Hon'ble Maharaja Ranjit Sinha of Nashipur has presented a sum of Rs. 5,150 for a scholarship to be called the Maharani Nashipur's Lady Hardinge Memorial Scholarship which

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

will be of the value of Rs. 15 per mensem and will be awarded annually to a student of the first year whose work, in the opinion of the teaching staff, shows most promise. I may also mention that Rai Bahadur Narain Singh has made a gift of Rs. 17,000 for the provision of special quarters for Sikh girls in the hostel, and he has also presented a piano of the value of Rs. 1,800 for the general use of all students in the common recreation room. Lastly, I have to announce that Dewan Bahadur Daya Krishan Kaul, C.I.F., Finance Minister of Alwar, has presented Rs. 4,560 in order to found a gold medal as a memorial to Her Excellency, this medal to be awarded to the student who most distinguishes herself in preliminary scientific subjects in the first year class. The very artistic design was drawn by Mr. Foster, Assistant Architect in the office of the Architect to the Government of India, and the die was engraved by Mr. Wyon, of London. We trust that Your Excellency will allow us to present to you the first impression that has been struck off this die both as a memento of this occasion and as a slight acknowledgment on our behalf of all that is owed by this institution and by India generally to Her Excellency the late Lady Hardinge's love for the women of this country.

The Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with the utmost diffidence that I have acceded to the request of Sir Pardey Lukis and the Managing Committee to open to-day this Medical College and Hospital for Women, for I feel how inadequately I fill the place of her to whose conception, initiative and energy the realisation of this enterprise is due. The recollection of the ceremony that took place in these grounds exactly 23 months ago remains a vivid memory to many of us, and it has I know spurred on all those who have been concerned with the scheme to strain every nerve to assure that the blessings to be derived from this institution should be realised with the least possible delay.

For me this institution will always have tender but happy associations. I have watched its inception, its beginning and its growth with much personal interest and

*Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for
Women in Delhi.*

affection, and I realise from the efforts successfully made to push it forward that it has been the wish of many that I might have the privilege of opening these buildings before I leave India in a few weeks' time.

I shall never forget the more than kind reception given by my friends the Ruling Princes of India, and many other Indian friends to the suggestion to found a medical college for women at Delhi. As you will have gathered from the long list given by Sir Pardey Lukis of contributions and gifts made by them and by other well-known notables of India they have been most lavish and generous in their donations, and I can only express my deep sense of gratitude to Their Highnesses and to the other numerous subscribers at whose further suggestion it was decided to embody this institution as a memorial to Lady Hardinge. On behalf of my family and myself I wish to express our sincere and grateful appreciation, for we feel that no more fitting memorial could be raised to one whose love for India and for India's women and children was the one guiding light directing her endeavours for the advancement of women and for the relief of suffering amongst them. I feel that the work of this college will be a continuation of that endeavour and a constant reminder to you all who were amongst her best and most cherished friends, that in this great labour of love she has left "footprints in the sand of time" that can never be effaced and has helped to bring England and India closer together.

Sir Pardey Lukis has given a short account of the genesis of the scheme to which I would like to add a few additional details.

As we all know there has hitherto been no medical college in India for the exclusive training of women. In these circumstances instruction in medical subjects to

*Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for
Women in Delhi.*

female students has had to be given in mixed classes at men's colleges in various parts of India with the result that Indian women of the right type and class would not come forward in sufficient numbers to meet the ever-growing demands for qualified lady medical practitioners, since many Indian parents object to sending their daughters to medical colleges primarily intended for male students, thus rendering it necessary to recruit to some extent from England. It was also found necessary to send Indian medical students to England to complete their studies.

The establishment at Delhi of a college for women, with its attendant hospital in which women will be taught by women to attend on women, will, it is hoped, successfully meet to a certain extent the objections that I have just mentioned. The advantage of Delhi as a site for this college is that in order to have a successful college it is necessary to have in connection with it a large hospital, which is only possible in the midst of a considerable population. The land upon which these buildings now stand was specially selected as lying between the old and new cities of Delhi and near the future railway station, thus making the hospital and dispensary as convenient and accessible as possible to all. Now that affiliation to the University of the Punjab has been sanctioned, there need be no delay in the commencement of educational work next autumn and we have every reason to hope that before many years have passed there will issue from these buildings many Lady Doctors holding the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

To the college and hospital it has been decided to attach, under the same general management but as a separate institution, a training school for nurses. As you are well aware the supply of trained Indian women as

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

nurses and midwives is quite unequal to the demand, and after proper training it is proposed to send out from this school nurses to hospitals and dispensaries where they will be able to work amongst Indian women.

This is a rough outline of the scheme which, as Sir Pardey Lukis has told us, is to comprise a college for 100 female students, a hospital for women with 150 beds, and a training school to take in 15 qualified nurses and the same number of probationers.

It should be clearly understood that the college, hospital and training school are to be conducted on strictly *pardah* lines, and that every possible attention will be paid to religious and caste rules. The hostels which have been already constructed will have separate blocks for Christian, Hindu, Mahomedan, Sikh and Parsee students, with special dining rooms and kitchens and all else that may be desirable, and a general recreation room has been built for the use of all.

The college building itself, which I hope you will all visit presently, contains a central amphitheatre and hall, a library, laboratories for the study of chemistry, physics, physiology, anatomy, pathology, bacteriology, and lecture rooms for instruction in general medical subjects.

A dispensary and hospital for the treatment of out-door patients, built from the generous contributions given by subscribers in the Punjab, is almost completed, and the hospital for 150 beds is in the course of erection. Three bungalows for the use of some of the lady professors have already been built.

There is one special feature in connection with the hospital that I wish to bring to your notice as one which received Lady Hardinge's special approval, and accorded

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

with her ideas; it is the division of the hospital into separate units, each complete in itself, containing family wards for separate accommodation, two general wards, two small separate wards and a central building in each unit for the purposes of administration and teaching. Thus each professor will have her separate and complete "clinique" even her own clinical laboratory, demonstration room and consulting room, and moreover the facilities for nursing have not been forgotten. This is a new feature in Indian hospitals which presents many advantages, since it brings the family wards into the unit, facilitating attendance and nursing, making the whole compact and easily worked.

At present four units and an isolation block are being built, leaving space for four more in future extensions. In order to economise space, two units are being placed one over the other, making a two-storeyed building, and I am assured that an upper storey is much to be desired in hospitals in this part of India for various and obvious reasons.

Such is the general outline of the scheme of which Sir Pardey Lukis estimates that the total cost may be taken roughly to be between 24 and 25 lakhs, of which sum rather more than 15 lakhs have been either promised or actually given, without counting the lakh so generously given by the province of the Punjab as a memorial to Lady Hardinge. I think we may say that in order to place this institution on a thoroughly sound basis, and fully equipped in every way so as to make it not only the best of its kind, but a model for all other colleges of the future that may be devoted to the training of women for medical service in all its branches amongst the women of India, a total sum of not less than 25 lakhs will be required, thus necessitating the raising of about 10 addi-

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

tional lakhs. It is the first experiment of its kind in India, and with the practical certainty of success before it surely it should be worthy. The need for it is a crying one, and every day saved in extending and completing the buildings required means the saving of many lives of mothers and children, and what can be more precious? Ever since I have been in India the knowledge of the high mortality amongst mothers and infants has been a veritable nightmare to me, and the development of medical instruction amongst women, which after all is the highest and most altruistic form of female education that any of us can possibly desire, seems to me to be one of the best means of coping with the evil. It was only the other day that I read in the health report of one of our big Indian cities that one out of every four children born in that city is doomed to die before it is 12 months old, and that 10 or 12 years ago half the children born died as infants. This was said to be largely due to the ignorance of young mothers and the need of proper supervision during the first few critical weeks. Surely this is a terrible picture, and think of its setting of grief and suffering. And are we doing enough to help these poor people, our Indian sisters? It is with confidence that I put this question to the well-to-do and charitably inclined of British India, and as no appeal has so far been made to them to contribute to this enterprise I now appeal to the provinces of India to play their part in generously contributing to this Medical College and Hospital for women to assist in what should be a great Indian and national undertaking. I feel sure that my appeal will not be in vain, and that the additional sum required for the completion of this scheme will be found. It is a woman's scheme initiated by a woman, to be carried out by women amongst women, and for the good of women, and therefore in the name of the woman who conceived

*Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for
Women in Delhi.*

the scheme I propose to ask the wives of the Governors, Lieutenant-Governors and Chief Commissioners of this country to take the matter in hand, each in their own province, and I wish to appeal in her name to all, both Europeans and Indians, to do all in their power to contribute to an institution intended to give relief to the suffering mothers and children of India. I may add that I have received an assurance from my successor that Lady Chelmsford will take the greatest possible interest in the successful prosecution of this scheme. This undertaking may be small in itself in comparison with the wealth, size and population of India, and many more such colleges and hospitals will be needed to meet the necessities of India, but this is a beginning on new lines which may well be followed elsewhere and improved upon, but let it not be said later that it died of inanition.

That everything that is possible will be done to insure the complete success of this institution is assured by the appointment as Lady Principal of Dr. Platt, whose medical skill and administrative ability are so well known. The services of some able lady professors have also been secured and I am confident that their labours will be productive of much future good, and they on their side will in due course receive that sincere gratitude and veneration which Indian students show to their teachers even when they have passed out from the portals of their *Alma Mater*.

It was the poet Southey who wrote—

Love is indestructible,
Its holy flame for ever burneth
From Heaven it came, to Heaven returneth.
It soweth here with toil and care
But the harvest time of love is there.

Opening of Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital for Women in Delhi.

I shall always think of this place and the work of those who are now, or in the future in any way connected with it as a labour of love for our Indian sisters and their children, and although the sowing time may be heavy with toil and care, may the holy flame of love for ever burn bright and its harvest time be rich and plentiful.

Before proceeding to open these buildings I wish to thank Sir Pardey Lukis and the managing committee for their unceasing care and control of the affairs of this institution; Dr. Platt, the first lady principal, for the forethought she has shown in preparing the staff and equipment; Mr. Begg for his excellent architectural designs; Mr. Glenn who has so ably and rapidly erected these buildings; Rai Bahadur Narain Singh for the efficiency with which he has completed his contracts; and all those others who have been employed in controlling and supervising the works. When it is remembered that the first brick was laid in November 1914, the achievement of these fine buildings in so few months can only be described as a remarkable success.

I should like to make at the same time an expression of my gratitude to Mr. Butler, Mr. Cotton and Mr. Hignell, who have at different times ably filled the office of Secretary to the Managing Committee.

Finally in conclusion let me quote the closing words of the speech made on March 17, 1914, by the lady whose name is to be borne by this institution. These were her words:

“We shall expect much from the future students, a high standard both of character and intellect, combined with the all-inspiring desire for a life of service to others, for this must be their crown and glory. My desire and

Investiture of the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers.

wish is to offer the candidates full training under the happiest of conditions, and it is with hope, and the greatest confidence in the fulfilment of these aims that I entrust the management to Dr. Platt as Lady Principal whose popularity and ability are already so well-known. I wish to her and her future staff all success in their labours, and that God's blessing may be on their work."

To these words I can add nothing.

[After bestowing a silver Kaisar-i-Hind medal on Sirdar Narain Singh, the contractor, and giving medals and *killats* to several Indians who had been connected with the building of the college, Lord Hardinge and party proceeded to inspect the hospital and grounds.

INVESTITURE OF THE MAHARAJA OF JODHPUR WITH RULING POWERS.

26th Feb. 1916. [His Excellency the Viceroy proceeded to Jodhpur on the 25th February for the special purpose of investing the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers.

This was Lord Hardinge's last official visit to a Native State before laying down the reins of office.

In the course of the ceremony which took place on the 26th February His Excellency delivered the following address:—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—When my friend Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh invited me to perform the ceremony of investing the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers, I acceded to his request with the greatest pleasure, not only because it enabled me to confer on the head of the great Rathor clan the compliment, not hitherto enjoyed, of personal investiture by the Viceroy, but also because it gave me an opportunity of evincing once more my deep personal interest in the Jodhpur State and in the young Prince who will to-day assume the full responsibilities of his great position.

This is the first and only occasion on which I have personally performed a ceremony of this kind, and it will also be my last official visit to a Native State in India.

Investiture of the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers.

I may therefore be permitted, before proceeding to the business of the day, to say just a few words on the policy of the Government of India towards the Ruling Princes and of the part played by the latter in the Imperial scheme. Our policy towards them, at least during recent years, has been one of sympathy and trust; of sympathy with their aims and sentiments and their noble traditions; of trust in their fervent loyalty to the Person of the King-Emperor and to the Power whose protection they enjoy. We have recognised that, if a State is to be ruled justly and well and to be the source of real help to the British Empire, it is only through the Ruler himself, supported by his Sardars and people, that these results can be obtained. Irsome restrictions on the exercise of Sovereign powers are apt to chafe and irritate a proud and sensitive spirit, with results disastrous, not only to the Ruler and his people, but also to the Empire at large. We have therefore made it our aim to cultivate close and friendly relations with the Ruling Princes, to show by every means that we trust them and look on them as helpers and colleagues in the great task of Imperial rule, and so to foster in them a spirit of responsibility and pride in their work which no external supervision can produce. Trust begets trust, and I rejoice to say that in my dealings with the Ruling Princes in India I have never found my confidence misplaced. I have called them to my aid on many occasions both individually and collectively and have appointed a special Secretary to the Government of India to assist me in dealing with their affairs. The advice and help which they have given me on many occasions have been most useful to me and to my Government, while they too, I venture to hope, have by closer association with my officers and with their brother Princes acquired a wider outlook on life and a truer conception of the high part which they have been called on to play in the world.

Investiture of the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers.

In the critical times through which we have passed since this terrible war began, the moral and material support given by the Princes and Chiefs of India have been of incalculable value. They took the lead in asserting their enthusiastic loyalty to the King-Emperor both by word and deed; many of them, including the gallant veteran warrior who to-day will resign his post as Regent of Jodhpur, and the young Prince who will relieve him of his charge, have served with His Majesty's armies in the field; and all with one accord have offered their personal services and lavished their resources in support of the noble cause which Great Britain has espoused. The services rendered by the Ruling Princes of India have received the warm appreciation of the King-Emperor, and their devotion and loyalty to the Crown and the Person of His Majesty are landmarks in the history of India that can never be effaced.

I will now proceed to the special object which has called us together and should like to preface my remarks with a brief review of the history of Jodhpur during the minority. The head of the administration during this period, which has lasted for a little over $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, has been Major-General His Highness Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh, who abdicated his position as Ruler of the Idar State in order to return to the place of his birth where he won his first laurels as an administrator. As Regent and President of the Council His Highness has been assisted by a strong body of Councillors, including two members of the Ruling family, Maharaj Zalim Singh and Maharaj Fateh Singh, while the Resident, Lieutenant-Colonel Windham, has exercised general supervision, and recently, during His Highness's absence on service in France, acted for him as President of the Council.

The reforms effected by the Council have extended to every branch of the administration and Your Highness

Investiture of the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers.

may well be gratified at the account which the Council are able to give of their stewardship. In spite of a series of lean years the revenue has risen during your minority from 75 to 89½ lakhs, while the reserve fund of 65 lakhs has been trebled. The State is free from debt and its assets, so far as they are calculable, have risen from 2¼ to 4¼ crores. These remarkable results, which reflect much credit on Major Patterson, the Finance Member, have not been attained by starving other departments or by grudging expenditure on measures of utility or reform. This is far from being the case. I find, for example, that the expenditure of the Public Works Department has increased from an average of 5½ lakhs for the four years preceding the minority to an average of 10¼ lakhs for the four years ending last September. This period has seen among other less important works the completion of the Sumer Samand Irrigation scheme; the extension of the old Surpura project; the construction of the Rajput school at Choapsni; the installation of an Electric Light and Power House; and the provision of a pure water-supply for Jodhpur city. For the current year no less than 33 lakhs have been provided in the Public Works budget, much of which expenditure is necessitated by the failure of the rains.

In railway matters the Council has wisely pursued the progressive policy of earlier years and by the construction of the Jodhpur-Philodi and Jeswantgarh-Ladnu Sections has increased the length of open lines from 525 to 605 miles.

In the Judicial Department the period under review has been marked by the institution of the present Chief Court; the introduction of the Marwar Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure; a Court Fees Act, and a Police Act; the enrolment of properly qualified Vakils; the inauguration of an amicable settlement with the

Investiture of the Maharaja of Jodhpur with ruling powers.

Jagirdars regarding the powers to be exercised by their Courts; and a general improvement in the *personnel* and standard of work in the department. For these good results Mr. Barr, the Chief Judge, is largely responsible.

Time will not permit me to do more than mention the marked and steady progress made in education, especially in the Rajput schools, the reforms and good work carried out in the Land Revenue, Police, Medical, Customs and other important departments. But I cannot, in the present circumstances and in a State with the traditions of Jodhpur, pass quite so briefly over the working of the Military Department. We all know that, for the last year and a half, His Highness's Imperial Service Lancers have been at the front in Europe, and we all know, though fortune has not yet given them the chance for which every cavalryman longs, how well the Sardar Rissala have answered in an unfamiliar rôle the calls made upon them. Up to date the State has sent 787 officers and men to the front, of whom over 700 are still on field service. No measure during the minority administration has contributed so much to the efficiency and contentment of the Corps as the introduction of superannuation and wound pensions, and I am glad to hear that family pensions are also being granted to the heirs of those men who are killed or die of disease on service.

On these notable reforms and achievements the Jodhpur Durbar may well congratulate itself; and mingled with that feeling will be a deep sense of gratitude to His Highness Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh, whose long experience and whole-hearted devotion to Jodhpur have enabled him to achieve results which no other man could have effected. Thanks are due also to His Highness's guardians, Major Strong and Captain Hanson, for the care bestowed by them on His Highness's education and

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

training, and to your popular Resident, Lieutenant-Colonel Windham, who has identified himself so closely with the interests of the State and whose tact and patience have done so much to maintain harmony in the administration. And lastly, the Durbar will not forget its obligations to the Agent to the Governor-General, Sir Elliot Colvin, who, for the last ten years, has shown a constant and sympathetic interest in Jodhpur affairs and has helped the administration at all times with valuable counsel.

Your Highness, I do not propose to trouble you with advice on this momentous day, when your heart must be full of pride in your country's glorious past and of high hopes for its future. I will merely say this—and I say it with all the earnestness of a father to his son. You are undertaking to-day a great burden and a grave responsibility. On you mainly will depend the happiness and prosperity of your people and the maintenance of the noble traditions of your house. I look to Your Highness to realise this responsibility, and by governing your State wisely and with due regard to the rights and interests of your Sardars and people, to add strength and lustre to your name and to the great British Empire, of which the Jodhpur State is a part. You have succeeded to a goodly heritage, and you have round you helpers and advisers who wish you well and have the interests of your State at heart. May you prove worthy of the great trust laid upon you and may God bring happiness and prosperity to you and to your people.

MEETING OF IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AT DELHI.

RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED ABOLITION OF INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

[The Imperial Legislative Council met at Delhi on the 20th 30th March
March, the Viceroy presiding. There was a full attendance of 1916.
members but a very meagre attendance of the public. About a

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

dozen main, with the usual subsidiary questions were put and Sir William Meyer then introduced a Bill to amend the Presidency Banks Act, 1876, so as to include Indian Sterling Stock among the securities in respect of which the Presidency Banks are authorised to transact business. It was also considered desirable to make the amendment proposed validate past transactions of the banks. The Bill was introduced, the rules of business were suspended and the Bill was passed.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya proposed a resolution that early steps be taken to abolish the system of Indian Indentured Labour. He spoke fluently for nearly three-quarters of an hour, and gave an interesting account of the system since it was introduced. In the course of his remarks he alluded to the work of Mr. Gandhi and of the late Mr. Gokhale, and to the report of Messrs. MacNeill and Chimmanlal, and remarked forcibly on many cases of harshness in connection with the practice he condemned, and on the misery the system has occasioned.

His Excellency the Viceroy, said :—]

Gentlemen,—We have listened with interest to the speech of the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya which has been given with great clearness and moderation and I rise at this early stage in the debate in order that Council may know at once that Government propose to accept this resolution. I and my Government have, in fact, already taken the first steps towards the abolition of the system of Indian Indentured Labour which the resolution recommends. In the autumn of last year, the Government of India addressed the Secretary of State reviewing the whole position in the light of the information contained in Messrs. MacNeill and Chimmanlal's report, and especially bringing to his notice the feeling against the system which has intensified year by year in this country. We informed him that, in our opinion, the moment had come to urge His Majesty's Government to assent to the total abolition of the system in the four British Colonies where it still prevails, and in Surinam. We added that we could well understand that His

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

Majesty's Government, with their heavy preoccupations during the course of the war, might prefer to postpone the final settlement of the question till after the conclusion of peace; but that we felt that this was no reason why we should not place our views before them on the main issue of the continuance of the system, together with some preliminary suggestions for the solution of the problem of what the future conditions should be under which recruitment and emigration should be permitted. The Secretary of State has informed us in reply that he is entirely prepared to accept the policy of eventual abolition advocated by us, and we have his full authority to accept this resolution. On behalf of His Majesty's Government he has asked us, however, to make it clear that the existing system of recruiting must be maintained until new conditions, under which labour should be permitted to proceed to the Colonies, should have been worked out in conjunction with the Colonial Office and the Crown Colonies concerned; until proper safeguards in the Colonies should have been provided; and until they should have had reasonable time to adjust themselves to the change, a period which must necessarily depend on circumstances and on conditions imperfectly known at present. I am confident that everyone will agree that, as the policy of the abolition of this system has now been definitely accepted and will be carried out, India can afford to accept this delay in a reasonable and generous spirit, recognising that the change should be effected with due regard to existing interests, especially to those important industries in the Colonies which have been built up on Indian labour, and on which the prosperity of some of the Colonies largely depends. There is another reason why this measure of delay need not cause anxiety.

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

Marked improvements have already been made in the treatment of indentured labourers, and others are now in process of realisation. The Government of Fiji passed in 1912 legislation substituting fines for imprisonment in the case of all ordinary offences against the labour law, and has now passed an Ordinance completely eliminating imprisonment for purely labour offences. An Indian Settlement Trust is being established in the same Colony to acquire and administer lands for Indian time-expired labourers, and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the principal concern which employs labour in the island, has guaranteed the advance of the necessary sums for financing this undertaking up to £100,000. Similarly, the Government of Trinidad has submitted to the Colonial Office and obtained approval of a draft Ordinance abolishing all imprisonment for labour offences. The Government of India also learn that the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposes to inform Jamaica and British Guiana, and also, in order to avoid all possibility of misconception, Fiji and Trinidad, that the power of imprisonment for labour offences must be completely eliminated from their respective Labour Ordinances before the end of the present year. There is therefore the less degree of urgency so far as the immediate interests of the coolies are concerned, and having the pledge of the British Government for the abolition of the indentured system, India can freely accept the condition that due time should be allowed for other arrangements to be made before the present system disappears for ever. For that matter the delay is also necessary in Indian interests. Some of the worst evils associated with indentured labour, for instance, the morally undesirable features of coolie life in the Colonies, cannot be attributed wholly, or even mainly, to the indenture, and might be found in much the same

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

degree under a system of free emigration. Merely to abolish indentured emigration, a course which implies the refusal to allow any emigrant to leave the country under a contract, would only bring another set of evils in its train. It would mean that recruiters would induce coolies to go without any agreement, but by the grant of advances, or by fraud, while the Government of India would have greatly weakened their power of interference. Consequently an alternative plan for controlling the conditions of recruitment and emigration has to be worked out, and this must of necessity take some little time; but this need in no way detract from the sense of gladness with which Indians of all classes will learn that the indentured system is now doomed.

It is a source of great satisfaction to me that I am able to make this announcement in Council to-day. I have always felt an irreconcilable prejudice against the system of indentured emigration from India to British Colonies, and as Council is aware, one of the earliest acts of my administration, and one which gave me profound pleasure, was the prohibition of such emigration to Natal. This narrowed the field of the problem, since the exclusion of Natal left indentured emigration open only to a small number of British Crown Colonies and to Surinam. In 1910, emigration to Mauritius was also prohibited; and though the Government of India have subsequently been approached with a view to its resumption, we declined to consider the proposal. In this way considerable progress was made towards the abolition of the system, which was thus left in force only in respect of emigration to the four British Colonies of Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana and Fiji, and to the Dutch Colony of Surinam. My Government then passed the whole question under review in connection with the report

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

of a Committee appointed by the then Secretary of State for the Colonies to consider the general question of emigration from India to the Crown Colonies, including the question of the general advantages to be reaped by India herself and by the particular Colonies concerned. The Committee was presided over by a distinguished ex-member of the Home Civil Service and contained two gentlemen who had served in India and one member now in the Indian Civil Service, who had had special experience of the recruiting districts of the United Provinces. There was no reason to suppose that the Committee did not conduct their enquiry with due care and impartiality. The whole trend of their report was to show that the system afforded so much economic and material benefit to the coolies that it ought to be maintained in their interest, and when that late distinguished member of our body, Mr. Gokhale, raised the question four years ago, it was on these grounds, based on the data supplied by the Committee's report, that my Government were unable to accept his motion that steps should immediately be taken for the total abolition of the system. But though we did not accept his motion, I was greatly impressed, as no one could fail to have been, by the intensity of the feeling against indentured emigration which the debate revealed in this country. Shortly afterwards, also, facts came to my notice which caused me to think that the examination of the question by the Colonial Emigration Committee had not been sufficiently thorough, and I decided to send a special deputation to examine the question anew on the spot in each of the Colonies concerned and in Surinam. I selected for this mission a member of the Indian Civil Service and an Indian gentleman chosen from the United Provinces, the province from which so many emigrants are

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

drawn: and I confess, I hoped, that their investigations would prove the deathblow of the system. In one sense, as I shall shortly explain, it has done so, but not in the immediate and decisive manner which I had hoped and expected. It must be admitted that the first impression produced on reading Mr. MacNeill and Mr. Chimmannalal's report is that the evils of the system are not so serious as has some times been alleged; and, in fact, the authors of the report have recorded their opinion that the advantages of the system as a whole outweigh its disadvantages, though they by no means ignore certain undesirable features which they wish to see removed. But in spite of their failure to condemn the system root and branch, a detailed examination of their report has furnished material which forms an overwhelmingly strong indictment against the further continuance of indentured labour. It has brought to our notice damning facts, which so far as I am aware had not been elicited by any previous enquiry, and which I am sure have impressed His Majesty's Government, as they have impressed us, with the necessity of the system being brought to an end. I will tell Council briefly what these are.

From the purely material point of view, the Government of India, like many other people, had in years gone by looked upon emigration to the Colonies as affording, if only to a limited extent, a means of relief for the congestion and poverty that unhappily prevail in the districts whence the supplies of emigrating labour are mostly drawn. A good deal of detail was given in the report regarding the earning capacity of coolies in the different Colonies. The opportunity was taken, when examining these figures, of comparing the wages which a cooly could earn in the different Colonies, with the

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

wages which were being offered to the same class of men in the numerous parts of India, where there was a good demand for labour, of comparing not only the wages, but the purchasing power of those wages. The elaborate details given in the report brought out in a very striking fashion the effect of the high prices which prevailed in most of the labour Colonies on the value of the cash earnings of the labourer and his family. Not to weary Council with a mass of details, I may state that in the four British Colonies, of which I have been speaking, the average adult labourer, provided that he spends little or nothing except on food and clothes, can save from under 1s. to about 3s. a week. I need hardly explain that, as a matter of fact, he never saves anything like as much as this, but that is after all a matter of human nature. Now I do not wish it to be understood that I am in any way accusing the Colonial employers of paying unreasonably low wages; nor do I wish to minimise the advantages of the prospects that lie before the cooly who has worked through his term of indenture. The labourer who works hard and lives thriftily and keeps himself out of trouble among surroundings which, as I shall explain presently, are morally very undesirable, is usually in a very few years after the period of what we may call his "economic probation," able to find for himself a home and a piece of land, or employment in one of the towns from which he can soon gain a very comfortable competence. This I am ready to admit, but why should the labourer have to journey thousands of miles over the "black water" to settle in a strange country and to place himself for a long period under conditions often of an undesirable, and in some cases of a revolting, nature, in order to achieve the desired end, when he can obtain in India the choice of either better-paid labour,

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

as, for instance, in the big jute areas of Eastern Bengal; or almost equally well-paid labour with the prospects of obtaining in a very few years a home and a piece of land on the Assam tea gardens? It seems rather absurd to find a man going to Fiji for a wage of 26s. a month with rice at 2½ seers to the rupee when he can readily earn 6 or 7s. a week during the jute season in Eastern Bengal with rice selling at a third of the price prevailing in Fiji, with the additional advantage that he can, if he likes, with far greater ease, take his family with him to add to his earnings than in the case of distant Colonies. It is clear, then, that the cooly himself does not stand to gain very much by emigration. From the point of view of India as a whole, it can hardly be seriously argued that indentured emigration to the Colonies is an important safety-valve for congested districts in India, seeing that the total emigration on indenture to the four tropical Colonies during the year 1913, amounted only to a little over 7,700 persons, whereas in the same year, Madras alone sent 117,000 coolies to the Straits Settlements and 190,000 to Ceylon.

I now turn to a more important and far more unpleasant aspect of the case. It has very long been known and regretted that the sex proportion of the emigrants was unsatisfactory. This of course is not a matter which arises out of the question of indenture. What we are, however, concerned with is the effect which this sex ratio has on the conditions under which the indentured cooly has perforce to live during the period of his indenture. Here the Government of India for the first time received full information of certain details which showed that there must be something very wrong indeed with the conditions under which these men were living. The

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

death-rate among indentured coolies has been decidedly high in some Colonies, but the Government of India had never before been able fully to examine details regarding the share in this death-rate attributable to suicides. The figures were truly startling. The average rate of suicides per million of all ages are 45 in Madras and 63 in the United Provinces. Suicides are especially frequent among persons of the usual age of the indentured labourers, *i.e.*, between the ages of 20 and 30, and we may make a liberal allowance in this respect. But in the Colonies we find the following figures for suicides per million. British Guiana, free population 52, indentured 100; Trinidad, free population 134, indentured 400; Fiji, free population 147, indentured 926. I do not think we have to seek very far for the cause of the state of things which these figures reveal. In a Parliamentary Report for March 1914, the sex proportion among the average Indian population of the various Colonies showed that in Trinidad and Tobago, there were nearly twice as many males as females; in British Guiana, there were about 26 per cent. more, while in Fiji, there were nearly 2½ times as many males as females. As might be expected from these figures, there is strong unofficial evidence to show that the sexual immorality prevailing among the coolies is appalling, and that domestic relations are largely in abeyance. Such sordid and miserable conditions may well predispose an unhappy man to suicide.

Again, a necessary result of all systems of indentured labour is the enforcement in the courts of law of breaches of its conditions. I gladly admit that prosecutions have, largely in response to our repeated and earnest representations, shown a considerable diminution; but, even

Meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

so, the average percentage of prosecutions to indentured population during recent years has been—

In Trinidad	23 per cent.
In British Guiana	19 „
In Jamaica	12 „
In Fiji	13 „

The same individual is no doubt often prosecuted more than once, and we must make due allowance for this fact. But it is surely an inevitable deduction from the facts and figures I have just been placing before you that the ultimate force which drives to his death a cooly depressed by home sickness, jealousy, domestic unhappiness or any other cause, is the feeling of being bound to serve for a fixed period and amidst surroundings which it is out of his power to change. We may fully admit that the undesirable sex proportion may have more to do with this even than the system of indenture itself. This is a matter which in any case will have to be put right. But, at any rate, we are at last in a position to free ourselves from the responsibility of compelling the cooly to remain under these conditions without the power of being able to select the place in which, and the master for whom, he will work. I do not wish it to be thought that I am taking a prejudiced view of the action of the Colonies; in matters that concern the physical well-being of the coolies, they have done their utmost. I have already told you of the action taken by the Colonial Government in Fiji to abolish the system of imprisonment for labour offences; how this action has been approved by His Majesty's Government and its extension to other Colonies^{*} insisted on. I mentioned also the Fiji scheme for the settlement of Indian labourers on the land. I am not in a position to say that the action taken in Fiji was directly due to the proposals made by Messrs. MacNeill

Meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi.

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR.

and Chimmanlal, but it is no doubt true that the recent policy of the Colonial Government has been largely in keeping with their recommendations.

I feel that we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Secretary of State for India and to His Majesty's Government for their prompt and sympathetic response to the representations which I and my Government placed before them, and it is fitting for me to take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging their action. Their attitude in the matter fills me with assurance that, what has been promised, will be performed to the letter, and that the end of the system, which has been productive of so much unhappiness and wickedness and has been, relatively speaking, of so small an advantage to this country, is now in sight. No one, who knows anything of Indian sentiment, can remain ignorant of the deep and genuine disgust to which the continuance of the indentured system has given rise. Educated Indians look on it, they tell us, as a badge of helotry. This is soon to be removed for ever; and it is a source of deep personal satisfaction to myself that one of the last official acts that I shall perform in this country is to tell you that I have been able to do something to ensure that Indians who desire to work as labourers in the tropical Colonies may do so under happier conditions; and to obtain from His Majesty's Government the promise of the abolition in due course of a system which educated opinion in India has for long regarded as intolerable and as a stigma upon their race.

[The Viceroy's remarks were greeted with applause by the Indian members of the Council. Mr. Dadabhoj and Mr. Shafi expressed the pleasure of the Council at what they had been told. Pandit Malaviya said that all India would receive the announcement with joy and gratitude. He hoped instructions would be given to prevent fraud with regard to future recruit-

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

ment, and that no coolies should meanwhile or in future go abroad in ignorance of the conditions. He offered his gratitude to the Viceroy.

Mr. Achariar said the decision was the most notable act of His Excellency's term of office.

The resolution was adopted, and the Council adjourned.]

LAST MEETING OF IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT
DELHI, 1915-1916 SESSION. BUDGET DEBATE. VICE-
ROY'S FAREWELL TO COUNCIL.

[The last meeting of the current session of the Imperial Legislative Council was held on the 24th March; His Excellency the Viceroy presiding. There was a large attendance of member and visitors. 24th Mar. 1916.]

After interpellations the discussion on the budget for 1916-17 was taken up.

Mr. Maung Bah Too, who was the first to speak, expressed gratitude for the revision of the Burma settlement. He thanked the Government of India for sending Sir Harcourt Butler as Lieutenant-Governor of the province and also thanked the Viceroy for his kind messages to the Burma Legislative Council.

Sir Gangadhar Chitnavis, after referring to the cheerfulness with which the call to take on additional burdens was answered by the people, pleaded for a periodical enquiry into the average income per head of the population, as it would form a basis for a fairer conclusion as to the tax-paying capacity of the people. Continuing, he said. "My Lord, the time has not come for putting forward our claims to political advancement and we have no desire to press them now, but since the outbreak of war there have been numerous references to the question of India's part in the Empire on the restoration of peace. It is permissible, therefore, to express the hope that the position should be one of honour and trust and sound economic strength and that, in event of the lessons of this war necessitating heavy military charges over and above the former standard, the apportionment of India's charges will be made carefully and equitably in consultation with Indian representatives on the principles laid down by the Welby Commission." He hoped, also, that at the same time the question of India's fiscal relationship with the rest of the Empire would

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

be settled with an eye to her economic interests and that, further, she would thenceforward be adequately and directly represented in the Councils of the Empire. He hoped the status of the Central Provinces would be raised to that of a Lieutenant-Governorship. He paid a tribute to Sir William Clark, the retiring Commerce and Industry Member, and to Lord Hardinge and expressed the hope that His Excellency would not fail to watch over India's interests even in his retirement.

Mr. F. H. Stewart said the commercial community were anxious not to appear in any way opposed to the additional taxation in this time of war. He hoped, however, that the additional burdens imposed would be temporary only and also that the usual railway allotments would be restored when normal times came round. He pointed out that the new export taxes would press heavily upon the industries concerned, especially in the case of tea. As regards the import duties the commercial community realised that it was necessary that they should be raised, but here, also, there were several industries that would feel them particularly. Light railway materials, etc., might reasonably be exempted. As regards the income-tax, generally the tax was eminently and widely unpopular and was also objectionable in this country where so many people had to pay it twice over. Speaking personally, he would have preferred to see this small sum raised by increasing the income-tax being levied instead by a surcharge on telegram charges, letter postage and railway charges. In view, however, of the drastic legislation introduced and the sacrifices of wealth and life that was being made for the Empire at Home the commercial community of Calcutta were proud and glad to be able to help in some way. It might not be possible for all of them to fight but they could and they would pay.

Rajah Abu Jafar said that although fresh taxes had been imposed to meet the estimated deficit he could not help thinking that they had been carefully thought out. He hoped that the investigations and suggestions of the industrial commission would be beneficial to Indian commerce. The establishment of a technological institution had been a great want in the United Provinces. He hoped that the Sarda Canal project would receive careful consideration. The people of India would gratefully remember the many varied services which Lord Hardinge had rendered to India.

Mr. Barua said that a deficit Budget was not a happy subject to talk about. It was too much to expect that the dreadful war

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

would come to an end so soon as to enable the Finance Member, before he laid down his office, to relieve India from the additional taxation which he had imposed. The taxation of the tea industry of Assam was only a temporary measure and would be withdrawn soon after the war. The territorial readjustment carried out in Lord Hardinge's viceroyalty would, he hoped, result in the individual freedom of the provinces. In paying a tribute to Lord Hardinge's administration he said the Viceroy had carried out in practice the promises given by the Royal Proclamation of successive Sovereigns.

Mulik Umar Hayat Khan, Tiwana, said he had followed this Session's debates in the Council with interest. He did not agree with the attitude of certain members who thought that the Government of India was unmindful of its duty. Such impressions, when embodied in public speeches during the war, were misleading to the ignorant. He had hoped that the present term of the Council could have been extended until the end of the war. He considered that Government had imposed taxes on the right articles and that if they had not taxed salt he would have criticised the omission. He strongly deprecated any reduction in the army and asked for increased pensions and the grant of lands to soldiers with or without service conditions. India had responded splendidly to the call of the time, but they must look ahead for the future well-being. India should not be long behind in adopting compulsory service. Lord Hardinge, he added, had been the greatest of Indian Viceroys.

Mr. Dadabhoy said that the only item of expenditure open to comment was the heavy capital outlay on unproductive works. Referring to the permanent military charges he said that a fuller statement would have been welcome. The budgeted railway expenditure, he thought, was the lowest in recent history, and he requested Government's attention to the urgent need for a larger outlay upon improvement on open lines for handling quickly and efficiently the enormous trade that was sure to follow the present spell of restricted movements. On the Government loan policy, he said that every effort should be made to support the Indian market for the existing $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock and suggested that the conditions and terms of the conversions should be as liberal and attractive as possible and that the details should be settled in consultation, not only with bankers, but with large brokers and large dealers in Government paper. He urged a more radical and comprehensive reform in the police to which graduates of Univer-

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

sities should be appointed in larger numbers. Opinion in India was gravitating towards the ideal of her direct representation in the House of Commons by her trusted leaders. The European war would perhaps introduce important changes in the political relations of the outlying units of the Empire with the United Kingdom and there was more than a possibility of the bonds of union between them being drawn closer. Might not India hope to be bound more firmly to England by this concession? Referring to the approaching departure of Lord Hardinge, he hoped that the Viceroy might be given strength and opportunity to employ his talent, power and authority in the cause of Indian regeneration.

The Maharaja of Nashipore said there had been keen disappointment in certain quarters when duty on raw cotton was imposed. As to income-tax, it appeared that out of a population of 240 millions the tax of only 13 000 had been more than doubled. He regretted that there was no assurance by the Finance Member that this tax would last only until the end of the war. There was an increase in the expenditure under the military head, but they should not grudge it at the present time. There was a gradual increase in police expenditure and, though he would not deprecate it considering the present condition of the country, it was a significant fact that the police was looked upon with suspicion and that there was very little confidence in it. He hoped that Government would enquire into the reason why there was no co-operation between the police and the people. Lord Hardinge, he said, had placed the whole country under a deep debt of gratitude and had captured the hearts of the people by his sympathetic and statesmanlike policy.

Khan Bahadur Mir Asad Ali congratulated the Finance Member upon his satisfactory Budget for 1916-17. It was evidently the result of considerable labour, circumspection and forethought. While agreeing to the rise in the rates of import tariff he was opposed to the enhancement of the salt duty by twenty-five per cent. He strongly advocated strict economy in public expenditure, especially in view of the probable continuation of the war and its after effects. While deprecating the large and growing public expenditure, which was out of proportion to the growth of public revenue, he thought there might be, in the present circumstances, some justification for such an increase. In any case economy should be introduced into the civil administration. In particular the police expenditure had been growing for the last four years and had increased by about 16 per cent. The figure had risen

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

from Rs. 698 lakhs in 1912-13 to about Rs. 829 lakhs as budgeted for 1916-17. More than a fair proportion of this increase, he believed, was due to a rise in the charges of the Criminal Investigation Department. While he was not against incurring legitimate expenditure on the police without sacrificing efficiency he was opposed to the rapid increase of expenditure on that head which merely sought to strengthen the force abnormally with a seeming efficiency lest public money were wasted on an enterprise of doubtful utility. The salaries of the high officials were much higher in India than in any other part of the world, except perhaps the United Kingdom. He warmly thanked the Government for the recurring grant of Rs. 30,000 towards the expansion of Mahomedan education in Madras. He requested Government to sanction the grant of a few scholarships in Madras as in Bombay and the Punjab and the appointment of a Mahomedan inspector as well as an inspector of schools for Madras, so that Mahomedan education in their hands might be specially taken care of.

On the question of Council reform he thought that the relations between the official and non-official members was, on the whole, satisfactory. The actual work done in the Council was necessarily small under the present rigid constitution. He emphasised the need for more than one Indian on the Executive Council, the further expansion of Legislative Councils, the introduction of a larger elective element, greater freedom of discussion, a wider angle of vision and a greater mutual understanding and sympathy. He paid a tribute to His Excellency's liberal and sympathetic administration and referred to a few notable incidents during his régime, such as the restoration of Delhi to its pre-eminence as the historic capital of India, the settlement of the Indian question in South Africa, the Cawnpore mosque affair and the despatch of Indian troops for the first time to Europe. He hoped Lord Hardinge would continue to take a deep and abiding interest in Indian affairs and that when the time came His Lordship's influence would be thrown on the side of India so as to enable her to share the joys, as well as the burdens, of the Empire as a self-respecting partner in the great Imperial federation.

Mr. Birkett said that the reception of the Budget must have been a great satisfaction to the Finance Member. All were sorry that the existing import duty rates could not have been maintained. He expressed appreciation at the exemption of pearls. He thought that the full amount of the loans proposed should be

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

raised to the maximum, consideration, however, being given to the holders of bonds and other existing Government paper. The shortage of coal in Bombay was a serious one. The difficulty lay in the absence of double railway tracks to that centre. These should be constructed when practicable. The income-tax was unpopular because it fell upon so few persons. More efficient collection arrangements, therefore, were desirable. He was glad to hear from the Hon'ble Mr. Hill that research agricultural work was being continued in spite of the war. The speaker made reference to the appreciation of Lord Hardinge's viceroyalty to be expressed in Bombay next month.

Sir Fazulbhoj Currimbhoy, after observing that the Budget had increased the people's confidence in Sir William Meyer, suggested the desirability of considerably reducing, if not of altogether avoiding, the expenditure on fodder concessions by encouraging a proper system of fodder storage in areas specially liable to famine. In view of a weak feeling noticeable in the market regarding the $3\frac{1}{2}$ Government promissory notes he would suggest an early announcement on the proposed conversion scheme. On the question of a settlement of the fiscal policy after the war he expressed the opinion that it was an imperative necessity to secure for India the most favoured nation treatment among the nations of the world. In the matter of Indian emigration he thought it would satisfy all if, while securing complete reciprocity as between India and the Colonies, sufficiently large areas overseas, well suited for Indian life, were reserved for Indian emigrants. After explaining his satisfaction at the attitude of Government on the excise duty on cotton and the pearl industry, the speaker passed on to a discussion of the present rate of infant mortality in India which required, urgently, a thorough enquiry. The figures, 19.9 per cent., which ruled in 1913 was high in all conscience, and they should not rest satisfied until proper remedial measures were adopted, after a sifting enquiry. He concluded, after referring to the acts of high statesmanship and practical sympathy which had marked the Viceroy's tenure of office, by expressing the hope that the policy initiated by him would continue to animate the British Indian administration.

The Maharaja of Kassimbazar said that directly after the outbreak of war eager and spontaneous offers were made to Government of active service in the field and contributions of money came from all parts. He reminded the Council that no act of legislation was necessary to make the people pay, and he hoped that the

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

extra taxation was only a temporary measure and would be withdrawn after the war. He thanked the Viceroy for the unfailing courtesy which members had received at his hands and hoped that he would continue to take an abiding interest in Indian affairs.

The Raja of Mahmudabad referred to India's loyal response to the needs of the Empire in the present crisis. This war was greater in magnitude than the war in the "Mahabharata." He asked that the increased taxation would not long remain in force. He strongly criticised that portion of the Financial Statement which referred to the cotton excise duty and the attitude of Government with regard to it. He wondered why a certain branch of the public service should continue to receive compensation allowance while others were making such enormous sacrifices. Lord Hardinge's viceroyalty would remain memorable in the history of India. Sympathy was the keynote of his administration which had touched the hearts of millions of his countrymen.

When the Council reassembled after lunch, Sir William Clark said that as Vice-President he felt it his duty to offer to His Excellency the felicitations of the Council on His Majesty the King-Emperor conferring on him the most noble Order of Knight of the Garter. (Hear, hear and cheers.) It was a source of intense satisfaction to India and specially to the Council with which His Excellency was intimately connected, to have the privilege of congratulating him just on the eve of his departure from India. It was at an unique occasion that the announcement came, while His Excellency was presiding for the last time over his full Council.

His Excellency the Viceroy thanked the Council.

The discussion on the Budget having been resumed Rai Sita Nath Ray referred to the part played by India during the war and said that it was an unique spectacle to see princes, ruling chiefs and the people offering their all for the safety of the Empire. The Hindu University was a crowning act of His Excellency to promote education in India. He eulogised the many services which His Excellency had rendered to India.

Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee said the Budget had been the subject of so thorough a discussion that one would imagine there was no room for further debate and controversy, but questions of policy arose from financial considerations even independently of finance. The enhanced salt duty had been opposed by the Indian

Last meeting of Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, 1915-1916 session. Budget Debate. Viceroy's farewell to Council.

Members of the Council. He had suggested that the taxation was unnecessary and that the situation might be met by a loan. He was ridiculed by the Finance Member, who appealed to characters in fiction for illustration. They dealt with facts and not fiction and when the Finance Minister did that the situation was well-nigh desperate. While the customs duty was raised all round the import duties on cotton fabrics escaped the general rise. The Government of India was apparently helpless but the fact showed the necessity for a speedy recognition of fiscal autonomy. It was a pity that fiscal autonomy had not been referred to the committee newly appointed, but it would be open to the commission to point out that Protection was necessary in respect of any industry. Associated with fiscal autonomy was the financial independence of the provinces. The Finance Member was considering a scheme for further devolution in the administration of provincial finance. He hoped it would be accompanied by an increase of popular control. Sir William Meyer had pointed out the splendid contributions of India to the war. In 1914-15 they were ten million pounds, in 1915-16 they were estimated at eighteen million pounds and in 1916-17 twenty and three-fourths million pounds. Mr. Banerjee appealed to the Finance Member not to deduct small holders from Government securities not liable to pay income-tax and then afterwards to refund the money. In many cases no application for a refund was made. He appealed to the Government to see that conflicting theories did not paralyse the efforts to suppress malaria. Some real work in definite areas had to be done. Improvement in rural sanitation would kill malaria. He concluded with a tribute to the services which Lord Hardinge had rendered. He would go down in history as one of the greatest of Indian Viceroys.

Mr. A. K. Ghurnavi said the thought uppermost in his mind that day was that this was the last occasion on which His Excellency would preside over the Council. It was his duty, therefore, to give public expression on behalf of the Moslems to the gratitude which his community felt at the manifold benefits it had derived during His Excellency's régime. The leave for Juma prayers was granted by His Excellency's Government. The list of public holidays did not include in some provinces, notably in Bengal, any Moslem holidays. Three were now included and he hoped that Bar-i-Wafat would eventually be included. Facilities for religious instruction in schools receiving Government grants would also be forthcoming as the result of the action taken by Government.