



His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures.

perhaps possible, for me to give a positive or assured answer to these reflections. In matters of this kind, each man must search his own heart and answer for himself whether he does in truth and without reserve desire to play his part as an apostle of peace, and whether those associated with him are like-minded. But this I can say. If it were represented to me by the responsible leaders of the great communities that they thought a useful purpose might be served by my convening a conference myself with the object of frankly facing the causes of these miserable differences, and then in a spirit of determined good-will considering whether any practical solution or mitigation of them could be found, I should welcome it as evidence of a firm resolve to leave no way unsearched that might disclose means of rescuing India from her present unhappy state. And, if these representations were made by those who occupy such a position in their communities as to permit me to assume that the communities would accept and abide by any decisions at which they might arrive on their behalf, then, allying myself with them and such other leaders of public thought as might be willing to assist, I should gladly and cordially throw my whole energies into this honourable quest.

I have been told that any such efforts are foredoomed to failure, and that all we might accomplish would be to contribute a few more barren pages to the story of unprofitable discussions. I do not underestimate the difficulties ; I do not minimise the risk of failure. But difficulties are meant to be surmounted, and outward success or failure is not the sole or the final test of conduct in this sphere. After all, many of the greatest ventures in human history have sprung from what the world deemed failures. At any given time the evil forces of life may be so strong that the efforts we can make against them appear unavailing. Yet to allow this thought to drive us into a posture of feeble acquiescence in something



His Excellency the Viceroy's Address to the Combined Legislatures against which our whole moral sense rebels, and into losing our will for better things, this surely would be deliberately to turn our back upon everything that makes life worth living.

There is an epitaph in a small country churchyard of England upon an English country gentleman, whose lot had been cast in those unhappy days of English history, when England too was torn by religious strife. It runs as follows :—

“ In the year 1643, when all things sacred were either demolished or profaned, this Church was built by Sir Francis Shirley, Baronet, whose singular praise it is to have done the best things in the worst times, and to have hoped them in the most calamitous.”

I doubt whether higher testimony could be paid to any man, or more concise expression given to the forces by which this world is moved.

There must surely have been times during these latter months when Indian patriots, gazing upon their motherland, bruised by this internecine and senseless struggle, must have been hard put to it to maintain their faith in India's destiny untarnished, and when many must have been even tempted to hate the very name of religion, which ought to be man's greatest solace and reward. Yet may it not be that the purpose of these trials has been to test the calibre of our faith, and that some day, when the testing time is past, those, who with trust in their hearts, and hope in their eyes, have striven unceasingly to spread kindly feeling among their fellowmen, will reap for India a reward that will repay tenfold the bitter cost at which it has been purchased ?

You will forgive me, Gentlemen, for speaking in a strain that may seem to some to accord ill with the hard facts of life and the common atmosphere of politics. But



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I believe—and I think India believes—in the power of spiritual forces to assert themselves over their material expression by which they may often be betrayed. And it is because of this belief that is hers and mine that I have ventured once more to trace out the only path along which India can lead her peoples to take their appropriate part in the fulfilment of the ordered purpose for humanity.

A DEPUTATION OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE HEADED BY SIR PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS WAITED UPON THE VICEROY ON THE MORNING OF THE 17TH SEPTEMBER, AT VICEREGAL LODGE TO REPRESENT THE POSITION OF INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA.

17th September 1927. His Excellency, after hearing the deputation, made the following reply :—

Gentlemen,—I am very glad to have this opportunity of meeting such a representative and distinguished deputation upon a matter of such widespread interest and concern to the Indian people. The depth of that interest and feeling my Government fully recognise.

It is a subject on which, as past events have frequently shown, there is no difference of principle between official and non-official, and in regard to which we can all work closely together in the task of safeguarding the honour and well-being of Indian communities which have settled in other parts of the Empire. I have as you have observed particular and personal reasons for attachment to the tradition of active sympathy towards legitimate Indian aspirations in overseas affairs, which I have inherited from my predecessors. I first became connected with the affairs of Indians in Kenya when I was at the Colonial Office, and when after very long deliberations it fell to me to take



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official part in the agreement with which my name and the name of my friend—Lord Winterton—are associated, and to which you have kindly referred to-day. I was subsequently a Member of the Cabinet that approved the White Paper of 1923, and I think therefore that I may claim a certain measure of familiarity with these questions. I would only say that the object which throughout all these recent years I, in conjunction with my then colleagues, have consistently sought to pursue has been the promotion of the true interests of Imperial solidarity, and that you may rely on me always to give the best service that I can to the maintenance of friendly relations between India and the other parts of the British Commonwealth, of which she is an integral part.

You have referred in your address to feelings of apprehension that have been aroused by the decision of His Majesty's Government to appoint a Commission to investigate and report on certain aspects of future policy in regard to Eastern Africa. You have also stated that your misgivings have been intensified by a speech delivered by Sir Edward Grigg, in which he is reported to have stated that His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies had accepted the recommendations of the Feetham Commission on Local Government in Kenya, and in which he foreshadowed a change in the constitution of the Legislature, giving an elected majority.

I will deal first with the Commission which His Majesty's Government have decided to appoint to enquire and report on the future administration of the East African territories. It is not necessary for me, I think, to traverse fully the ground which was ably covered only the other day by Sir Md. Habibullah in debate. As you will have observed from the terms of reference, the Commission is to investigate and report, among other matters, on the

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possibility of associating more closely in the responsibilities and trusteeship of Government the immigrant communities domiciled in the country. This appears to be the only important respect in which the policy enunciated in the Command Paper of July 1927 differs from the White Paper entitled "Indians in Kenya", which was issued in 1923. The Command Paper of July 1927, from which I have quoted, specifically refers to the claim of the immigrant communities to share in the responsibilities and trusteeship of Government. It seems a legitimate inference from this wording that the claims of Indians, who constitute an important section of these communities, to such association will be investigated by the Commission.

You have also urged that the change of policy embodied in this White Paper appears radically to challenge the declaration made in the White Paper entitled "Indians in Kenya", issued in 1923, that His Majesty's Government regarded the grant of responsible self-Government in Kenya as out of the question within any period of time that needed then to be taken into consideration. The recent White Paper does not appear to me to contemplate such a step, at least in the near future, and I observe that the Secretary of State for the Colonies speaking in the House of Commons on July 19th expressly said that the question of responsible self-Government was not implied in this White Paper any more than it was implied in the White Paper of 1923.

It will be perhaps convenient if, before I pass on to the reported announcement of His Excellency Sir Edward Grigg, I deal with the three constructive suggestions which you have made in regard to the Commission.

Your first suggestion is for adequate representation on the Commission. As soon as the Government of India were informed of the intentions of His Majesty's Govern-



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ment to appoint the Commission, representations were made for the inclusion in it of some one conversant with Indian conditions. In the same speech to which I have alluded the Secretary of State for the Colonies announced that the Secretary of State for India would be asked to nominate one member of the Commission. On the 18th August, in the course of the debate on the adjournment motion moved in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. K. C. Roy, the unofficial members strongly expressed the view that there should be adequate representation of Indians on the Commission, and Sir Muhammad Habibullah promised to forward a summary of the proceedings to His Majesty's Secretary of State. This has been done. The Government of India fully appreciate the general view of the people of this country that Indian interests should be represented by Indians, and do their best to give effect to it. At the same time, of course, the decision on the question of composition of the Commission must rest with His Majesty's Government, who are in the best position to consider the various factors by which their choice of the *personnel* must be determined, and who are not unmindful of the vital Indian interests involved.

Your second suggestion that a small deputation should be sent by my Government to East Africa, in order to assist the Indians there in the preparation of their case, has already been engaging the attention of my Government.

Your third suggestion, that, before His Majesty's Government come to any decision on the report of the Commission, the Government of India should be allowed to make representations on points affecting India through a Committee appointed by them, had not so far been considered by us. My Government were primarily occupied with the

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question of steps which, in their opinion, were immediately necessary to safeguard Indian interests, and it is possible that it might be wiser as regards this particular proposal to await the Commission's findings before deciding upon any subsequent action which it might then be wise to take. I can assure you however that what you have said on this point will receive careful and sympathetic consideration.

Let me now refer briefly to the speech which His Excellency the Governor of Kenya is reported to have made recently on his return to the Colony. As you observe, the position regarding both the points alleged to have been touched on in the report, *viz.*, the decision of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on the Feetham Report, and the possibility of the introduction of an elective majority in the Legislative Council of the Colony, is obscure. As soon as we saw Reuter's summary of the speech, we telegraphed for the official text of the speech, and for a summary of the recommendations of the Feetham Commission to be cabled to us, but we have not yet received a reply to our telegram. You will, therefore, understand that it is not possible for me to say at this stage what action, if any, my Government may feel it appropriate to take. You may, however, rest fully satisfied that my Government and I are under no misapprehension as to the importance to the Indian community in Kenya both of adequate representation on local bodies and of the character and composition of the majority in the Colonial Legislative Council ; and that, if and as circumstances require it, we shall do everything in our power to secure adequate protection for legitimate Indian interests.

I think I have dealt, so far as I am able, with all the points which the deputation has included in their statement. Before I conclude there is one observation of a



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more general character which it is perhaps worth while to make.

I cannot help feeling that it is hardly in the nature of things that these questions in East Africa should be unaffected by the recent developments in the relations of India with South Africa, due to the work done by our deputation there under the able leadership of Sir Md. Habibullah, the impression created by the personality, character and labours of Mr. Sastri, and last but by no means least the untiring efforts of Mr. Andrews, whose inclusion in your number on this occasion I warmly welcome. The spirit of South Africa will not, I most earnestly trust, be without its influence outside and beyond the territories of the Union. And therefore, though we are rightly anxious about any changes that may adversely affect the position of Indians overseas, it is surely also right that we should remember that the atmosphere in which these problems fall to be considered to-day is different to, and I think more favourable than, that which perhaps prevailed even a few years ago. For my own part, I see no reason to doubt that with patience and good will on both sides we shall succeed in bringing to gradual solution these questions, on which so much depends, not only for India and Great Britain, or even the British Empire, but for all humanity.

I think that is all that I can usefully say at this juncture beyond repeating that it has given me great pleasure to have received you, and I sincerely hope that, if assurance is needed, what I have said will leave you in no doubt that the subject which has brought you here to-day is one on which the Government of India feel not less deeply than yourselves, and that they are both anxious and determined to leave nothing undone which it is in their power



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to do to uphold the status and honour of the Indian communities in the territories comprehensively described as Eastern Africa.

OPENING OF THE FEROZEPORE HEADWORKS.

25th October
1927.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the opening of the Ferozepore Headworks of the Sutlej Valley Project, on the 25th October :—

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen.—It was a great disappointment to me that I was unable to accept His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey's invitation last year to perform the opening ceremony of the headworks at Suleimanke. The wonders of Indian irrigation—especially perhaps Punjab irrigation—are so deservedly famous throughout the world that I was keenly looking forward both to seeing one of your latest engineering triumphs, and to identifying myself with another great step in the development of this Province. Since then I have had the opportunity of visiting Suleimanke and many other great irrigation works in British India and in Indian States, and the more that I have seen the more have I come to appreciate the inestimable value of the work, which Irrigation Officers in various parts of India have performed in the past and are performing every day. It is therefore with the keenest pleasure that I find myself here to-day to open the second completed headworks of the Sutlej Valley project. In the next three days I hope to perform two other functions connected with the inauguration of this scheme, and I think myself fortunate to be able thus to gain so full a picture of the main outlines of this great system.

The history of the growth of perennial canal irrigation in India is indeed an enthralling story. We have travelled



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far from the old indigenous systems, from Feroz Shah's 14th century canal which led water to his hunting box in Hissar, from the old Jumna system which included a branch to give water to the Imperial gardens and palace fountains at Delhi. The Khanwah of the Upper Sutlej Canals has itself a long history. It is recorded that it was improved by Mirza Khan, a minister of the Emperor Akbar, and again was retrieved from neglect in the time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

From origins such as these the great development of perennial irrigation in India has had its rise. Since the construction of the great classic irrigation works—the Ganges Canal, the Upper Bari Doab Canal, and the Godaveri Delta system—there has been no pause in the activity of extension or in the improvements in methods of design and construction. Much of the credit is due to the wise policy of Government in the past ; but even more is owed to the devotion and the skill of a succession of engineers, to the advice of generations of revenue officers, and to the co-operation of Indians in the execution and development of the great projects. It has been the history of a great partnership for a noble and wholly beneficent purpose, and I would like to take this opportunity of paying my tribute, Sir Malcolm, to your officers of the Punjab Irrigation Department, on whose skill and devoted services the present material prosperity of the Province has been so largely based. At this moment particularly I am thinking of the debt we owe to you, Mr. Hadow, to your predecessor Mr. Foy, to Mr. Ives, to Mr. Burkitt and all those others to whom you have just made reference in your speech. To Mr. H. W. Nicholson too we are indebted for many years of valuable work and I am very glad to be able to congratulate him on receiving the decoration of Companion of the Indian Empire which the King has to-day been pleased to confer upon him.

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There are three other names which I wish to associate myself with Mr. Hadow in bringing to your notice for the excellent work they have done :—Lala Daya Krishna Khanna, Lala Amar Nath and Lala Jai Gopal Chopra. It gives me great pleasure to be able to announce that in recognition of their services the title of " Rai Sahib " has to-day been conferred on these three gentlemen.

The full fruits of irrigation could not, however, have been gathered without the wholehearted participation of the land-owners and cultivators ; and to the sturdy peasantry belongs no small part of the credit for the success which the great irrigation schemes in the Punjab have achieved. They have cleared and levelled lands ; they have dug water-courses ; they have brought barren acres under the plough. They have helped both in the construction and maintenance of channels ; they distribute the water among themselves after it issues from the village outlets. They have been quick to introduce and adopt improved classes of crops, and to help in seed selection and distribution. It has been a great association of officials and non-officials, of British and Indians, in a work in which all alike can take just pride.

To-day perennial canals in India irrigate every year nearly 30 million acres—an area some three times the size of Denmark—and the total length of the channels and distributaries which bring the life-giving waters to these lands would more than girdle the earth twice over. To this achievement the Punjab has made a wonderful contribution. More than a third of the irrigated area lies within the bounds of this Province, and, in addition to possessing some of the largest and most interesting works from the technical point of view, it is to the Punjab that the credit belongs of some of the most striking features in canal development.

*Opening of the Gang Canal, Bikaner.*

It is now my pleasant duty, Gentlemen, to inaugurate the opening of the works we see before us. Mr. Hadow has said that they aspire to no architectural beauty. I am not so sure. In man's handiwork, as in nature, beauty and strength are often one. The clean vigour and classic outline of a structure such as this lend a grandeur to the river which it could not boast before, and are an omen that this work will endure for many years to spread its beneficent influence over the face of the country it commands. Let us rejoice to see the vagrant waters of the ancient Satadru—the "river of a thousand streams"—forced into a well-behaved and orderly course, to see them sent stealing into the heart of the immemorial desert, bringing fresh youth to withered soil and fresh hope to hearts which had never dreamt of streams of water such as these.

OPENING OF THE GANG CANAL, BIKANER.

In opening the Gang Canal at Bikaner on the 26th October 26th October
His Excellency the Viceroy said :— 1927.

Your Highness, Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I owe Your Highness a debt of gratitude for having invited me to perform this historic ceremony to-day, and I must further thank you, on Lady Irwin's behalf and on my own, for the very cordial manner in which you have just welcomed us to your State. I know that I speak for every member of this great gathering here to-day when I say that we are deeply grateful for all the trouble you have taken to enable so large a company to attend this memorable occasion. Your Highness has, I have no doubt, long dreamt of this day, and of all that it means to thousands of your subjects. And so to us it is a real happiness to be able through your kindness to share in

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those glad feelings, which come when hope wins fulfilment, and achievement comes at last to crown the long period of effort and anxiety. I am indeed glad to think that this canal, which is destined to bring such inestimable benefits to Bikaner, should bear Your Highness' name and thus be a memorial, for generations yet to come, of a ruler to whose foresight, enthusiasm, and devotion to the progress of his State, they will surely owe so much.

Yesterday I had the good fortune to perform the opening ceremony of the headworks at Ferozepore to which this canal traces its source. We now stand 85 miles, as the water flows, from that spot, and find the streams of the Sutlej guided safely by an infinity of skill and labour to the borders of Bikaner. As Your Highness has just pointed out, special efforts have been made that none should be lost by the way, and I trust that the extensive concrete lining, which constitutes a unique feature of this canal, may be found completely to serve its purpose, and assure you a steady and adequate flow of water even at this great distance from the head of the supply.

The canal starts upon its mission of service under the happiest auspices. Thanks to Your Highness' foresight the land about to be irrigated has, as you have just pointed out, already been sold to cultivators, who are therefore in a position to take advantage of the water as soon as it is delivered to them, and I was interested to hear Your Highness refer to the favourable conditions of tenure on which settlers are to hold their land. I listened with much pleasure to the appreciative terms in which Your Highness referred to Mr. Rudkin's services in this connection, and I venture to forecast that ere long many of the unproductive districts of your State will have become a prosperous colony.



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By Your Highness' enterprise again the building of the canal loop of the State Railway, in anticipation of the completion of the canal itself, should give cultivators the opportunity of finding an easy market for their produce without delay.

The construction of the canal itself has been greatly facilitated by Your Highness' cordial support and by the active assistance rendered by your State officials. It is with especial pleasure that I heard you speak of the close co-operation between the State Railway and the Punjab irrigation staff, without which the difficulties of the work must have been much more formidable. It was indeed a great feat that all the materials for the concrete lining of the canal should have been transported without a hitch by Your Highness' railway, and I appreciate how much credit is due to your Manager, Mr. Fearfield, and the officers who have been working under him. Your Highness has mentioned others to whom we are indebted for the successful completion of this work. I wish to endorse every word of commendation which you have uttered, and will only add that your best assurance for the permanent success of this canal is that it should have been designed and constructed by the Punjab Irrigation Department.

But it is as inalienable as it is an invaluable quality of human nature to reach constantly forward, and therefore I fully sympathise with Your Highness' anxiety that the Bhakra dam scheme should in due course be carried into effect. Whether the exhaustive enquiry which the Punjab Government are now making into the various matters connected with this project will prove it to be practicable or not I cannot at present say, but I shall await the result of the enquiry with deep interest.

*Banquet at Bikaner.*

And now, Your Highness, I think that all this company must be sharing my eagerness to see the water at last rushing through these gates we see in front of us, and I must not detain you much longer. As I crossed the Sutlej 15 days ago, nearly 300 miles above this point, on my way from Simla to Kulu, and watched its waters flowing freely and turbulently from the hills of far Tibet, I thought to myself how little they knew of the iron bonds of discipline to which human skill would shortly subject them. I also felt some solace in the thought that some part at any rate of the rain, which makes life at times so monotonous in our summer capital, would henceforth find its way to the waiting plains of Bikaner and be welcomed by people who really appreciate it.

Researches, I believe, have shown that centuries ago a river flowed through Bikaner, and that much of what is now a parched and thirsty waste was once a green land of gardens. Long ago it disappeared, and with it went the population of this country in a great emigration to the Indus Valley. It is a strange and happy reversal of fortune that that lost river of the desert is now being restored to its ancient site, and that once again man will be able to live in comfort and plenty on its plains.

Your Highness, in now declaring the Gang Canal open, I offer you our most heartfelt congratulations on the consummation of this great achievement, and our fervent hopes that it may long endure to bring prosperity to the State of whose fortunes you have been so wise and capable a guide.

BANQUET AT BIKANIR.

26th October
1927.

In replying to the toast given by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir at the Banquet held at Bikanir on the 26th October, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen.—On behalf of Lady Irwin, and on my own



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behalf, I wish to thank you most sincerely for the generous response you have made to the toast which His Highness the Maharaja has just proposed in such gracious and kindly terms. His Highness and I have agreed to bind ourselves by a Self-denying Ordinance this evening, that our speeches should be brief, and in consequence I shall not detain you unduly; but there are one or two points which I should like to mention before this epoch-making day draws to a close.

I think I may confidently assert that we are all at one in our gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja for his unbounded hospitality, and in our admiration for the magnificent organisation by which he has been able to entertain such a large number of guests, on so lavish a scale at a considerable distance from the capital of Bikaner State; from my personal knowledge of his character I have no doubt whatever that it is largely if not entirely due to his own active interest and keen supervision that a welcome fully in accordance with the princely traditions of Bikaner has been prepared for us here to-day. His Highness' hospitality is proverbial; so also are his fidelity and devotion to his old friends; and I am gratified to learn that among those present to-night there are several old Bikaneris and friends of His Highness who have travelled all the way from Europe especially in order to be here on this occasion. This is indeed striking testimony to those personal qualities of which all who are fortunate enough to come into contact with our distinguished host cannot fail to be conscious. His Highness has expressed a feeling of disappointment that Lady Irwin and I have not had the time to visit the capital of Bikaner on our present tour. I can only say that our disappointment is at least as great as his, and that we retain so many pleasant memories of our welcome there last January that we



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sincerely hope to be able to repeat the experience on some future occasion.

I cannot truthfully say that I was as unfavourably impressed as His Highness appears to have been by the reluctance of a certain section of his feathered subjects to come forward at the time and pay their respects to the Viceroy. I fear indeed that if non-co-operation there was, it is at the Viceroy's door that the principal blame must lie.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will now ask you to rise with me and drink the toast of long life, health and prosperity to our friend and host, His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.

OPENING OF THE ISLAM HEADWORKS AT
BAHAWALPUR.

28th October
1927.

His Excellency the Viceroy opened the Islam Headworks at Bahawalpur on the 28th October with the following speech :—

Your Highness, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.—Just a year ago, when we had the pleasure of enjoying Your Highness' hospitality, I had occasion to express my gratification at seeing something of your State at such an interesting stage in its history, when the extension of the great Sutlej valley project was about to bring so vast a change over the face of Bahawalpur. It is a source of much satisfaction to me to be able to-day to identify myself with an important step towards the completion of that great and beneficent scheme. Lady Irwin and I deeply appreciate the warm and sincere welcome which Your Highness has extended to us both on the present occasion also, and I speak for her as well



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as for myself when I thank Your Highness most cordially for your thoughtful and generous hospitality.

I have during the last few days performed two similar ceremonies higher up on this system and have been therefore able to gain an idea of the immensity of the project. I do not think I need enlarge on the benefits which will accrue to Your Highness' State by the penetration of the waters of the Desert Branch into its waste places, and by the improvements which will be made possible in the existing cultivation by the assured supply from above the Islam weir. To Bahawalpur's lot has fallen a large share of the irrigation from the Sutlej valley project, and I must again congratulate Your Highness on the wise decision to participate in a scheme which is destined to bring widespread prosperity to your subjects and increased importance to your State.

I am glad to learn that sales of colony lands are progressing satisfactorily, and that the average prices realised show an improvement on those obtained last year. Your Highness, I am sure, will recognise the fact that, however good the land may be and however perfect the arrangements for irrigation, success can be achieved only by inspiring confidence in those areas from which you draw your colonists, and that every effort should accordingly be made to maintain such a standard of impartial and efficient administration, as may induce capitalists readily to invest large sums of money in the State. Your Highness' scheme of peasant grants on special concession rates to cultivating zamindars, who will reside in their holdings and till them in person, has my unqualified approval. I understand that up to date no less than sixteen lakhs of rupees have been deposited, and that these civil grantees will be further supplemented by a large number of serving or retired men of the Indian Army. This scheme provides a virile population for the desert areas, which will, as I hope and believe, form the backbone of the new colony.

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I know that owing to a variety of contributory causes the original estimate of the cost of this project has proved to be misleading, and that Your Highness' Government has in consequence been called upon to meet a very considerable increase in expenditure. I recognise, and fully sympathise with Your Highness in, the disappointment this wide variation from the earlier calculations must have caused you, but I feel no doubt that, with such a prize in view, the State will surmount all difficulties in their efforts to win it, and I can assure Your Highness that you can always count on my friendly sympathy and advice in this matter.

I feel confident, Your Highness, that this canal has a great future opening out before it, and that one of your greatest interests will always be to see that it is maintained at a high level of efficiency. We are constantly reminded how wayward and fitful a maid is Nature. Trained and assisted by the intelligence of man she can be induced to yield her gifts in rich profusion. Unguided and uncontrolled she too readily relapses into license or sterility. Your Highness will not be slow to draw the moral of my parable. Without constant care and supervision this canal, like all man-made schemes, can with difficulty withstand the ravages of time and the assaults of fickle Nature. It will be to the lasting honour of Your Highness and Your Highness' officials to make quite certain that the future organisation of your canals is worthy of the great Punjab canal system of which it is a part. It is obvious that without a properly trained engineering and revenue staff the full benefits of irrigation can never be obtained, and I am glad therefore to know that the Punjab Government is co-operating with Your Highness' Government in training your own State staff during the period of three years in which the Punjab Government will maintain the channels before making them over to Your Highness' charge. But this by itself



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will not be enough ; I am told that the State will require altogether a staff of about 50 engineers, apart from the revenue staff, to maintain the canals at their proper level of efficiency. It is therefore satisfactory to know that others have been sent to Colleges for training, and they doubtless will in due course become efficient and valuable officers. At first however they will necessarily lack practical experience, but I feel no doubt that Your Highness' Government appreciate the importance of this aspect of the case and will not fail to take adequate measures to deal with it.

It is fitting here to mention the names of three gentlemen to whom a meed of praise is due for their unremitting exertions in the furtherance of the work which I am to-day inaugurating. The first is the Agent to the Governor-General for the Punjab States, Lieutenant-Colonel St. John, to whose foresight and experience Bahawalpur is so deeply indebted. The second is Mr. Barron, whose expert knowledge of the inception and administration of colonies in the Punjab has been of incalculable advantage to the State ; and the third is Mr. Fitzpatrick, whose knowledge and experience will, I am glad to think, still be at the service of the Durbar in his new position.

It is time now, Your Highness, that I should formally declare these headworks open. I speak for all the company present here to-day when I say that we most earnestly trust that they may fulfil the high hopes we build upon them. I know that Sir Malcolm Hailey is with me in assuring to Your Highness all the assistance that the Government of India and the Punjab Government can lend you in furthering the prosperity of this great scheme, and one and all we wish long life and a smooth course to this canal, which is destined to ensure lasting benefit to Your Highness' administration and to your people.



ADDRESS FROM THE KARACHI MUNICIPALITY.

12th November 1927.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied to the Address of Welcome from the Karachi Municipality in the following terms :—

Gentlemen.—Let me first, on my own behalf and on behalf of Lady Irwin, thank you cordially for your friendly welcome and good wishes. It has indeed been a great pleasure to us to visit this busy centre of commercial life and to see something for ourselves of the great maritime port of which we have always heard so much.

It is an added interest that I should be visiting Karachi at a time when, as you say, the Province of Sind, on whose prosperity your fortunes are so largely based, is in such an interesting stage in its agricultural development. During the last week or two I have had the opportunity of seeing a good deal of the great Indus Valley and Sutlej Valley Projects and of gauging the importance of these two schemes, and it is therefore very interesting to stand, as it were, at the mouth of those great granaries and see something of the organisation of the city which connects them with the outside world. With you I hope and believe that the Royal Commission on Agriculture will be the means of bringing great prosperity to agriculturists not only in Sind but in all parts of India, for, on the progress of the agricultural community, the progress of India most surely depends.

I am glad that you have brought to my notice certain difficulties which you feel in the administration of your Municipality. One of these is the question of octroi and terminal taxation by local bodies. This matter is now engaging the attention of my Government, and it is not possible for me to anticipate the final decision that will be arrived at. But I can assure you that no decision will be taken without a careful consideration of all interests involved. The Government of India are primarily concerned with seeing that such taxes do not encroach upon the sphere of Imperial taxation, and that

*Address from the Karachi Municipality.*

they do not restrict or hamper through trade, on which the prosperity of a growing port like yours must greatly depend. Subject to these safeguards, and to the removal of the defects to which you refer—defects which may lead to unnecessary hardship or unfair incidence of the burden of taxation on the consumer,—it is not the intention of my Government to take any action which may deprive municipalities, which at present derive a considerable income from these sources, of any substantial part of that income.

In the second place you have represented that the Statutes controlling the work of Public Utility Companies should be amended. This seems to be a matter on which you might properly approach the Government of Bombay with a reasoned statement of your case. At the same time, you no doubt appreciate that, unless fairly favourable terms are granted to such companies, they would not be induced to risk their capital, nor would the public come forward to invest their money in such undertakings if the Statutes are to be amended as soon as the undertakings begin to pay.

You have also raised the question of amending the Indian Trust Act so as to include the bonds issued by your Municipality in the list of bonds in which Trustees of private trusts are authorised to invest money. This matter will receive the careful consideration of my Government when it comes before them officially, but I must point out that it raises a wide issue on which the Local Governments will have to be consulted.

I fully realise and appreciate your pride in the splendid Indus civilisation which the labours of the Archaeological Department of the Government of India have brought to light. It is perhaps only natural that you should desire to possess at Karachi as large a share as possible of the relics of this civilisation which is now known to have extended over the Punjab and

Address from the Karachi Municipality.

Baluchistan as well as over Sind, and to have been closely connected with other great civilisations of Asia. But I am sure you will agree with me when I say that in the disposal of such important relics the requirements of science, no less than the demands of popular sentiment, are a factor that must be taken into account. Thus, in the interests of the excavations themselves, which I am told are likely to go on at Mohen-jo-Daro for many decades yet, it is indispensable that a certain proportion of these antiquities should be preserved for the time being at the site where they were found. And it is equally desirable, and I do not think you will disagree with me in this either, that some of them at least should be placed in the National Museum at Delhi, where it is proposed to bring together many representative collections of such pre-historic antiquities, and where they can be compared and studied to the best advantage. The Government of India, however, are just as anxious to foster the growth of local as of Central Museums, which they regard not as rivals, but as the natural complements of such pre-historic antiquities, and, where they can be subject to the reservations I have made, we shall endeavour to meet in the most liberal spirit the wishes of the Bombay Government. In expressing those wishes I am sure they will attach due weight to your claims as well as those of the Prince of Wales' Museum at Bombay.

I note what you say in your address concerning the Statutory Commission, whose duty it will be to make a report to the British Parliament concerning the various matters connected with the working of the Reforms.

You will have seen the announcement, which it was my duty to make a few days ago, of the decisions of His Majesty's Government on this subject. I recognise that the constitution of the Commission which is to conduct the initial enquiry on behalf of Parliament does not fulfil the hope which you record in your address. But it is at

*Address from the Karachi Municipality.*

the same time my belief that the subsequent procedure proposed by His Majesty's Government, through which representatives of the Central Indian Legislature will be invited to confer with the Joint Committee of Parliament on whatever proposals His Majesty's Government may then put forward, provides an even more effective means of contact and joint deliberation on these great issues between the constitutional representatives of Great Britain and of India.

I know, gentlemen, what a deep and practical interest you take in the great city whose affairs are entrusted to your hands, and I must congratulate you on the efforts you have made, under a succession of capable Presidents, to improve the health and amenities of this Municipality. I know how much of the credit for this progress is due to the energy and interest displayed by your present President, Mr. Jamshed Mehta. The phenomenal growth of population in the last ten years has made it difficult for you to keep pace with its increasing needs, and I am glad to know that you are earnestly studying the question of housing, especially of the poorer classes of the people. I regard this as perhaps the most pressing problem of your city, and I am told that its solution lies in co-operation between the local authorities and landlords. I trust and believe that all the parties concerned will in a spirit of common endeavour combine to carry through these most necessary and beneficial schemes. They can, I know, always count on the good-will of your Commissioner, Mr. Hudson, at whose hands any proposals making for the greater good of Sind or any part of it can always be sure of ready sympathy and support. I need hardly, I think, admonish a body of businessmen on the danger of embarrassing the financial position of their city, and I hope that all the schemes you have now in mind may be found to be within the bounds of your resources.



Address from the Indian Merchants Association and the Buyers' and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi.

I thank you once more, gentlemen, for welcoming us so warmly. I am always glad to meet bodies such as yours and to have the opportunity of thanking them for the work they gratuitously perform for the benefit of their fellow-townsmen. I wish you all success in your labours and all prosperity to the city in your charge.

ADDRESS FROM THE INDIAN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION AND THE BUYERS' AND SHIPPERS' CHAMBER, KARACHI.

12th November 1927.

- In replying to the Address of Welcome from the Indian Merchants Association and the Buyers' and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen.—I thank you cordially for the welcome which you have given to Lady Irwin and myself. It is a great pleasure to me to meet the members of two bodies which between them represent the Indian trade and commerce of such an important town as Karachi.

The growth of Karachi is, as you have said, the natural outcome of her favourable geographical position and she has now added to her importance by becoming an aerial port. When Lord Chelmsford visited your city in 1917, Drigh Road was only a wayside station with a small village adjoining it. It has now developed into a large Air Force Depot and Aerodrome, and there seems to be little question that Karachi is destined to become the Gateway of the Air road from Europe to India. It is not impossible that the next few years will see the inauguration of regular commercial air services between Europe and India and the Far East, and of internal services in India, resulting in the speeding up of communications and the further development of trade. Karachi, in view of her geographical position at the centre of some of the probable main world routes, is bound to play an important part in these developments.



Address from the Indian Merchants Association and the Buyers' and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi.

I am glad that your address sounds a note of optimism regarding the future of your trade, though the figures you have quoted show a certain falling off from the high figures of a few years ago. I trust that you have not suffered too heavily from the floods of the recent rainy season, which left such havoc in their wake. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my unstinted admiration of the way in which people and officials of Sind have risen to the occasion in dealing with the situation.

One passage in your address suggested that in the past the Government of India have scarcely shown Karachi the sympathy and support which her undoubted achievements deserve, and that they unduly minimise the urgency of certain needs which you feel to-day. You will, I have no doubt, desire that I should explain the attitude of the Government of India upon these matters. You will not be unaware of the large sums which the Government have in the past spent in providing the rail connection between Karachi and the Punjab, without which none of the developments in the Port and town would have been possible. Nor have the Government of India, I think, ever spared either skill or money in improving the capacity of the main line of railway. The evidence of this continued attention to the needs of Karachi may be found in the fact that for some years past there has been no restriction on the free flow of traffic to and from the Port to the full extent of all demands. Not only is the capacity of the main line of railway well in advance of the demands likely to be made of it in the near future, but I understand that there has recently been a great improvement in the speed and the safety with which traffic to and from the Port has been transported.

You have mentioned various new Railway works which you consider to be of urgent importance to Karachi.



Address from the Indian Merchants Association and the Buyers' and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi.

The history of two of these—the connections between Karachi and Bombay and Karachi and Cawnpore—is that of many other projects in India ; they were investigated before the War and then deferred when War broke out. Later they have had to give way to projects whose financial success was more assured. As you know, the Railway Board decided a year or two ago that the project for the connection of Karachi with Bombay should be re-examined, and the results of the investigation made last cold weather are still under scrutiny. Though the Board are not yet satisfied that the expected traffic will give an adequate return on the large capital required, they have tentatively entered the project in their programme for 1929-30.

The second Railway work mentioned in your address—the Karachi-Cawnpore broad gauge connection—appears to have less in favour of it. It has been very carefully investigated, and the magnitude of the estimates for construction make it doubtful whether adequate advantage will be gained by substituting a broad gauge for the metre gauge which exists already. The project is however one which is brought up for review from time to time in accordance with the Railway Board's policy of periodically re-examining all such proposals, and you may be certain that it will not be lost sight of.

You have, in the third place, referred to the feeder lines in Sind. These would be undoubtedly of great benefit to Karachi, and I understand that negotiations with the Bombay Government on the subject of a guarantee are approaching a satisfactory conclusion. The North-Western Railway will commence work as soon as the matter is decided.

The question of the representation of your bodies on the Central and Provincial Legislatures, to which you



Address from the Indian Merchants Association and the Buyers' and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi.

have referred, is of course of very immediate interest to you, and I can assure you that I fully realise the importance of giving due weight to the opinions of the great mercantile community in this and other parts of India. I do not think I can say more than this at the present time when the Statutory Commission is within measurable time of beginning its enquiry.

You have invited my attention to a Resolution in the Council of State in January 1922 recommending that steps should be taken to increase the number of Indians in the higher grades in the service of the Port Trusts, and you express disappointment at the slow progress that has since been made. As you are aware, the Board of Trustees has statutory power to appoint its own officers. And, in the debate in the Council of State to which you refer, it was recognised that the most practical step that the Government could take towards the Indianisation of the Port Trust services would be to increase the number of Indians on the Board of Trustees. The Karachi Port Trust Act was accordingly amended in 1924, so as to increase the number of Indian Members of the Board from two to five. I have no doubt that the Board as now constituted is exercising its powers of appointment with due regard to the claims of qualified Indians.

I am in sympathy with the natural desire of Indians to take a greater part in the sea transport system of their own country. Our first task is to provide for the training of Indian Officers, and, for this purpose, the *Dufferin* has been converted into a training ship, located at Bombay, as recommended by the Mercantile Marine Committee. An influential Governing Body, containing a majority of Indians, has been appointed, and the training ship will shortly be opened for its first term.

The question whether Karachi can be made the port of call of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation

*Address from the All-Sind Hindu Association at Karachi.*

steamers has been very carefully considered many times in the past, but it has always been felt that only a very small portion of the mails from Europe brought by these steamers would be benefited by the proposed change, while the bulk of the mails would be seriously delayed. When however the Cairo-Karachi Air Mail Service is established, it is clear that Karachi will occupy a unique position in respect of the Air Mail Service to and from Europe.

You have mentioned your desire that Indians should be appointed both to the Railway Board and to the Central Board of Revenue. I can assure you that, when vacancies occur in these bodies, the question whether an Indian can be appointed is always considered, and I give my personal attention to it. I should be glad to see Indians occupying seats on both these Boards, but I must remind you that in both cases it is essential that the member should possess special knowledge and experience if he is to discharge his duties adequately, and that the primary consideration in filling these appointments must be the interests of the public service.

I will conclude, gentlemen, by again thanking the representatives of the great commercial interests in Karachi for giving me this opportunity of meeting them, and by wishing you prosperity and success in all your business.

ADDRESS FROM THE ALL-SIND HINDU ASSOCIATION
AT KARACHI.

12th Nov-
ember 1927.

The following is the reply delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Address of Welcome presented to him by the All-Sind Hindu Association at Karachi :—

Gentlemen.—Sind has indeed given us a welcome worthy of its reputation, and Lady Irwin and I are very grateful to the members of your Association for the part



Address from the All-Sind Hindu Association at Karachi.

they have played in it, and for the cordial address to which we have just had the pleasure of listening.

The importance of your Province and the interesting stage of development in which it now finds itself are well known to me, and it would have been a cause of great regret to me if I had not been able to visit Sind and Karachi thus early in my term of office. I had, as you know, the opportunity of seeing your great Sukkur Barrage a few days ago and of obtaining some insight into the magnitude of this project, and I fully realise your anxiety that all possible measures should be taken to ensure the success of the scheme and to enable the cultivators of Sind to take full advantage of it as soon as water is available. I am glad therefore to be assured by the Government of Bombay that progress in the work is well maintained, and I feel sure that nothing which human ingenuity can do will be left wanting in the execution of this great enterprise. Special attention, I am told, has been paid to the matter of drainage, and the complete system of drains is expected to be ready by the time the new canals are ready to receive water. For the improvement of roads the Local Government are already allotting four lakhs of rupees annually to the District Local Boards, and the formation of a special Communications Board should ensure a full examination of this important question in all its aspects. I am pleased too to hear that a large agricultural station has been started at Sakrand for experiments, and that six scholarships for the Agricultural College at Poona have been awarded in Sind since 1925.

I have listened closely to the views you have expressed on a somewhat controversial topic, the question of increased representation on the Central and Provincial Legislatures. The whole question of representation is of such intricacy that it cannot be examined piecemeal, and in view of the approaching enquiry by the Statutory

Address from the All-Sind Hindu Association at Karachi.

Commission I do not think I can go further than to give you the assurance that when the general question comes under examination, the views, which I have no doubt Your Association will submit to the Commission, will receive the careful consideration they deserve.

The further question you raise of the reservation of posts in the public services is also by no means free from difficulty. In view of the predominance of the Muhammadan population in Sind the Government of Bombay have recognised the necessity of endeavouring to secure proper representation of that community in the public services, not in Sind alone but throughout the Presidency. On an analysis of the position a few years ago it was decided that, in order to adjust the proportion of the number of higher appointments held by members of each community, it was necessary to reserve a certain number of direct appointments in the higher grades for qualified Muhammadans. I lay emphasis on the word qualified, for as I have repeatedly said, this is essential in the interest of the efficient discharge of the public service. This course was, I believe, designed to meet a special difficulty, and I am told that the disparity has now to a large extent disappeared, and that this year Hindus had their full share in promotion to the rank of Deputy Collector. I am assured by the Government of Bombay that their general policy is, so far as is practicable, the same as that of the Government of India, namely, that steps should be taken by adjustments of recruitment to ensure that the various communities are not deprived of a reasonable opportunity to enter Government service, but that thereafter promotion should depend upon merit alone.

I listened with attention and interest to that part of your address which dealt with the position of the Hindu agriculturist in Sind, for I am well aware of the value of a stable and contented peasantry. If I appreciate

*Address from the Sind Muhammadan Association, Karachi.*

correctly the facts of the matter, it is not correct to say that there is any differentiation in the treatment of communities as such, except that land in Sind is ordinarily given to Muhammadans on restricted tenure, without any right of transfer, and is therefore naturally allotted to them on easier terms than land granted on full survey tenure which carries with it the right of transfer. I feel no doubt that in any legislation which may be brought forward to deal with agricultural rights the Local Government will be guided solely by considerations of the true interest of the great mass of agriculturists on whom the prosperity of this Province is fundamentally based. I can assure you that any representation on behalf of the farmer in any part of India will always receive my very careful and sympathetic consideration.

In taking leave of you, gentlemen, I would appeal to you so to uphold the rights of those whom your Association represents, that you do not forget the rights and aspirations of others ; to remember that you are Indians first and Hindus afterwards ; to seek the solution of differences on the common ground of good-will to all men, and to believe that in so doing you are acting in the true interests and to the lasting honour of the great religious community whose name you have the honour to bear.

ADDRESS FROM THE SIND MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION, KARACHI.

The Sind Muhammadan Association presented an Address of Welcome to His Excellency the Viceroy at Karachi, to which His Excellency made the following reply :—

12th November 1927.

Gentlemen.—Lady Irwin and I wish to thank you most sincerely for the kind and generous welcome that you have extended to both of us to-day. It has given me great pleasure to be able to visit Sind early in my

*Address from the Sind Muhammadan Association, Karachi.*

time as Viceroy, and to obtain a close view of the several problems which affect the administration of your Province and to which you have alluded in your address.

I am glad to observe, Mr. Chairman, that you have made mention of no serious complaint in the speech which you have just delivered, and indeed this laudable spirit of contentment is in keeping with the well-known and steadfast loyalty towards Government that has always been a characteristic of the Sindhi Musulman. You have, however, referred to a subject which has, I fear, an inevitable and deeply to be regretted prominence at the present moment, the subject of communal strife. It is a source of considerable satisfaction to me to be able to congratulate you, gentlemen, on the comparative immunity of this Province from the worst manifestations of communal jealousy and bitterness, but at the same time I would hasten to remind you that this desirable state of affairs can only be maintained by the leaders of the two communities continually using their influence on the side of peace and by their active discouragement of fanatical speeches and of violent writings. By the recent introduction of the Bill dealing with insults to religion the Government of India has done what was possible by means of legislation to penalise deliberate and malicious attacks on that which each community holds sacred; but I fully recognise that this action, necessary as it certainly has been, deals only with the symptoms and cannot of itself produce that change of heart which will be the one lasting solution of India's present discords and difficulties.

You have referred, gentlemen, to your feelings of apprehension that your community may not in the future be given a sufficiently wide opportunity of serving your Motherland in the various spheres of usefulness which constitute a public career. I must first of all congratulate you upon the rapid strides made by Musulmans as a whole, and particularly by the Musulmans of this



Address from the Sind Muhammadan Association, Karachi.

Province, in all stages of education during the last twenty years ; and I would advise you to rely to an increasing degree on your own merits to obtain adequate representation in the public services, rather than on communal considerations. My Government clearly recognises that, while due regard must be had to the qualifications of candidates, it is necessary as far as possible to see that the various communities are not deprived of a fair opportunity of sharing in the great services which it controls, and we continually have this policy in our minds. But we trust that, as time goes on, the Muhammadan Community will find itself increasingly able to face and overcome outside competition without any special assistance whatsoever.

I know full well, gentlemen, that a large majority of the members of your Association are practical agriculturists, and I wish to offer you my sympathy in the grave losses which some of you have undoubtedly sustained by the recent severe floods in Hyderabad and Thar Parkar ; I am also distressed to learn that the present season has proved an unfavourable one for most of you owing to the late rise and early fall of the river. I hope and believe, however, that the great Sukkur Barrage will soon be protecting you from these unpleasant vicissitudes ; and I would here urge you, in your own interests, to help to shoulder the burden of the initial cost of this vast enterprise by buying some of the land which is ultimately to be benefited by its operation.

The question of feeder and direct railway connections for this Province has already been dealt with by me in my reply to the address of the Indian Merchants' Association to-day, and I would request you to take my remarks on that occasion as an answer to your representation on the subject.

I have listened with great interest to the views expressed by you on several of the major questions of the

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day which affect the Muhammadan Community in India, and I can assure you that, when these matters come to be considered, the opinion of your Association will not be overlooked. As you are aware, the Statutory Commission will before long start its enquiry, and you will agree with me that it would not be proper for me, in the discussion of these problems, to anticipate in any way the report of the Commission.

In conclusion I would again emphasise the absolute necessity of harmony between the two great communities in this country and of an understanding of, and sympathy with, the peculiar difficulties with which each is confronted. In many quarters there is, I believe, a growing anxiety to find for India a solution of her sorest and most obstinate problem. Critics will not be wanting of any proposals that can be put forward, but I trust that those who feel constrained to criticise will constantly seek to do so in a spirit of constructive desire to help. It is always difficult to build; it is often easy to find fault with another's building. And, at this time, no one who cares for India's welfare, and who appreciates the damage caused to her body politic by their antagonisms, will fail to wish well to any efforts that may directly or indirectly assist in promoting the cause of peace. I appeal to you, gentlemen, as the representatives of the community which has so large a numerical preponderance in this Province, to set a good example for the conduct of majorities, and to show a spirit of tolerance and forbearance towards those who may be less favourably placed than yourselves; that spirit without which real unity is unattainable, and without which India can never claim her true place in the great sisterhood of nations.

KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON.

12th. Nov-
ember 1927

The following is His Excellency the Viceroy's speech on the occasion of the Luncheon given by the Karachi Chamber



Karachi Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.

of Commerce :—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I should like to begin, Mr. Chairman, by thanking you and all the members of your Chamber for the very friendly welcome you have extended to Lady Irwin and myself to-day. I owe you an apology for having had to alter my original dates and upset all your arrangements, and I am sure you realise that I would not have done so if I had felt it possible to avoid it. It has greatly added to the interest of my visit to Karachi to have been able to perform the opening ceremony of your new building. I wish it, Mr. Chairman, a long and successful life, and I congratulate the Chamber on the erection of a really worthy building. While I am sure the tribute you have paid to others in this connexion is well-deserved, I know how much the Chamber is indebted for its completion to the foresight and driving power which you yourself, Mr. Chairman, have shown during your long term of office. It is, I suspect, not too much to say that but for your energy and resource the new building would still exist only on paper and not in the substantial sandstone we see to-day. This must be a great day for you and I know that all the company present here will join me in offering you our hearty congratulations.

I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, that you or anyone should feel that, in the eyes of Government, Karachi is in the position of a neglected younger child, and that the favourite elder brother gets all the good things that are going. Before I leave you, I trust I may be able to dispel the idea that the Government could be such a callous and unnatural parent. I can at any rate promise you that any question which affects Karachi will always receive my very careful and sympathetic attention, and I am glad that henceforth I shall have that personal acquaintance with your problems and circumstances which means so much when any matter comes up for decision.

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I should like to say something on one or two of the points you have raised. I may be repeating to a certain extent what I have already said to other bodies in Karachi, for I seem to have occupied no inconsiderable part of my time to-day in public speaking. Indeed my oratory seems in danger of acquiring some of the characteristics of the perennial flow of irrigation of which I have been seeing and hearing so much on the Sutlej and at Sukkur. Both those great schemes are surely destined to have a great effect on the future of Karachi, and it has been a stimulating experience to get an insight into the mechanism of these projects, to meet the men in person who are bringing them into completion, and to see the workman-like confidence they have in their task. I know too that they have warm and sympathetic supporters in His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson and in Mr. Hudson, your Commissioner, on whose help and advice you may always rely in any scheme devoted to the development of the Province of Sind. As you have said, it is an essential part of the scheme that communications in the area now coming under irrigation should be adequate, and it is satisfactory to know that the negotiations which have been proceeding with the Bombay Government regarding the guarantee for the Sind feeder lines seem likely to be successful, and that construction will begin as soon as a decision has been reached. The other line which you have referred to is the much discussed Karachi-Cawnpore broad gauge connection. You are no doubt aware of the difficulties which have confronted the scheme. Various alignments have been proposed and have been investigated from time to time. They involve the conversion of many miles of metre gauge railway, some of them the property of Indian States, the construction of a considerable length of broad gauge railway, and in some cases a complete alteration in the present working of traffic on established metre gauge and broad gauge lines.

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Although such a line would be considerably shorter than the present broad gauge connection, it would save little in mileage as compared with the present metre gauge connection which gives access to Agra, Cawnpore and other places in the productive area already trading with Karachi. The various estimates that have been considered for the project vary from 9 to 12 crores of rupees according to the alignment adopted, and it is obvious that a proposal of this magnitude requires very careful consideration. It is recognised, however, that this line should undoubtedly give Karachi certain facilities which it does not at present enjoy, and, though its construction will always have to be considered in relation to that of more urgent projects in other parts of India, the scheme is to be brought up for review from time to time for re-examination in the light of changing circumstances, and there is, therefore, no fear that the Government of India will lose sight of this proposal.

You have also asked me about the question of the establishment of a Chief Court in Sind. This matter has, I know, been very carefully considered by the Bombay Government, who fully appreciate the necessity of the Court. But for the present I am advised that the financial difficulty cannot be overcome and that the Government of Bombay do not hope to be in a position to introduce the Court during next financial year.

As to your representation regarding Karachi's claim to a branch of the Reserve Bank, I fear I cannot say more to-day than that, as you are aware, nothing has yet been definitely settled, and that it will be very carefully considered when the question arises in practical shape.

I am going to be rash enough to offer you a few observations about the future administration of your great Port. I am making them advisedly before my visit to

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the port and my inspection of the new harbour works so that you should not think they are simply the unfledged impressions of the casual visitor. In the course of discussions at various times about Karachi affairs, I have heard the question asked whether the port authorities had sufficiently considered the need for taking a long view in providing the necessary facilities for handling traffic. I do not doubt that the existing arrangements are sound and economical for the traffic which the port has hitherto had to handle. But, if the port develops as we hope and expect, other methods may be necessary to deal with the increasing volume of trade. The approaching completion of one stage in the construction of the West Wharf and the re-organisation of the work of the port that this implies seem to give an opportunity for reviewing the future of the port as a whole, and in particular for considering methods of handling traffic which can readily be expanded to meet future requirements.

I think there is much to be learned from the experience of ports in other parts of the world, and I am told that great advances have been made in recent years in the use of mechanical devices, in the orderly arrangement of the movement of traffic within the port, and in improved methods of sorting and storing goods while in the port area.

Nobody would suggest that Karachi can afford to neglect the lessons learned in other great ports. On the knowledge and judgment of the Port Trustees depends the prosperity not only of Karachi, but also of a vast hinterland, and I feel no doubt that they can be trusted to take that wide outlook, uninfluenced by local considerations and interests, on which a right decision must be based.

I would ask you to believe, Mr. Chairman, that in everything that I have said I am prompted solely by my

*Banquet at Cutch.*

sincere desire to see Karachi a flourishing and up-to-date Port. You will perhaps think that I have taken rather an unfair advantage of your hospitality to be somewhat didactic. If I have, I owe you an apology, for it has given Lady Irwin and myself a very real pleasure to-day to accept your hospitality and to meet so many of your members. We both thank you sincerely. I shall, as I have said, henceforth feel able to follow the fortunes of Karachi and its traders with something more than official interest. Of all our pleasant recollections of Karachi one of our pleasantest will be the kind welcome we have received from all the members of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce.

BANQUET AT CUTCH.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the Banquet at Cutch :—

15th November 1927.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I thank Your Highness for the kind and friendly terms in which you have welcomed Lady Irwin and myself this evening. We appreciate them very much and are delighted to have this opportunity of accepting your invitation and visiting Your Highness in the capital of your State.

I have always looked forward to seeing Your Highness' State of Cutch. It lies, as you truly say, somewhat apart from the usual track of tourists—and Viceroys—and, as Your Highness has recalled, only Lord Curzon among my predecessors has been privileged to land at Mandvi and to arrive, shaken perhaps but indomitable, at your capital of Bhuj. I would assure Your Highness in this connection that the 27 years that have passed have clearly been good for the health of the road—for yesterday it gave a smooth and comfortable passage to our motor cars.

*Banquet at Cutch.*

To tread where only that great Viceroy had adventured was in itself an attraction ; and apart from this the size and importance of Your Highness' State are such as to justify, and even demand, a closer attention and acquaintance on the part of the Head of the Government of India. Your historical record and associations were also a lure to me. I had heard that Cutch was great and prosperous in the earliest days of the East India Company—a State of flourishing and busy seaports with traders known for daring and enterprise along all the Sea boards of the Indian Ocean ; while the Cutch artificers in gold, silver and enamel were famous throughout the length and breadth of India.

I am sorry to learn that to some extent these happy conditions appear to have suffered an eclipse ; that your harbours are silting up, that portions of your lands are going out of cultivation, that the trade of your silver workers is languishing, and that many of your most successful and prosperous merchants have sought habitations elsewhere. Doubtless the long and lamentable record of famine and scarcity years of which Your Highness has told us, is largely responsible for these changes ; and I am glad to hear that an expert Engineer is exploring the possibilities of irrigation as a safeguard against the vicissitudes of the monsoons. The growing paralysis of Mandvi both as a Port and Town is, I am informed, due to the abnormal incursion of fine drifting sand which has begun to work up from the Ocean bed within the last 30 years. Palliative measures seem difficult, and I am not surprised to learn that Your Highness is considering the development of other ports in your State where the opposing forces of nature are not so strong and insidious. I appreciate the kindness which has pushed on one of these enterprises to facilitate our journey to-morrow.

Where nature seems unkind and monsoons are fickle, it becomes all the more important to examine and remedy



Banquet at Cutch.

other causes which may contribute to the decline in a country's prosperity. I have heard, and Your Highness has also, that the high rate of the Kori exchange is accused of some of the temporary depression of Cutch, of the stagnation of its ancient industry and the departure of many of its more enterprising citizens. It is a commonplace of economics, illustrated to a remarkable degree in the post-war history of Europe, that a high rate of exchange tends to deprive local industries of their outside markets. Questions of currency are always difficult to laymen and require the earliest and best advice available. Nothing is more certain than that a mistaken policy in such a matter has an immediate and disastrous effect on the trade of any country far more potent than other errors of omission or commission in the functions of Government. I am sure that Your Highness realises the danger of delay and am glad to be told that you contemplate early steps to investigate a question so vital to the interests of your State and subjects.

Your Highness is a Statesman who has sat in the Councils of assembled nations and does not need to be reminded that reports of experts and committees are of value, as they lead to prompt decisions and early action. The art of government becomes more complex as the world advances. What satisfied a previous generation may be insufficient for the present and will be less so for the next. For those of us who have to share the burden of direction and control close personal attention and the assistance of adequate and competent officials are more and more demanded in the interests of those committed to our charge. The combination of too many functions in the hand of one or two officials is to be deprecated and in modern well-governed States the higher judiciary is invariably separated from the executive. Your Highness and Cutch are perhaps happy in lying apart from the main current—but all the stream is moving forward.

*Banquet at Cutch.*

I would congratulate Your Highness on the absence of all communal dissension within your borders. The extension of this trouble in British India is a most serious menace to political progress in this country. I have appealed to all patriotic Indians to co-operate in eradicating the evil, and, although the progress made may seem disappointing, I hope and believe that good sense and moderation may at length prevail. I know that I can rely upon Your Highness and all the Indian Princes to assist with your influence and advice when opportunity offers.

Your Highness' attachment to the British Throne and Empire is well known and every word with which you have proposed the health of Their Majesties is instinct with the deepest loyalty and sincerity. In all times of difficulty and danger I am aware that the Empire can count on devoted support from Your Highness and your people.

I thank Your Highness once again for your warm welcome and all the arrangements for our entertainment and comfort. Cutch needs no apology for the absence of famous "show places". It has a charm all its own with its red-roofed white-housed villages set in wide plains with the background of palms and the sea, and the rugged hills that encircle your ancient Capital. We are glad to have seen it all, and we trust that the friendship now formed with Your Highness will be cemented many times in Delhi and Simla. It will be a great pleasure to meet again there and hear more from Your Highness of the success of your further efforts for the good of your administration and people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to join with me in drinking good health and all prosperity to our distinguished host His Highness the Maharao of Cutch.



OPENING OF THE KUNDLA RAILWAY.

In declaring the Varsamed-Kundla Extension of the 16th Nov-
Bhuj-Anjar Railway open, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—ember 1927.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I am very glad to accept Your Highness' invitation to perform the ceremony of opening the Varsamed-Kundla extension of the Bhuj-Anjar railway to-day. My pleasure is the greater since I understand that, if this railway had not been opened, I should have been required to leave Bhuj to-day at earliest dawn in order to reach Jamnagar before nightfall. Kundla where now, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Hemchand Mehta and Mr. Barry, we are to embark in happier circumstances, will be the first Port in Cutch at which steamers can arrive at all tides. The ceremony to-day therefore marks a new era of comfort for travellers to and from this interesting State.

I congratulate Your Highness on this new development. The provision of adequate communications is rightly held to be a proper function of all good Governments, and few are more important in bringing economic prosperity and progress to any country. The facts and figures given by Your Highness are illuminating, and the siting up of your chief Port of Mandvi has evidently made the opening of this Kundla Port imperative. For a State that is accessible from the Sea and at high tide only must be severely handicapped in all its progress.

I have listened with great interest to Your Highness' statement of the reasons underlying your refusal hitherto to be linked up with the railway systems of India. They doubtless had force in the past, but I am glad to understand that Your Highness recognises that conditions have now changed, and that you look forward to connecting the Anjar-Bachau extension with the existing railways to the North and East of Cutch. I share Your Highness' belief that such connection cannot be other than advantageous to the social progress and economic prosperity of your country, and, when the developments, to which



*Laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Hospital at
Jamnagar.*

Your Highness has alluded, have taken place, it will be possible for future Viceroys to reach Your Highness' State by land as well as by Sea—and tides will become matters of less moment than they are at present !

Your Highness will realise that, so far as other parts of India are concerned, existing interests in the matter of revenue, and such safeguards as may be necessary for the preservation of internal security, must not be overlooked. I have no doubt that Your Highness will be ready to co-operate with Government in these important matters.

I have now much pleasure in declaring this railway open.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW
HOSPITAL AT JAMNAGAR.

17th Nov- His Excellency the Viceroy performed the ceremony of the
ember 1927. laying of the foundation stone of the new Hospital Building
at Jamnagar, saying :—

Your Highness, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen.—We all offer you our congratulations, Your Highness, on this occasion which typifies, as you have said, the progressive policy of the Durbar, and which also testifies to the sympathetic care which Your Highness has always shown for all classes of your subjects. I accepted with great pleasure Your Highness' invitation to perform this ceremony, and I must thank you for the compliment you have paid me by naming the hospital after me. When I look back, as I often shall, in years to come, on my visit to Jamnagar, I shall never fail to think of the building that is to bear my name, and of the part it will then be playing in alleviating sickness and suffering in Your Highness' State.

Your Highness has given us a graphic description of the evolution of medical and surgical practice in Jamnagar.

*Banquet at Jamnagar.*

It shows clearly the many difficulties you must have had to surmount in the way of old-fashioned and deeply-rooted prejudice, though I daresay there are some of us here to-day who might confess to a certain fellow-feeling with the desire of some of Your Highness' villagers to vanish into thin air on the arrival of the Doctor !

But the picture you have drawn sufficiently proves what a long-felt want this hospital will fill, and I trust that its construction will proceed with all the speed for which Your Highness' other building operations have been conspicuous. You are building an expensive and modern hospital, well-equipped, well-found. Given an efficient staff it must succeed. I have sometimes seen cases where the first promise of institutions such as this has failed of fulfilment through the inadequacy of the staff to run them. I feel little anxiety however that Your Highness will permit such a thing to happen, or—if I may transpose a familiar saying—give the tools reason to complain of the workmen. I know what a keen personal interest you take in this institution and that this is enough to assure its success.

It has been a great privilege to me to lay the first stone of this building. May those who receive succour within its walls remember with gratitude the name of Your Highness to whom it owes its rise.

BANQUET AT JAMNAGAR.

The following is His Excellency the Viceroy's speech at the Banquet at Jamnagar :—

18th November 1927.

Your Highness, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen.—Lady Irwin and I are grateful for the kind and eloquent terms in which Your Highness has voiced Jamnagar's welcome to us this evening. We are delighted that it has been possible to visit the States of Western India

Banquet at Jamnagar.

thus early in my Viceroyalty and obtain the knowledge and sense of reality that can only come from personal contact and experience.

As Your Highness has recalled, our first acquaintance began in Geneva some years ago when I, in common with the several delegates of the nations of the world, listened with admiration, as we have again to-night, to the speech with which you delighted the Assembly. I had of course, long before that, worshipped from afar a name that used to appear, with almost monotonous regularity, at the head of the Sussex batting averages. Since my arrival in India I have had other opportunities of observing and appreciating the acute intellect, wide and sober statesmanship and social charm that distinguish His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib. It has therefore been with feelings of keen anticipation that I have looked forward to visiting Nawanagar and observing so famous and forceful a personality in his own State and among his own people. My visit has been, alas, a brief one, but even within it I have been able to see something of the energy and enthusiasm for the development of the State and the progress and well-being of the people which mark Your Highness' administration.

We have listened with great interest to the detailed account of these many activities and improvements given by you this evening. I congratulate Your Highness upon them very warmly. In spite of the natural difficulties to which Your Highness has alluded, your agricultural policy appears to me to be wholly admirable, both in your encouragement of wells and other facilities for irrigation, of which I saw something yesterday, and in granting a Tenancy right to your farmers. No measure is more important than this, for without it no agriculturist will trouble to improve his holding. I confess I am surprised to understand that this enlightened policy is the exception rather than the rule in Kathiawar. I trust



Banquet at Jaminagar.

that those who have not yet followed Your Highness' lead in this matter may speedily do so. I was particularly pleased, as you took us out to Camp, to be able to observe the quality of so much of the farming,—the cleanness of the land and the crops upon it. It struck me as being as good as any farming I have seen in India, and I feel certain that this is also largely due to Your Highness' interest and encouragement.

I have been much impressed also by the success of Your Highness' experiments in town improvement and planning which have transformed cramped and insanitary houses and narrow lanes into the fine buildings and the wide thoroughfares through which we drove two days ago. In olden times a Ruler dissatisfied with his surroundings would transport the whole population to a new site and city selected and built by himself. These are less spacious days and the complications of modern civilisation have in some ways accentuated the saying of Adam Smith that "of all baggage man is the most difficult to move". So Your Highness has had to face and has successfully solved the far more difficult problem of adapting an ancient city to the needs of new conditions and ideas. You have your reward in the improved health of your people, to which also your generous policy in extending medical relief must have contributed.

In all branches of your State administration I find the qualities which my previous acquaintance with Your Highness has led me to expect. I am sure that the people of Nawanagar must also recognise and appreciate Your Highness' efforts for their welfare and that your rule is broadbased on their esteem and affection. I am glad to learn that Your Highness has by constituting an Advisory Council given them opportunities of expressing their needs and sentiments. Each Ruler must decide for himself, having regard to local conditions, how and when it is right to associate his people more closely with himself

*Banquet at Jamnagar.*

in the burdens of government. A strong central authority must always be maintained in the interests of the people themselves; but when this is secured it can generally be said that the more freely they can express their wishes and aspirations the better. The final justification for all Governments is the happiness and contentment of the governed; and an identity of understanding between a Ruler and those committed to his charge must be the secret of all successful personal rule. That secret I feel little doubt you have been fortunate enough to discover, for without such contact and mutual understanding the most benevolent Ruler may often be in danger of mistaking the necessities of those he governs.

Your Highness has touched on two questions which are of present and vital interest to the wider world of all India and all the Indian States; the exacerbation of communal feeling between Hindus and Moslems and the future relations of the States and British India.

You are fortunate in having no communal trouble in Nawanagar and you share this happy position with most of the Indian States. It may be that, as suggested by His Highness of Alwar on a recent occasion, religious animosities are accentuated by struggles for political power and influence. In the States patronage does not depend on numbers and votes, and you may be reaping some advantage from these conditions. Whatever be the causes in British India, the present widespread cancer of communal strife and bitterness is fraught with grave danger to the body-politic. It is axiomatic that compromise, toleration and readiness to abide by the law are essential preliminaries to success in all democratic governments, and it is accordingly the first duty of every patriotic Indian, whether Hindu or Moslem, to strive his utmost to root out this great and growing evil, to counter the preachings of intolerance and fanaticism, and to imbue



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a more reasonable spirit among the masses of his co-religionists.

The problem of the future relations of your States with British India, where the conditions of rule are slowly but surely changing, is not an easy one. You desire, and naturally, both to retain the internal autonomy secured to you by your engagements and treaties, and at the same time to have a voice in the questions which, owing to the growing complexity of modern conditions, must necessarily affect India as a whole. Although at first sight these two positions may appear difficult of reconciliation, I trust that time and full examination in consultation with all parties concerned will lead us to the discovery of the true solution. I believe that I can rely on the wisdom of far-sighted Rulers like Your Highness, who can appreciate the best interests not only of your States but of India as a whole, to use your influence with your brother-Princes towards this end.

I thank Your Highness for the kind things you have said about Lady Irwin. It is true that she is keenly interested in all that tends to the welfare of Indian womanhood; and she rejoices to think that she has the sympathy and support of Your Highness whose liberal and progressive views on the subject are well known.

From us both, as from all Your Highness' guests, the warmest acknowledgments are due for the cordiality of our welcome and the most charming and exhaustive arrangements made for our comfort and entertainment. I appreciate the courtesy which has avoided reference to matters of controversy between the Nawanagar Durbar and my Government. Differences must sometimes occur, but with good-will on both sides they should seldom be incapable of being brought to just and reasonable settlement. The generous instinct which has prompted Your Highness to leave these matters on one side during our visit is one with the sportsmanship which has always

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distinguished you. It made the name of Ranji a household word to generations of cricketers, and it still assures Your Highness an affectionate welcome wherever sportsmen are gathered together. Whether you are catching sea-trout on the West Coast of Ireland or shooting partridges on the West Coast of India, your chief pleasure lies, I know, in offering good sport to your guests, and we shall not soon forget our wonderful shoot at Rozi. It will remain among our happiest Indian memories.

I need not say that it would be a great pleasure to visit Nawanagar again and see more of Your Highness and the accomplishments of your administration. But you know well how many claims there are upon my time. India, with Burma, is a mighty continent and five years are all too short to fulfil one's desires. I thank Your Highness again for the truly delightful time you have given us. My one regret is that my visit should have been the occasion for a mishap to Your Highness' yacht, the *Star of India*, a mishap for which there would have been no occasion but for your generous anxiety to provide us with the most luxurious means of transport. The event shows what I believe astronomy to teach, that even the best regulated stars are liable to meet unexpected bodies in their appointed course, but for the future we shall wish her the more firmly such a dispensation of prosperity as may compensate her and you for this unkind stroke of fortune. But you will perhaps derive a measure of consolation from the fact that the untoward incident has attached you to the company of distinguished Rulers, who through history in the persons of the Egyptian Pharaoh, or King Canute of England and now yourself, have had perforce to recognise the supremacy of stormy seas, relentless tides and shifting sands.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to join me in drinking long life, good health and prosperity to our distinguished and generous host His Highness the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar.



BANQUET AT PORBANDAR.

At the Banquet at Porbandar His Excellency the Viceroy proposed the health of His Highness the Maharaja Rana Sahib of Porbandar in the following speech :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I thank Your Highness for your cordial welcome to Lady Irwin and myself. It is a far cry to Kashmir and we count it fortunate that our meeting with Your Highness at Srinagar in April last has led directly to our presence here to-day. There can surely be few greater contrasts from that land of mountains, lakes and valleys than is offered by the Porbandar State with its wide plains swept by the breezes from its extensive sea board. I congratulate Your Highness on your City which has a beauty all its own. I have heard it likened to Port Said ; and with its white buildings above the yellow sands, the lines of palms and casuarinas along its wide roads and the dazzling blue background of the Sea I can appreciate the resemblance to that link between the West and East.

We ought perhaps to have come to your Maritime State from the ocean side ; but it seemed more convenient and possibly more prudent to take advantage of the railway system which traverses Kathiawar in every direction. The Sea wears to-day her most friendly aspect, but I can well imagine that, when the monsoon is active, the wind can drive the mighty rollers in thundering approach far up your beaches.

I have listened with interest to your account of your ancient House and the valour and tenacity with which it has maintained its sway. It is a great tradition, Maharaja Sahib, and must be an inspiration to you in bearing the burden of rule received from your forefathers. From what you tell me of your State I gather that it is so, and that your aim is to justify the famous past by a policy of progress and improvement in the present. That is the right way to use tradition ; for to rest on past

*Banquet at Porbandar.*

laurels is to run the risk of becoming merely the shadow of a mighty name.

The record of your activities given us this evening would show that Porbandar is in no such danger at present, and it is clear that Your Highness realises that the best way to command success is to deserve it. You tell us of movement and progress in all directions, commercial, industrial and agricultural, and I have myself seen something of your Port development in the interests of your traders. With an open roadstead unapproachable in the monsoon you are faced with considerable difficulties, but energy and perseverance can conquer many of them ; and I have every hope that the Port of Porbandar, under Your Highness' auspices, will have its due share of the growing trade of India.

This is perhaps hardly the time or the place to touch on railway questions which, so my experts on the Railway Board assure me, are in Kathiawar thorny and difficult beyond belief. I am told that solution might be easier, the comfort of ordinary passengers be enhanced, and that difficulties would largely disappear if they were treated more as business propositions and not so much as matters of States' prestige and rivalry. They are perhaps the only class of cases in which the compromise and co-operation on which Lord Reading laid so much stress in 1924 have not yet been fully realised.

I am glad to learn that three years' experience of direct relations with the Government of India has satisfied you with the success of the new arrangements. It comes with especial force from Your Highness who has given so generous a measure of acknowledgment to the Bombay Government and the Bombay Governors for the progress and well-being of your State in the past. Changing times however bring changing needs, and I am convinced that the general policy of bringing the Indian States into closer relations with the Viceroy and the Government of



Banquet at Porbandar.

India is in present conditions right. I would not willingly give up the wider and more intimate knowledge of the States which it has brought to me as Viceroy. I take the keenest and most friendly interest in your historic past, in your present problems and in your future developments.

I must thank Your Highness for recognising this so warmly in your kind words this evening. As you have pointed out, ancestral associations should have made me a friend of the Indian Princes, and I confess that in my case the memory of my grandfather is reinforced by a natural bias in favour of ancient and honourable institutions. No man can to-day foretell with certainty in what precise fashion, as time goes on, British India and the States are likely to be enabled best to take their appropriate part in working together for the good of this great country. That such closer collaboration will be the result of powerful forces, which know no territorial or political boundaries, I can hardly doubt. And I feel no less sure that in this regard the States have both a great opportunity and a great responsibility which must impel Rulers to be true to themselves and those ideals of good government of which they must all be aware. Good communications, cheap and expeditious justice, public health, education—all that can be included in unselfish devotion to their people's interests—if these are present no State can be in danger. For the greatest security to any Ruler lies in the love and contentment of his people. I am glad to know, Maharaja Sahib, that you appreciate and strive to realise these ideals in Porbandar. The knowledge that it is so has added much to the pleasure of our brief visit to your State.

Last but not least I must thank you for your kind reference to Lady Irwin who shares all my interests in this most interesting land. In especial she welcomes all movements tending to the greater health, happiness and welfare of the women of India, and she is assured that in

*Banquet at Junagadh.*

this cause that she has at heart she can count always on the sympathy and help of Your Highness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you now to drink with me long life and every prosperity to our kindly host His Highness the Maharaja Rana Sahib of Porbandar.

BANQUET AT JUNAGADH.

20th Nov-
ember 1927.

The following speech was delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy at the Banquet at Junagadh :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I have to thank you, Your Highness, in the first place on behalf of Lady Irwin and myself for the kind way in which you have just proposed our health, and the rest of the company here to-night for the cordiality with which they have drunk it. We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Your Highness for the hospitality you have shown us and for all the arrangements you have made for our comfort and entertainment.

I have long looked forward to the pleasure of meeting Your Highness in your ancient and historic capital, and it is an interesting reflection, as you have just pointed out, that this is the first occasion of its kind for more than a quarter of a century. Your city is indeed one that has many things to make it famous—the grim Uperkot guarding it from above; the wonderful mass of the Girnar with its rocky paths worn smooth by the feet of countless pilgrims; and its Asoka stone with memories of the earliest days of Indian history.

I have heard much of the ancient and honourable Babi house of Junagadh and of the steady loyalty and good faith which have marked all its dealings with the British Government. I congratulate Your Highness on your traditions and am confident that you will do your best not only to maintain them but to give them added



Banquet at Junagadh.

lustre. You have a great heritage, Nawab Sahib, involving heavy responsibilities. The position of rulers in these days is not easy ; and, if it is to be held with credit in the eyes of the world, it demands considerable personal attention and self-sacrifice. All power should rightly be accompanied by a sense of its responsibilities. Unless it is so tempered and controlled, it will certainly be misused, and in due course bring its own retribution. To select and support able and trustworthy officials is perhaps the most important factor in successful government ; but the personal example shown by the ruler, and the interest he himself takes in the welfare of his subjects are the real and only stable foundation of the high position in which his birth has placed him.

I am delighted to learn that you have had a good monsoon and that your people are contented and happy. Here as elsewhere in India the agriculturist is the vital factor in the country's prosperity, and Your Highness wisely recognises this in the special care you take for his welfare.

It gave me much pleasure to listen to Your Highness' account of the efficiency of your departments and the steady progress that is being made by them in developing your State's resources. I may say that all that I have seen myself, and have heard from my Agent and from others, bears out what Your Highness has just said on this subject.

I would wish to congratulate Your Highness in particular on your State Forces, both Lancers and Infantry, which are reported by the Military Adviser to be a model and example to all Kathiawar. Your Highness realises that if the help which is so freely offered to the Empire in times of crisis is to be of real value, the equipment, training and discipline of your troops must be beyond criticism.

*Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.*

I can assure you that Lady Irwin and I share to the full Your Highness' regret that we have had to cut short the period of our visit. We had hoped very much to see more of your State, and especially to visit the Gir Jungles and meet the Indian lion in his last stronghold. I have read that the cause of their disappearance from the Jungles of Nawanagar was the sound of cannon fired at rebels in the sixties of last century. I trust that the sound of my 31 guns to-morrow morning may not reach the ears of Your Highness' lions and have a similar effect on them. I was glad to hear the other day that their numbers are not declining, though I confess that I had hoped that during my visit their numbers might have declined at least by one.

It is a pleasure to be assured by Your Highness that my new Political Secretary had won Your Highness' friendship during his tenure as my Agent in the Western India States, and I am glad to know that one who is now to be my adviser in all that concerns the Indian States should have the confidence of the rulers whose fortunes he will now watch over in another capacity. I am certain that Your Highness will find an equally firm friend and wise counsellor in Mr. Kealy.

I thank Your Highness again for your warm welcome and kindly hospitality. Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to drink with me long life and all prosperity to our noble host His Highness Sir Mahabat Khan, Nawab of Junagadh.

PRIZE-GIVING AT THE RAJKUMAR COLLEGE, RAJKOT.

22nd November 1927.

His Excellency the Viceroy presided over the ceremony of the Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot, and made the following speech :—

Princes and Chiefs of the Western India States, Mr. Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen.—It gives me the



Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

greatest pleasure to preside at this Prize-giving to-day, and I should like to begin by congratulating all those Kumars to whom I have just handed the coveted rewards of hard and successful work. I must also offer my thanks and congratulations to those who have just given us such excellent recitations.

I wish to thank you, too, Mr. Principal, for the kind way in which you have referred to my visit in the speech to which we have just listened. I can assure you that Viceroys find great satisfaction in the fact that their visits to Kathiawar can now be more frequent than they were in the past, and I wish that the intervals between them could be even further reduced. However, the world changes and we change with it ; and with the perfecting of modern means of transport I fancy that a term has been set to the comparative isolation of Kathiawar imposed upon it by its somewhat remote position on the map of India.

You have referred briefly, Mr. Principal, to the anxiety which has recently been felt by those who take an interest in Chiefs' Colleges. You are aware that their future has been receiving the attention of my Government, and that tentative proposals have been made for their reconstitution. Though it is premature for me at this moment to forecast the judgment of those concerned on these proposals, I am convinced that the Colleges have done and are doing work of high importance to India, and I am personally anxious to do everything that I can to extend the sphere of their utility.

I do not propose to detain you with a long speech. There are only a few things I wish to say to you, firstly, to the Princes and Chiefs who are here to-day and, secondly, to the Kumars who are members of this College.

To the first I speak not so much as to Princes and Chiefs but rather as to old boys and old friends of the



Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

Rajkumar College. As you, Mr. Principal, have pointed out, this College is a great co-operative effort started and very largely maintained by the Princes and Chiefs of the Western India States. They have reason to be proud of it. That they should have combined with this object, more than 50 years ago, is an example of what India to-day chiefly needs—the will to work whole-heartedly and for a common purpose with people of whom one personally perhaps knows little, and with whose point of view one may not at all times feel agreement. It is unnecessary for me to remind you of how much the Princes have it still in their hands to do for this College, and particularly of the part which old boys may play in maintaining the high standards and lofty traditions of their old school. I think that perhaps in the case of some schools in India this feature is not so noticeable as in our English Public School life. But here at Rajkot, where the thread of long family tradition runs happily through the school life, you have special opportunities to exert this kind of beneficial influence. Your “Old Boy” is perhaps the best critic that his school can have. He may be at times rather inclined to play the rôle of *laudator temporis acti se puero*, to mistrust innovations and to complain that “things are not as they were in his day”. That is a weakness to which most of us succumb with advancing years. But the old boy is your most faithful champion of the good name of the school, jealous of its best traditions, keenly desirous of its success in the class-room and on the playing field. And, in his interest and affection for his old school, you have a firm foundation for its future welfare.

As you, Mr. Principal, have pointed out, we see plenty of evidence around us of the generosity of old members of this College, and I hope that this fine spirit will continue to find many who are keen to emulate it. There is, or ought to be, no boy who does not owe an



Prize-giving at the Rajkumar College, Rajkot.

unpayable debt to his old school ; it has made him what he is and he can discharge a part of his obligation by becoming as it were a trustee for its good name and success.

To the Kumars of this College I can probably say little that has not often been said to them before. You will have, when you leave the College, to fill great and responsible positions, and your lives here may exert great and enduring influence upon how you acquit yourselves in them later on. Your people will rightly expect to find their rulers possessed of those qualities of intellect and character, which will enable them to fulfil the duties that birth has brought them. You have here the means of training intellect and moulding character. Use these wisely and you will be storing for yourselves treasures of permanent worth in your after-life ; neglect them, and you will when too late regret your wasted opportunities. You are here making friendships which will endure through life and may in future mean a potent bond between two States. But let me also ask you to look for a moment across wider spaces. When you come here you have probably seen very little of Kathiawar ; and you have perhaps taken little interest in anything outside your own homes. That is the experience of most English boys also. As you grow older and make friends, the play of mind on mind begins to implant wider interests, and you come to think of yourselves as members of a College that includes Kumars from all over Kathiawar and beyond. Later, as you become more senior, you realise that each of you is concerned in anything that concerns India, even if it may not appear directly to affect you. India, again, is a part of a wider organisation ; this country, and you along with it, cannot disregard anything of importance that may happen in the British Empire ; for whatever touches the Empire touches India, and what touches India touches you. But in these days we cannot even rest our eyes finally upon the Empire. Each part of the world

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has become, in the last hundred years, more dependent on the others than our ancestors would have dreamed possible, more dependent even than is generally realised to-day. This has given great opportunities to the leaders of nations ; but it has also brought great dangers. To take advantage of the opportunities and if possible to avert the dangers, an organisation has been formed that is without parallel in world history. India belongs to the League of Nations, and members of the Order of Princes have been among her most active and valued representatives. They have set you a good example, and I hope that you will make a special study of recent developments in the history of the world.

I am not suggesting that you should not keep the first place in your thoughts and in your affections for your own States. On the contrary, I would urge you, before all, to work loyally for them. But there is a foolish idea abroad that one can only serve one's own unit, be it State or Nation, Province or Empire, by refusing to consider anything beyond it. Yet the truth is that loyalty is not essentially narrow ; the true interests of a Nation or State cannot be discovered without looking beyond its boundaries ; and those interests cannot be served without working for the whole of which it forms a part. It has always been easy to arouse the patriotism of a people by appealing to their jealousies or their fears ; and that has given rise to the idea that a patriot is necessarily hostile to a foreigner, and that patriotism is the spirit of self-assertion. This is a profound mistake. Even self-interest demands consideration for others, and this applies to communities as to individuals. But the man of ordinary education and opportunity may not have the time or the interest to look beyond his own narrow circle ; it is therefore to you, Kumars, that he must turn for guidance. And, if you would guide your States wisely, you must look beyond them, and know something of other