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48 /
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BY

LORD IRWIN

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SPEECHES BY LORD IRWIN.

1926.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF BOMBAY.

The Right Honourable the Lord and Lady Irwin arrived at ^{1st April} Bombay on the 1st April and were presented with an Address ^{1926.} of Welcome from the Bombay Municipality, to which His Excellency made the following reply :—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I greatly value the cordial welcome you have extended to me on behalf of the citizens of this great city of Bombay. I am the more deeply gratified by your observations, because you have greeted me, not as a stranger, but as one who comes among you with family associations of service on behalf of India. When some twenty years ago it fell to me myself to spend a short time in India, I little thought that I might one day return to be responsible for its administration. For the last five years the weight of that responsibility has been faithfully and untiringly sustained by Lord Reading, and it has not been without some natural misgiving that I have surveyed the magnitude of the field in which I am, following him, to labour.

But if India is great, India is also generous, and I take courage from the esteem in which the name of my grandfather is still held among you. Your kindly words in his regard are evidence that India is not unmindful of services rendered to her, and will reinforce my determination



Address of Welcome from the Municipal Corporation of Bombay.
to work for the discharge of the duties entrusted to me by His Majesty the King Emperor.

As you observe, it is fitting that the future representative of His Majesty the King Emperor should be received on landing in India at this Gateway with its precious memories of Their Imperial Majesties. For I come to you, not only to be the future Governor-General of India appointed by the King Emperor and entrusted with the guidance of his Government in India, but as His Majesty's future Viceroy also. I therefore come charged with that spirit of sympathy and trust, and with that ardent desire to promote the welfare of India and the happiness of her people with which His Majesty's feelings towards India have always been instinct.

Gentlemen, you have spoken of the wide responsibilities which you bear in the civic administration of this city. It is my hope at no distant date to make myself acquainted at first hand with some of the problems, and to see some of the improvements to which you have made allusion. I am gratified to observe that in the forefront of your projects you place the relief of suffering, the improvement of public health and the extension of education. I am likewise impressed by the courage with which you face your task, and the manifest enthusiasm by which you are inspired. In no directions may you more surely give expression to the lofty ambition of promoting the moral and material happiness of our fellow men.

I can well realise the especial difficulties which confront you in Bombay, where East meets West and where you deal at one and the same time with a populous oriental city, a great centre of flourishing industries, and a vast cosmopolitan port. In all wise proposals for the amelioration of social conditions and the improvement of amenities in the capital of the Presidency, I feel sure that



Address of Welcome from the Municipal Corporation of Bombay.

you may count upon the warm sympathy of its Governor Sir Leslie Wilson. It is a matter of keen regret to me, not less I am sure than it is to you, that His Excellency is not present with us to-day. We all share the fervent hope that Lady Wilson may be speedily and completely restored to health.

I take note of the passage in your Address in which you claim for Bombay more generous treatment in financial and other matters. You will not expect me now to make any pronouncement on these subjects. It would not, indeed, be proper for me to do so until I have had time to make such enquiries for myself as will enable me to gain a just perspective of Indian affairs. But I can at least assure you that these enquiries will be informed with sympathy for your difficulties, with personal attention to your claims, and with a firm determination to hold the scales even between the conflicting claims of all classes, communities and provinces.

Neither will you, I am confident, expect one, who is only on the threshold of his Viceroyalty, to speak to you to-day on the vast and momentous constitutional questions which are implicit in your reference to provincial autonomy and to the position of Indians overseas. On such grave matters, India has a right to claim that those who come to serve her, should come with minds open to the free impact of Indian thought. It is accordingly natural and right that you should take this, the earliest opportunity, of placing before me, both the anxieties and the aspirations which occupy your minds; and it will be both my duty and my pleasure to spare no efforts, so far as I rightly may, for the relief of those anxieties, and the understanding of those aspirations.

I am touched by the warm welcome you have offered to Lady Irwin. Let me assure you that she looks forward

*Address of Welcome from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.*

eagerly to her life in India with the opportunities that it must afford of carrying on the great work performed by Lady Reading and her predecessors. The women and children of India in particular may count on her unfailing sympathy, and all well conceived projects that may assist the forces engaged in constant battle with suffering and disease, and may make for the enhancement of the general welfare of the poor, will find in her a sure and ready friend.

Gentlemen, once more I thank you for the kindness with which you have received me, and for your generous wishes for my success in the task on which I am about to enter.

To no man is it given to forecast the future, or to predict what work it may be given to any one of us to do for India. But whatever the record of these next years, one thing for myself I can unreservedly declare, that you have to-day welcomed an earnest and sincere well-wisher of India at her Gate.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE BOMBAY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE.

3rd April
1926.

In replying to the Address of Welcome from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce at Bombay H. E. the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen,—Lady Irwin and I thank you warmly for the welcome you have extended to us in the name of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. I am grateful for your reference to the family connection which I may claim to have with India through my grandfather, and to my own public work in England. I trust that my past association with several departments of Government at home, and with different parts of the Empire as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies may assist me in the duties which I am about to undertake in India.



Address of Welcome from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

You have, Gentlemen, in your address, touched upon one matter in which I, though new to India, take the deepest interest. This is the appointment of a Royal Commission on Agriculture, of which I note with satisfaction your approval.

By instinct and upbringing I am a countryman, and as a former Minister of Agriculture in England I have been brought into close contact with its administrative problems. I am therefore able to appreciate at their full worth the wisdom and statesmanship of Lord Reading, at whose instance this commission was set up. For in a country where agriculture is the principal industry, there can be no higher object than to increase the prosperity of the cultivators who form the overwhelming majority of the population.

Experience, however, elsewhere has taught me that there is no royal road or short cut to agricultural improvement. Nature moves at her own pace, and to deal even with a single crop demands years of patient labour, and the necessary processes of research, experiment, demonstration and seed distribution cannot be hurried. But agricultural progress is not only a question of plant or stock improvement. It depends upon the solution of a host of allied problems, of which education and co-operative credit are only two of the most important.

In all this vast field, nothing has impressed me more than the results already achieved by your agricultural workers. I have only recently become acquainted with their work, and I find that, since agricultural departments in the modern sense were created over 20 years ago by Lord Curzon, important results have been achieved in the case of certain crops such as wheat, sugarcane, cotton (to which you specially refer) and jute, results which have led to a wide increase in the country's wealth.



Address of Welcome from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

But where much has been done, much yet remains to do ; and it will I presume be the duty of the Commission to review existing conditions and to examine how best the discoveries of modern science and modern administrative methods can be harnessed to Agriculture's needs. They will no doubt consider, among other matters, the most effective organization of research work ; the best means of ensuring a supply of trained workers in laboratory and field ; and of bringing home to cultivators fully proved results ; the maintenance of the purity of selected seed and its distribution ; as well as the vital question of the provision of the adequate funds. And, while advising measures to secure the greatest co-ordination of effort between the governments in India, it will be their duty to keep steadily in view the preservation of the newly gained independence of the Provinces in this branch of public administration.

Their task, therefore, is difficult, but they will be supported by the good-will of all who recognise that if the Commission can point the way to a wider application of modern methods to agriculture, the benefits will not be confined to those who till the soil, but must lead to a general increase of national prosperity.

Their recommendations will be made during my time in India, and I shall count myself fortunate if I can at all assist in the progressive amelioration of the conditions of the rural population.

You refer also in the course of your Address to questions affecting trade, finance, and taxation. I can assure the Chamber that these questions will have my earnest attention, and I had looked forward to discussing them, on my arrival, with Sir Leslie Wilson. I greatly regret his absence and deplore the cause that has made it necessary. I am sure I express the feelings of everyone present

*Address of Welcome from the Simla Municipal Committee.*

here to-day when I say how deeply we feel for him in his anxiety, and I pray God that Lady Wilson may soon recover her health and be able to return to you. At present I am not in possession of the latest detailed information in regard to the important matters dealt with in this section of your Address, and you will not therefore ask me to do more than give you an assurance as I gladly do, that when I have equipped myself with the knowledge necessary to fuller understanding, I shall do all that may be within my power to encourage the trade and to further the prosperity of this great and famous City.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, let me again express to you my thanks for the warmth of the welcome you have extended to Lady Irwin and myself, on the eve of our assumption of new and exacting responsibilities. It will be our constant desire to make acknowledgment of your good wishes, by losing no occasion of rendering the best service that we may to India and to all classes of her people.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE SIMLA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

In replying to the Address of Welcome presented by the Simla Municipal Committee at Viceregal Lodge, Simla, H. E. the Viceroy said :—

27th April
1926.

Gentlemen,—On behalf of Lady Irwin and myself I thank you warmly for your address of welcome. In the ordinary course of events many months of my period of office in India will necessarily be spent within the limits of your Municipality and among the Residents of Simla whom you represent. It is for this reason a special gratification to receive within a few days of my arrival in Simla this expression of your kindly feelings towards us.



Address of Welcome from the Simla Municipal Committee.

I value your good wishes for my Viceroyalty, and the assurance which they convey that in my endeavours to promote the progress and prosperity of the people of India I may count upon the understanding sympathy of responsible bodies, such as your Committee.

I appreciate very warmly your reference to my grandfather's work for India. This is not an occasion, even if I wished to do so, to try the auguries, and from these omens to enter into the dangerous paths of prophecy. But the measure of generous recognition which history has assigned to the work which he sought to do will be a constant encouragement to me as I meet many critical questions calling for decision during my term of office.

I may incidentally observe that my grandfather has some connection with our meeting to-day. For it was he who accepted the proposal pressed with vigour by Sir John Lawrence that the Governor-General and his Council should leave Calcutta in the summer months. It was Sir John Lawrence who later wrote, referring to Simla "This place of all Hill Stations seems to me the best for the Supreme Government".

It may fall to the lot of other Municipal Committees to guide the administration of cities with larger populations than Simla, and to provide for the diverse needs of commerce and industry which are not to be found in the Summer Metropolis of India. Yet, though your responsibilities in such directions may not be so wide as those of other Municipal Committees to which I have referred, they must surely in some aspects be quite unique in character and in complexity. The maximum population to be served in Simla in no season attains an excessive total. Nevertheless the difficulties of the natural



Address of Welcome from the Simla Municipal Committee.

configuration of the mountain fastnesses in which your work lies, extend the sphere of your activities over a formidable mileage, and must present problems for the Municipal services and inspection staff, which are undreamt of in the philosophy of Municipalities upon more even surfaces. No other Municipality in India, moreover, has to provide at the same time for the needs of the summer headquarters of both a Central Government and a Provincial Government, with their large migratory establishments. And, if these difficulties were not enough, you have super-added to them the influx of population which follows upon the sessions of two Chambers of the Central Legislature and, in addition, occasional meetings of a Provincial Council. Thus, while you may not have the problems of a large poor population or of congested industrial settlements to deal with, you have to cater for a highly developed and no doubt at times critical body of residents with a wide range of needs and exacting standards of requirements. The migrations of Governments and the consequent ebb and flow of the population can hardly fail to add in a special degree to the complexity of your Municipal administration, the adjustment of your expenditure and the management of sources of revenue; and when you come before me, as you do to-day, grateful for assistance previously given but without any further request for special subventions, I recognise the wise forethought and devotion to Municipal interests which must have characterised your administration in the past, and felicitate you on your public spirit, independence, and self-reliance. I congratulate you also on the success with which you have carried through the vital question of the new water-supply. I shall take an early opportunity to make myself familiar with your local institutions. You may count on my sympathy and interest in all that you project for the improvement of the amenities of Simla.



Address of Welcome from the European Association.

Lady Irwin eagerly looks forward to taking an active part in the work of both local and all-India Associations for the relief of suffering and the improvement of social conditions. The field of work in India is so wide that it must be with some misgivings that she approaches the task ; but she relies with confidence upon the support and assistance of keen and sympathetic fellow-workers among all classes of the community, and hopes that their joint efforts in this field may be rewarded by some addition to the total of human happiness in India.

Gentlemen, I thank you once more for your address and am glad to have made your acquaintance, which I hope during these next years my residence in Simla will give me the opportunity to extend.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION.

15th May 1926. In replying to an Address of Welcome from the European Association, which was presented at Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on 15th May, H. E. the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen,—I should like to say at the outset how highly I appreciate the feelings by which you have been actuated in coming to Simla to present this address of welcome to Lady Irwin and myself. Your visit here has not only involved the inconvenience incidental to a long journey, but has also been made at a moment when climatic conditions hardly allow that journey to be comfortable. But I can assure you that I am very sensible of the advantage which it is to me to make the acquaintance of your President and the members of your Council, and thus be brought into direct touch with the aims and objects of your Association in the first months of my period of office. Your Association was I understand, founded



Address of Welcome from the European Association.

rather more than 40 years ago and up to recent times found little necessity or inducement to take any very continuous or active interest in politics. But the great changes which subsequently found expression in the reformed constitution in India led you to re-examine your methods and activities from a new angle. I can readily appreciate how weighty was the decision which rested upon your Council as to the course then to be pursued. The terms of that decision are clearly set out in the published policy of the Association and in the statement of the considerations which govern the action of your Council, and it would be superfluous for me to congratulate you on the decision or on the manner in which it has been carried out. My predecessor in December last has already paid an eloquent tribute, the fruit of his close observation during the past five years, to the part you have played in public life and in working the reforms.

It was hardly possible that, with sympathies and political ideals rooted in British traditions, you should have followed any other course. Your duty was clear; your inclinations, your past services in the development of this country, your intimate association with it, the great interests you represent, and the contribution which it was in your power to make: all these conspired to impose responsibility and to preclude indifference. It was thus inevitable that you, well versed in the spirit of representative institutions, should feel impelled to take a direct and important part when India made her first steps towards responsible Government.

Each one of us can interpret, in terms of his own experience and thought, the objects which representative institutions are designed to serve. Such institutions in turn make a direct claim upon every community and upon every individual to subordinate their own immediate interests, ambitions or prejudices to the common good.

*Address of Welcome from the European Association.*

From each and all, these times ask a contribution according to capacity. There is none so rich and powerful that he may afford to turn a deaf ear to their appeal, there is none so poor or weak that his contribution is not of value.

Behind and beyond all political or religious differences and disputes, the Government and the people of India, as I conceive the position, are partners in a great undertaking—that of fashioning the future of India with its as yet unknown reactions upon the lives of 300 millions of our fellow human beings. Some can bring gifts to the inspiration by which the whole must be illumined ; some can assist in tracing the design ; many can be at work on the intricate mosaic out of which the picture is to take shape and colour. Real progress indeed can only come through responsibilities realised and accepted, and we may feel very sure that the task is one which will be successfully accomplished only by those who approach their work with hope in their eyes and trust in their hearts. For only through the mutual understanding and confidence of the workers can the design reach completion ; and it must depend on the efforts of all those who love India and seek to do her service whether the completed picture will be worthy to adorn the temple of history.

Meanwhile, as you observe in your address, the day is drawing nearer when accomplishment will be weighed on its merits and when the Mother of Parliaments will be called on to give an impartial verdict upon the measure of achievement in a sphere in which her store of experience invests her with special qualifications to judge.

It is a source of encouragement to me that in my administration, which must be expected to cover the period in which these grave questions will claim decision, I may count upon the support of your association and



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may look forward, as occasion may demand, to receiving the benefit of your judgment and advice. I shall value this help. In conclusion, Gentlemen, let me assure you that, at the inception of my work in India, I know only the single desire of joining hands with all, whether British or Indian, official or un-official, who are striving to build the India that is to be. It is permissible to hope that by such common effort we may win the privilege of giving something to the solution of those problems on which depend the well-being and ordered progress of this country and its people.

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND DIRECTORS OF
AGRICULTURE FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

H. E. the Viceroy made the following speech in opening the Conference of Ministers and Directors of Agriculture from Provincial Governments at Simla on the 7th June :—

7th June
1926.

Gentlemen,—When Sir Muhammad Habibullah Khan made a proposal to me that I should open the proceedings of this Conference, I gladly accepted his suggestion. Before I was appointed to my present office, I was responsible as Minister of Agriculture in England for the activities of Government in this sphere. Before that again I had for many years past farmed a good deal of my own land in England, and have there learnt by sad experience to sympathise with what is often the hard lot of those who seek to direct the powerful but wayward energies of nature. I accordingly welcomed the opportunity of making the acquaintance of the Ministers of Local Governments who are responsible for agricultural policy in the Provinces and of the Directors who are concerned with the execution of the policy and the technical



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and scientific operations of the provincial agricultural departments.

It is therefore a pleasure to me to be able to meet you to-day ; and this contact I shall hope to renew when I visit the different Provinces. I shall then, I trust, have opportunities of acquiring at first-hand information of your achievements and of seeing something of the projects you have in contemplation. You can count on my constant interest in all you are doing and on my profound conviction of the importance of your work both to the Local Governments and in relation to the general prosperity of India.

Circumstances invest our meeting with a special importance. This Conference has been called to discuss certain preliminary steps connected with the forthcoming enquiry by the Royal Commission. Its aim is to concert measures by which the work of the Commission may be facilitated and to prepare a field in which the Commission on arrival in India may, without obstacles or complications, forthwith put its hand to the plough and proceed with its task. You, Gentlemen, with your special knowledge of the wide range of the enquiry and of the great complexity of the subject in India will readily realise the importance to the Commission of your discussions regarding the collection of material, the co-ordination of memoranda, bibliography, itineraries and other preparatory steps. It is essential to place at the disposal of the Committee the fruits of the expert advice of those possessing intimate experience of these subjects if the Commission is to be enabled to form an adequate conspectus of the problems with which it is to deal ; and let me add that both the Commission and my Government are greatly indebted to you for the assistance you are rendering by assembling here to confer and advise upon these questions.



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The reasons for the appointment of the Royal Commission have been very fully explained in published official papers and in public speeches made by my predecessor, Lord Reading ; and as the proposals for the enquiry received the general approval of the Local Governments, whose advisers in these matters you are, it is unnecessary for me to dwell further upon them now save to express my own satisfaction that an enquiry with such wide possibilities of benefit to India is to be held during my period of office.

There is good reason to be satisfied with what has been achieved in India in recent years in connection with the improvement of agriculture both in the spheres of central research under the Government of India and of the Provincial Governments. Nevertheless I am convinced that the right moment has come for the examination of agricultural policy in its widest bearings by an independent body of real authority. A stage in agricultural development has been reached where the reactions of the problem have become so important that they deserve investigation not only from the inside, as we see them, but from the outside and from a different line of approach.

Excluding some sporadic and intermittent work at an earlier period, almost a quarter of a century has now passed since Government first began to undertake systematic operations for the improvement of agriculture in India. These 25 years have seen the establishment and growth of scientific agriculture. During the same period there has been a remarkable expansion in irrigation facilities. A change has in this manner been brought about in the area and conditions in which the results of agricultural research can be demonstrated and applied.



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We are on the threshold of further developments in this direction. From this point of view the time is favourable to take stock of the position by examining and comparing the scientific and technical work carried out by central and provincial agencies, by testing its utility in the light of scientific work elsewhere, and above all by considering whether development on the present lines is by itself sufficient to secure progressive improvement in rural conditions, or whether it will require to be supplemented by other measures different in character or more comprehensive in scope.

There are other reasons why the improvement of Indian agriculture has become a matter of more than purely domestic interest. India now has a definite place in the markets of the world. Her position as a source of supply of cotton, jute, wheat, oilseeds and other raw products is likely in future to be increasingly important to consumers in other parts of the world; and the expansion of the quantity and the improvement of the quality of Indian agricultural produce is a matter of serious concern in the general economic structure of the world's supply of food and clothing. The development of India's agricultural potentialities has now become essential to the maintenance of her commercial position. It is vital to her financial position and to the economic welfare of her people. India has to bear in mind the possibility of organised competition from other quarters in certain lines of supply where she now meets a part of a world demand and receives a substantial income in return. Fluctuations in the bulk of her supplies or inferiority in quality as compared with supplies from elsewhere might at any moment cause her to lose a market with those disastrous repercussions on her commercial, financial and



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economic position which a contraction in exports must involve.

The most important problem of all is the welfare of the Indian agriculturist. More than 71 per cent. of the population of India are entirely dependent for their livelihood on agriculture. The population of India generally is rural rather than urban. The large town and the industrial centre is the exception. The common feature is the hamlet and the village, and it is in rural life that both in the past and present India has found her most distinct medium of self-expression. The Indian agriculturist is accordingly the foundation upon which the whole economic prosperity of India rests and upon which the structure of her social and political future must in the main be built. No system of administration could be justified which did not aim at making an improvement in his standard of life and his equipment to take a proper share in her future its first and chief concern. I recognize that the Provincial Governments in their administration have never lost sight of this ideal; but with the constitutional changes of recent years it has become increasingly evident that the rural elector is bound to play a great part in the destinies of India; and the question of fitting him to understand and exercise his responsibilities has now emerged as one of the most pressing problems of present day conditions in India. Any light which can be thrown from a new angle of view on the question of improving his position will be of the greatest service to the future of the country; and no avenue should be left unexplored which promises to lead to some new line of development, or to some hitherto unperceived potentiality of progress.

One of the most insistent of the questions for exploration is whether the economic condition of the



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peasantry has improved *pari passu* with the other great changes which have taken place in India during past years—with her entry, for example, into foreign markets, with the improvement in communications and with the rapid growth of commerce; and if the answer is in the negative, what are the causes that operate to prevent the agriculturist getting his proper share in the influx of wealth? The standard of life of the Indian peasant is the deciding factor not only of his own rate of progress but also of his contribution to the volume of the world's industrial demand, on which in a world daily growing in this sense more compact, the daily bread of so large a number of his fellow-human beings depends. If it be the case to-day that Indian agriculture can for the majority of those concerned only produce rewards at too low a subsistence level to permit of much progress in general living standards, what courses are open to us?

We can acquiesce—with good or ill grace—according to temperament in things as they are. We can seek a remedy by the reduction of numbers of those striving to live off the products of Indian soil. Each of these surely is a counsel of despair. Finally, we can change the position to India's advantage by calling upon Science to unlock her secrets, and take the most practical steps to overcome the obstacles which impede the lessons of scientific research from permeating the working practice of the cultivators.

The difficulties by which the general improvement of agriculture in India is hedged about, are so well known to you that it is unnecessary for me to dwell upon them in detail. The recurrence of cycles of deficiency in rainfall, scarcity of capital and high rates of interest, excessive fragmentation of holdings, the ravages of pests and



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disease, the absence of markets for what are profitable by-products of land in other countries and the consequent concentration on tillage and crops and the great diversity of crops grown combine to create a collection of problems for scientific investigation which are not only peculiar to India but unique in their range and complexity. It is to assist in finding the solution of those difficult questions, so vital to the well-being of the Indian agriculturist and the future of the country, that the labours of the Royal Commission will be directed. Though Nature, and human nature, are both very conservative forces, and therefore in matters where they divide the ground between them it were imprudent to anticipate immediate and spectacular results, I am yet confident that the recommendations of the Commission will prove of the greatest value to India and may indeed lead to a new era in agricultural development and give effective impetus to the promotion of rural prosperity. You, Gentlemen, are specially qualified to appreciate how heavy the task is, which lies before them, and I am confident that your discussions regarding the preliminary steps to be adopted to facilitate their work will materially contribute towards the successful issue of this important enquiry.

COMBINED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION AND THE INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY AT SIMLA.

His Excellency the Viceroy presided over the Combined Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society held at Simla and delivered the following speech :—

24th Jun
1926.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.—By virtue of his office a Viceroy has to perform many tasks. The curious

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may be inclined to speculate as to how he classifies them. I can remove all uncertainty at once as regards the performance of my duties to-day, because I class the privilege of presiding at the Combined General Meeting of the Indian Council of the St. John's Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society not among the category of tasks but in that of pleasures; for it is indeed a genuine pleasure to me to meet to-day so many of those who are connected with these two great organisations, to renew touch with the beneficent activities with which I have been familiar in other lands and under other skies and to feel that in my capacity as President I am associated with these movements regarding which no breath of controversy can exist and to which all can extend a sympathy and interest as deep and as warm as my own.

The very kind welcome which you, Your Excellency, and you, Sir Bhupendra, have extended me has in no small measure contributed to my gratification; and if I may venture to add to my obligations to you, I would ask you not only to think of me as the figure-head at your prow, but as one who is anxious by any means in his power to speed your advance on your journey, to call the time for the beat of your sweeps or to bend on an oar in your trireme. I am in complete accord with the objects of your movements and am eager actively to help to promote their successful achievements.

From the history of your recent activities I observe that the past few years have been a period of change and of test. These organisations were born out of Battle; they were proved in the stern school of war. Of their achievements in those conditions I need not speak. They are written in letters of gold on the scroll of the history of humanity. With the close of the Great War this errand of mercy came to an end; and those who had taken so noble a part might have



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elected to hang up their armour and rest content from their labours; but the great tale of human suffering in the world held out its challenge. Who was to fight the inroads of preventable disease? Who was to storm the citadels of ignorance? Who was to bring relief to those beleaguered by the forces of pain? Here was a limitless field of battle with all its tragedies and casualties and with an ever-broadening front. The challenge was thrown down and it did not pass unheeded, for in this warfare there is no armistice, and there can be no neutrality. Its appeal rang home to the chivalry of the Knights of St. John; and the mercy of the Good Samaritan of the Red Cross did not pass it by. The great choice was made; and the two organisations, unified in purpose by the traditions of war, elected to devote their sympathies and energies to one of the most formidable of the problems of peace—the relief of suffering and the prevention of disease.

The history of the last few years record their achievements in this new field. On the complexities I need not dwell at length. The task is different in kind. It is wider and more difficult in degree. The insistence of crisis has passed; the great enthusiasm, in which the tragedy of war united all classes, is no longer present as a spur. The manifest and concrete dangers that demanded instant action are out of sight, and thus while the enemy is no less numerous or insidious, the need for effort in consequence seems less intense. The results appear less immediate and less inspiring; the discouragements may seem greater; indeed to the individual worker there must at times occur the depressing thought that so vast is the field that, as far as he can judge in his own circumscribed horizon, hardly any deep impression appears to have been made on the great mass of ignorance, prejudice and inertia, and that the fringe

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only of the problem of the relief of suffering and disease has been touched.

It is in these circumstances that the valuable reports which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Sir B. N. Mitra have presented to-day and their own observations are of particular interest. Only one conclusion can be drawn from them— even by those like myself who have as yet had few opportunities for personal observation—and that is that great work is being done. We may be still some way from the ideal, expressed in the report of the Indian Red Cross Society, that the campaign may attain such a degree of intensity that these organisations should be secure of a welcome in every hearth and home throughout the country ; but both Societies have spread the good seed far and wide. They have their strongholds both in the Provinces and the States ; they number both Princes and people among their workers. They appeal to a public in every rank of society and profession. They command the esteem of the women as well as of the men. They have secured hostages for the future among the rising generation ; and above all, while they still need and deserve in every sense of the word official countenance and help, they are able to look for their main support and strength to an ever-growing band of devoted unofficial disciples and, in the work to be done, to an increasing army of volunteers.

I do not minimise the good that Government organisations such as Ministries of Health, can do in the domain of public health, sanitation and hygiene ; but I believe that their efforts must of necessity be limited in their effect unless there are some other influences of enlightenment in these directions working among the people ; and this is precisely the need that these organisations supply. They bring to bear on these problems not the cold reasoned logic of a considered policy of a Government



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but something which strikes a more intimate and compelling note, the warm enthusiasm and human advocacy of the experienced social worker.

To those, who reflect upon the great prevalence of suffering in their immediate neighbourhood, these reports bring a message of hope. They may take comfort as they watch the gradual working of the leaven in the lump—

“ For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back through creek and inlet making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.”

At this first meeting of the St. John's Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society at which I have presided, I shall not presume to make observations regarding the different branches of the work of those organisations on which Sir William Birdwood and Sir Bhupendra Mitra have dwelt in their interesting speeches; I am content to share in their satisfaction at the substantial progress achieved; but I do wish to add my meed of praise to theirs of the work of the officers of both organisations and of all those who have earned their special commendations for assisting the Indian Council of St. John's Ambulance and the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society. I also desire to express my obligations to the Provinces, to the Indian States and the railway administrations in which such full scope has been afforded to the work of these organisations. I hope soon to acquire first-hand knowledge of these activities during my tours in the Provinces and the States and to be able to speak next year with that warmth of approval which springs from direct experience of good work well performed.



CHELMSFORD CLUB DINNER.

17th July
1926.

H. E. the Viceroy dined with the members of the Chelmsford Club, Simla, on the 17th July. The Hon'ble Sir Bhupendranath Mitra proposed the Toast of His Excellency and in reply His Excellency said :—

Sir Bhupendranath, Your Excellency and Members of the Chelmsford Club,—My first duty is to thank you very warmly for inviting me to be your guest to-night. It has been the privilege of my predecessors to enjoy your hospitality on more than one occasion ; and I welcome the opportunity, which your kindness thus affords me of meeting and making some acquaintance with the members of the club and those whom they have invited, along with myself, to be their guests to-night.

I am glad to be associated with a club which provides a meeting place for Indians and Europeans, officials and non-officials, members of the legislatures and others prominent in public life in India. It is here, I understand, that, when the curtain has been rung down on the drama of the day, it is possible to see the actors in the public or official world of Simla and Delhi once more their real selves in private life. Away from the boards and the limelight they can cast care and their set parts aside and may give play instead to their own individualities, tastes and predilections. However much their public performances may have commanded our admiration or unloosed powers of criticism, we must often wonder what manner of men these actors really are or in what new relations they stand to each other when they are off the stage. It is at the Chelmsford Club, I understand, that this curiosity may be partly gratified. It is not for me to divulge its secrets ; but I feel tempted to enlarge on the opportunities it may afford, as I conjecture, for the leader of the House to smoke a friendly cigaréte with the leader of the opposition—forgetful for the moment that in public life they are expected to stand towards one another in the respective cast of the villain and hero of the piece or *vice versa* according to the taste of their supporters. Nothing in



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my view is better calculated to soften the austerities of official or public trammels than friendly intercourse in purely social relations ; and this club in facilitating and promoting such intercourse may count on my warm interest.

Sir Bhupendra has alluded with befitting discretion to some aspects of public affairs ; and I might have been tempted to dwell to-night on political topics or administrative questions now claiming attention ; but as you are aware, the Central Legislature will meet next month, and as is the custom, I hope to address both Chambers at the opening of the session upon questions of this nature, and I do not now propose to anticipate my observations on that occasion. Nevertheless there is one subject which is very vividly present to my thoughts, and which I know is exercising the minds of all thoughtful men and patriots in India. It is indeed so clearly the dominant issue in India life to-day that you will forgive me if I say something about it to you and through you to a wider audience.

As representative of the King-Emperor in India, who shares the joys and sorrows of all his people, it is my duty to interest myself directly in all that concerns India's welfare, and my personal feelings have been deeply stirred by the evidence of widespread communal trouble which impresses itself everyday on my attention. I have no over-confident presumption that it is within my power to find a sovereign remedy for these evils, but at a moment when the clouds are lying so darkly over India, a duty is laid upon each and everyone of us to join in seeking a way through the mists of present doubts and difficulties.

Before I pass on to the examination of the causes of tension and the steps that may be taken to allay it, there are two misconceptions as regards the attitude of Government upon which I must say something. The first is an implication that outbreaks of this character so far from distressing Government afford them some degree of satisfaction, and the second is that Government are content

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to play the part of an indifferent spectator of these disturbances, and are not doing their best to check them.

It is not my purpose to rebut at length the suggestion that Government welcome these disorders. It has been emphatically repudiated by the Secretary of State in a recent speech, and indeed the whole tenour of British policy towards India, proclaimed and translated into statute by the Imperial Parliament, stands in denial of such a theory. There are no doubt some who entertain mistrust of the British Government, but in other quarters I do not believe that there is any general disposition to impugn the good faith of the British Government or their desire to achieve the progressive realisation of responsible self-government in British India. There are and will be wide differences of opinion as to method and pace, but the great mass of sober Indian opinion still know and believe that they can trust the pledged word of the British people. The most superficial analysis of this policy can lead to no other conclusion than that the British Government recognised from the outset that harmony between the two great communities was an essential condition of the attainment of their goal. And by harmony I do not mean the surrender by either community of its individuality. But I do mean the harmonious intercourse of daily life and the mutual acknowledgment of common rights and duties in all that goes to make up Indian citizenship. Nor was the recognition of the necessity of such harmony confined to British statesmen, for leaders of Indian opinion have again and again confessed by deed and word their belief that it was a primary necessity of Indian national life.

With this knowledge, the Reforms were introduced, and in the course of their working I am certain that to any impartial enquiry every action of Government would be seen to disapprove the charge that they have been indifferent to the need for friendly relations between these two



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great communities. For the success of our own policy, for the very credit of British statesmanship, we were bound to do and we have done everything in our power to promote such better understanding. If indeed the reality of communal antagonism should prove permanently more powerful than the hope of an All-India patriotism, it is obvious that the foundations upon which we had sought to build would be rudely shaken.

But India has given abundant proof of her power to assimilate her multitudinous people. Shall she fail in this final task? In the evolution of political institutions, the British genius has never yet met defeat. Shall it be forced to admit defeat in India? It is to me unthinkable. I look forward to the day when India may be able through ordered progress to take her rightful place in the great fabric of civilisation for which the British Empire stands. She can only do this, upon the same basis of responsible institutions on which British statesmanship has founded all the other dominions of the King-Emperor, if she can win unity within her own borders; and from this point of view, and indeed on every other ground, we must bitterly deplore these manifestations of communal hostility.

As regards the second point that Government regards these troubles with indifference, it is hardly necessary for me to contradict something which is in palpable conflict with the facts of everyday life as they are known by millions throughout the length and breadth of India. It will suffice to observe that I and my Government are in continuous and anxious communication with the Governors and Local Governments with reference to the measures that have been or are being taken to assuage feeling upon such matters as threaten, when tempers are strained, to cause disturbance. To this end the Local Governments have organised the whole machinery of their District

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Officers, Magistrates and Police. This agency exercises a constant watchfulness and is ever alert to remove or allay any causes of irritation and to take prompt action against those who would aggravate or fan them into flame. The local officers have never shirked the responsibility of firm but impartial intervention wherever an actual clash between communities has occurred. Communal feeling has added a constant load of care to their normal duties ; but it is these officers who have everywhere taken the initiative in measures to calm excited feelings. It is to them that both communities appeal, in need, for protection and help. Their energy and patience has been worthy of all praise ; and I cannot speak too highly of their arduous and devoted work or of the efforts of local non-officials where, as in many instances, the latter have assisted them in these thankless duties. More particularly I desire to draw attention to the work of the Indian Members of our Services. However upright, energetic or impartial they may be in these exacting circumstances, they run a risk of being blamed by their own or the other community ; and that they do their duty by both communities is a matter of the highest credit to them. In all justice I plead, before criticism is levelled against them, for special consideration of their difficulties. The district officers are everywhere seeking the co-operation of local leaders and men of influence. They warn the press of the danger of emphasising points of communal difference and where possible hold meetings of both communities to prevent incidents likely to cause trouble.

I would indeed hope that in regard to these unhappy differences, those who are able to speak for Hindus and Moslems might, as they must come more and more to realise the damage of conflict, be able themselves to reach working agreements which will no doubt vary in conformity with established local customs. Where voluntary



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agreements are not possible, it becomes the duty of Local Governments, in virtue of their responsibility for the preservation of law and order, themselves to formulate an administrative decision upon the matter in dispute. My Government will do everything in their power to assist Local Governments in the discharge of this duty, having regard to the possible reaction of local decisions upon other Provinces—and will render every assistance to Local Governments in order to secure that their orders shall be respected. In all these various measures, Government will be careful to act with strict impartiality towards both communities, and are entitled to resent suggestions that they favour the purely communal interests of either.

There is then no room for doubt as to what Government and its officers have done and are ready to do in connection with these deplorable events ; but let me remind you that unfortunately the actual conditions place unsurmountable limitations on the sphere of their activity. They can watch ; they can advise ; they can damp down ardour as it shows itself in different places ; they can stamp out isolated outbreaks of fire ; they can protect life and property to the best of their ability ; but they can do little to change the combustible nature of the mass of the material or to eradicate its potentialities for generating destructive heat.

There are immediate symptoms which can be perceived and treated by administrative action ; but the cause of the disease lies deeper. We are faced with a situation where the minds of the people have been wrought up to such a point that the most absurd rumours find ready credence ; and both sides, nervously apprehending attack, imagine their apprehensions realised in the most trifling incident. A false report, a petty squabble is sufficient to start a general conflagration and to give rise to those savage and senseless outbreaks which are a disgrace to the name of religion and a blot on national life.

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I have observed that in some quarters blame has been attached to communal representation, as being a cause of irritation. Some advantage may be gained by a statement as to the reasons for its existence and the present policy of Government in regard to it. The time may come, and I greatly hope it will, when with general consent the necessity for such special representation will be no longer felt, but to-day as you are aware, statutory arrangements are in force by which minorities are assured of representation in the Legislatures and certain local Bodies. The decision with regard to the latter belongs by law to Local Governments, and falls within the sphere of Transferred Administration, with which the Government of India has no direct power to deal. As regards the Legislatures, these arrangements were the result of a compact to which Indian opinion at the time of the introduction of the reforms desired effect to be given. The Franchise Committee found that the evidence received by them was unanimous in favour of communal electorates and recommended that action should be taken in accordance with the commonly expressed desire. All communities were thus enabled—and indeed the action could hardly be justified on any other grounds—freely to take part together in fashioning India's destiny and opportunity was ensured by which no community should at the outset be impeded in making a joint contribution to a common task. It has been suggested that Government may be induced by pressure from one side or the other to modify or extend these special privileges, and that these hopes or fears are in part responsible for the present discontents. These things will naturally fall within the purview of the Royal Commission, and it is not for me to attempt to anticipate any recommendations they may make ; but I wish to state very plainly on behalf of the Government of India that, in advance of that enquiry, while there is no intention of entailing the present scope of these special statutory arrangements, there is equally no intention of extending them.



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I have anxiously weighed the possibilities of myself convening an All-India Conference to consider the present situation. If I could think that there was a real likelihood or even a real chance of such action effecting improvement, I should not be deterred from adopting it by the inevitable risk of failure. I trust that as time goes on there will be a mutual disposition among those who can speak for their great communities to adopt such bilateral undertakings in the cause of peace as will reflect the wishes of a substantial majority of opinion in both communities.

There is much to be done before we can reach this happier state, for I need hardly remind you that a Conference with this object was held between the leaders of both communities in October 1924, and this Conference has not succeeded in producing the calmer atmosphere which was hoped of it. It failed in my judgment because it was not preceded by any adequate change of heart and feeling throughout the communities which were there represented. I cannot resist the conclusion that the reason of its failure reveals what must be the first condition of success in any similar attempt. And that is that the two communities should bring themselves to judge of the matters in dispute between them with a far greater measure of toleration and restraint than unhappily prevails at present. The more I ponder over the problem, the more clearly do I feel that the first work to be done is by the leaders of each individual community within their own ranks. It is upon them that the grave responsibility for the first vital step lies. I am convinced that on reflection they will see that the interests of their own community and the future of their country alike demand it. Let the leaders and thoughtful men in each community, the Hindu among the Hindus, and Moslem among the Moslems, throw themselves with ardour into a new form of communal work and into a nobler struggle the fight for toleration. I do

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not believe that the task is beyond their powers. I see before me two ancient and highly organised societies with able and esteemed public men as their recognised leaders. I cannot conceive that a really sincere and sustained appeal by them to the rank and file of their co-religionists supported by active propaganda of the new gospel of peace would pass unheeded. In past centuries each community has made its great contribution to the annals of history and civilisation in India. The place that she has filled in the world in past ages has been largely of their creating. I refuse to believe that they can make no contribution now to rescue the good name of India from the hurt which their present discords inflict upon it.

In the name of Indian national life, in the name of religion, I appeal to all in each of the two communities who hold position, who represent them in the press, who direct the education of the young, who possess influence, who command the esteem of their co-religionists, who lead them in politics or are honoured by them as divines. Let them begin each in their own community to work untiringly towards this end; boldly to repudiate feelings of hatred and intolerance, actively to condemn and suppress acts of violence and aggression, earnestly to strive to exorcise suspicions and misapprehensions and so to create a new atmosphere of trust.

I appeal in the name of national life because communal tension is eating into it as a canker. It has suspended its activities. It has ranged its component parts into opposite and hostile camps.

I appeal in the name of religion because I can appeal to nothing nobler, and because religion is the language of the soul, and it is a change of soul that India needs to-day. In all religion, I suppose, there must be present in the mind of the individual a sense of personal deficiency, a consciousness of failure to apprehend more than



Address presented by the Agriculturists of the Central Provinces and Berar at Nagpur.

a fraction of life's mystery, which constantly impels him, with irresistible yearning, to reach out for higher and yet higher things. Whatever indeed be the creed that men profess, such creed is the attempt men make to know the Forces that lie beyond human vision, and learn the secret of how human nature may be refined, and in so doing realise the ultimate purpose of their existence. Achievement is hard and can only come through much patience and humility, which will in turn beget a wide tolerance of the deficiencies of others. But the reward is great, and there can surely be no greater tragedy than that religion, which thus should be the expression and the support of man's highest instincts, should be prostituted by an alliance with actions through which those instincts are distorted and disgraced.

Such a development, if it were unchecked, could only end in the infliction of a mortal wound upon human character, upon India, and upon the cause of that religion in whose guise it was allowed to masquerade.

ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE AGRICULTURISTS OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR AT NAGPUR.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Irwin accompanied by their Personal Staff left Simla on the 18th July on a brief monsoon Tour. In reply to the address presented by the Agriculturists of the Central Provinces and Berar at Nagpur His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

22nd July
1926.

Gentlemen,—It is a great pleasure to me to meet to-day so many representatives of the great land-owning classes in the Central Provinces and Berar, and I think myself fortunate in being able, so soon after my assumption of the duties of Viceroy, to be able to make your acquaintance and to hear, at first hand, something of your problems and your needs. Agriculture, as you have said,



Address presented by the Agriculturists of the Central Provinces and Berar at Nagpur.

is a subject in which I have always taken a keen and personal interest. I know from experience its pleasures and its trials, its rewards and its disappointments, and I can assure you that my thoughts are constantly with the many millions in India who, like yourself, anxiously scan the skies and have cause to know and often to fear the fickle qualities of Nature. But none the less, though Nature is often inconstant, and sometimes cruel, to those who are born and bred in it the country-side makes an irresistible appeal. Thinkers of all nations and all ages, poets and philosophers, have sung the praises of the country life as the parent of the most perfect harmony between the physical and spiritual qualities of man. Although, in the nature of things, the voice of the Agriculturist classes is not heard as often or perhaps as loudly as that of dwellers in the towns, you may console yourselves with the thought that it is the country population which is the backbone of any nation, and the foundation of its true prosperity. You may feel therefore well-assured that I shall always listen with a ready and understanding ear to any representation which the agricultural community may make.

I am talking to-day as a farmer to farmers. I know that all of you are men who have interested yourselves, as I have, in modern agriculture and who have practical experience of your profession. You may be certain therefore that I will give my most sympathetic consideration to the various questions you have raised in your interesting address. They are already receiving the attention of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar, and many of them in due course will come under careful review at the hands of the forthcoming Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture, which, I am confident, will pursue its labours with energy and dispatch.



Address presented by the Agriculturists of the Central Provinces and Berar at Nagpur.

Your Province, as you have said, has an especial interest from the agricultural point of view. It is the meeting point of three of the great crops of India, Wheat, Rice and Cotton. Its methods of cultivation, moreover, vary from those of primitive struggle with nature to the scientific organisation of extensive holdings owned by men of education and means. It is for you, who are present here to-day, to set the example of progress to your less fortunate fellows. Progress in these days is impossible without the close co-operation of science and the spread of education throughout the land-owning classes. The scientific selection of seed, improved machinery and methods of cultivation, fungicides, the restoration to the soil of chemical elements in which it is deficient—these are a few of the many ways in which scientific experiment plays its part in agriculture. Your Government have shown that they are fully alive to this important question. The recent affiliation of the Agricultural College to the University is proof of this. You have moreover demonstration farms, and I am glad to learn that many public-spirited land-owners have for long been associated with the Agricultural Department in making these a success. Much has been done, but there is still more for you to do. In agricultural advance there are always two partners, whose help is mutually essential to the successful discharge of their common task. The man of science pursues his careful and labourious research ; he tests out his theories and reaches at last the point where he can show secure discoveries. But his work is incomplete until he has succeeded in transfusing his hard-won knowledge into the working practice of the actual cultivator. The problem is everywhere the same ; namely, how to marry scientific results to practical experience. And here, it is certain that men learn most readily through the eye, and that most of us are often prepared to trust if we see, where we might mistrust if we only read or hear.

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and Berar at Nagpur.*

Cultivators who see with their own eyes the proved results of new seed, or new methods, will become at once converts to, and missionaries of, the new ideas. I hope therefore that your Agricultural Associations and Co-operative Unions will help to translate into practice the experimental results which scientific enquiry has achieved, and I appeal confidently to you all as practical farmers to continue the close association you have always had with the Agricultural Department. I have learnt with pleasure that in order to encourage such collaboration your Government is at this moment earnestly considering the need for infusing fresh vigour into the co-operative movement.

You have referred in your address to the great increase in cultivated area during recent years and the consequent diminution of grazing lands. Your Government is, I know, fully alive to the necessity for improving the breed of your cattle, both plough bullocks and milk cows, and I shall watch with interest the result of their endeavours. But I need hardly remind you of the service you are doing to your country by increasing the produce of your land. India to-day requires to import many things which she requires for the comfort of her people and the further development of her industries. For these she has to pay by her exports to the markets of the world, and therefore in increasing the quantity and improving the quality of your produce it is good to remember that there is patriotism to your great country as well as profit to yourselves.

But although in these days no country can find all she wants at home and must export her own produce in order to obtain what she requires from abroad, there is ample room in India for developing the manufacture of her raw materials into the finished product. India exports much raw produce which might well be dealt with



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in Indian mills and Indian factories, and I shall always sympathise with any practical schemes which aim at completing the whole chain of manufacture, from the sowing of the seed to the last touch of the finishing machine, and thus secure for Indian hands the full reward of productive enterprise.

I have heard with great pleasure your testimony to the good work done by your Agricultural Department. Your Province has been fortunate in having had, as one of its pioneer workers, Dr. Clouston, who is now Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India and is at present serving as liaison officer between the Government of India, Local Governments, and the Royal Commission on Agriculture. His presence there is a guarantee that your problems will receive informed attention at their hands. You have also in your Agricultural College an exceptionally well-qualified staff, while in Mr. Plymen, as Head of the Department, and Mr. Allan, who is now officiating for him, you have two men who will not fail to do everything they can to assist your interests.

In bidding you now good-bye, Gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for your friendly welcome. I look forward to making in due time a closer acquaintance with the conditions of your every-day life, and I repeat my assurance to you that your prosperity, and that of your brother agriculturists, is of as great concern to me as it is to yourselves.

**LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AT NAGPUR.**

In performing the ceremony of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the New College of Science at Nagpur H. E. the Viceroy said :—

24th July
1926.

Gentlemen,—I wish first to assure you of the pleasure I feel in coming here at your invitation to lay the foundation stone of this College of Science. I am grateful for

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Nagpur.*

the opportunity of expressing my warm interest in the scheme itself and my admiration for those who have laboured to make it a success. I must also thank Mr. Tambe for the cordiality with which he has welcomed me in the address to which we have just listened. His reference to my grandfather touched me deeply, and it is special gratification to me to be associated, as I am to-day, with the cause of Indian Education, which he had so much at heart. I thank you also for your welcome to Lady Irwin who, I can assure you, joins with me in wishing that every blessing may rest upon this College.

I was greatly interested in listening to the Hon'ble Mr. Tambe's story of the sound and steady progress by which, from modest beginnings, such great results have been achieved. Particularly was I struck by his account of the part which has been played by private endeavour and by the generosity and support of the people themselves. I hope and believe that this spirit will continue to infuse life and vigour into this institution, and I prize the opportunity of being connected so intimately with this further step in its development.

The importance of Science in modern life, in industries, in agriculture and in every department that affects the public weal, has become a commonplace. Scientific enquiry will take its part—an increasing and vital part—in the great future which lies before this country.

India was slower than many Western countries to recognise this truth and to give science its proper place in her schools and colleges. For this there were obvious reasons. The traditions of education in India have been largely literary and philosophic; the poet and the mystic breathe a different atmosphere from that expressed by



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test tubes and scientific formulæ. Moreover the careers generally sought by students were the legal profession or clerical and administrative appointments under Government and to these men science made no great appeal. The heavy cost of well-equipped laboratories was another difficulty. But if Science lagged behind in the early march of education, she is advancing with no uncertain stride to-day. The increase in the number of students of science even during the last four or five years has been remarkable, and the annual meetings of the Indian Science Congress have been growing rapidly in size and importance.

I am glad to see that this Province is taking its share in this great advance, and that in doing so it is proceeding on such wise and sound lines. For although the study of science has its own high ideals of exactitude and close reasoning, it has much to receive from, as well as to give to, the students of history, philosophy and literature. It is by the contact of different types of mind, of diverse lines of enquiry, that the spark of true knowledge may be struck. I see that this thought has not been absent from the minds of those responsible for the design of this University. Here will be the cross-roads of learning where science will advance, hand in hand with the humane studies, in the common search of truth. The search is no easy one ; whatever be the road along which man may seek the goal, it is certain often to be rough and difficult. Yet those who steadfastly pursue this quest are able to rejoice in a boundless, and always expanding, liberty. They are pioneers in a country that knows no bounds, not like explorers of the earth's surface where every fresh discovery reduces the range of mystery-lands, but as travellers in a wider universe, the universe of spirit and intellect, where each new conquest



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widens the horizon of undiscovered knowledge that we scan.

This enclave of University buildings, when it is completed, will be the realisation of a dream which your venerable Vice-Chancellor, Sir Bipin Bose, has dreamed for many years. You are indeed fortunate in having such a benefactor, so old in wisdom, so young in heart and vigour. I trust that he will long retain his youthfulness and be spared to see the full fruition of his labours and ceaseless interest. I have heard with much pleasure the Hon'ble Mr. Tambe's testimony to the devotion of the staff and the keenness of the students of the College of Science. You owe much, I know, to the zeal with which your Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Jones, has fostered the present scheme and to the technical engineering knowledge which Mr. Baker has lavished upon it. Of Mr. Beckett's long and valuable association with the College it is not necessary for me to speak. It has been with untiring faith that he and your acting Principal, Mr. Owen, have served the College and brought it triumphant through anxious times. It is, too, a matter of which the College may well be proud that so many of its present teachers are its former pupils. I trust that of the students who are listening to me to-day many will also be ready in due time, like runners in the ancient race, to hand on the torch to their successors.

Gentlemen, as you watch this stone being laid in its place to-day, I would ask you to remember that the fabric which is to rise from it will stand for the opportunity of bringing precious knowledge to those of your children, and your children's children, who will be attracted within its walls, and that on successive generations will be laid the high duty of keeping its name untarnished and its honour bright.



ADDRESS FROM THE POONA SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITY.

In reply to the address from the Poona Suburban Municipality presented at the Poona Station on the 28th July H. E. the Viceroy said :—

28th July
1926.

Gentlemen,—In thanking you very warmly on behalf of Lady Irwin and myself for the cordial address of welcome you have extended to us on our arrival in Poona and for the basket in which it is enclosed, I would ask you to believe that I employ no empty words of convention. As the representative of the King-Emperor, I do not tour the different parts of India for the mere purpose of seeing the sights and scenes of interest, natural and historic, in which India is so rich. Rather I come to win some first-hand acquaintance with the problems of daily life as they fall to be met by the man in the street and by the agriculturist in the field, and to appreciate for myself, as far as I may, the conditions in which they live. In a word, as I think of the three hundred million people for whose destinies it is the duty of whoever fills my office to care, I want to picture them not as impersonal units, but as real living beings, each of whom has a personality and individual life of his or her own and with each of whom I have common human interests. The kind words of your welcoming address to-day have struck a personal note which, with these thoughts in my mind, have given me great pleasure. Through you I feel that even at the moment of my arrival I have made contact with the inhabitants of the Municipality which you represent, and this happy introduction leads me to hope that, brief as my stay in your midst will be, I shall leave having gained a little more understanding of your needs and aspirations.

You have spoken with modest brevity of your labours, but you have said enough to show that despite the past achievements of your Municipality you are not content to rest on the laurels which the past has brought. On