



*Durbar at Rajkot.*

States, of the Empire, and of the world. This will be brought home to you more clearly when you leave the College ; but it is not too early for you now to form opinions on big issues. Your opinions, at present, may not be well-founded or of much importance to other people ; yet to yourselves they will as your first political judgments be of great value, though you may revise them later. Let them be based on an effort to understand the facts. I think that the value of education is principally to be found in the acquisition of a sound judgment, well-trained and capable of distinguishing between what is true and what is specious, what is sound coin and what is counterfeit. And, inasmuch as we can never hope to make ourselves masters of all the subjects with which as administrators we may have to deal, we must seek to gain the faculty of so judging men that we can know whom to mistrust and to whom to give our confidence. This surely we learn at school, as here we also come to test our judgments by those of others, and learn from the clash of thought. I would ask you therefore to think over the dictum of a modern historian that " No man is entitled to express an opinion upon any controversial question, until he can understand how men as able and honest as himself can hold opinions widely different from his own ".

That is all I have to say. I wish you, Mr. Principal, with your Staff and all the Kumars, present and future, all success, happiness and prosperity in your work and games and life during many long years to come.

**DURBAR AT RAJKOT.**

His Excellency the Viceroy's address at the Rajkot Durbar is given below :—

22nd November 1927,

*Chiefs and Talukdars of Kathiawar.*—It is a great pleasure to me to address you here to-day as the third Viceroy who has seen Kathiawar since your States first came into touch with the British Government ; nor, after

*Durbar at Rajkot.*

the last twelve days, in which I hope that I have gained some little insight into your especial needs and problems, do I in any way regret my decision to visit the Kathiawar States thus early in my Viceroyalty.

In November 1924 when my predecessor, Lord Reading, on an occasion similar to the present, announced the creation of a Western India States Agency and the establishment of direct contact between the Rulers and Chiefs of Western India and the Central Government, he expressed the opinion that some of you might be inclined to fear that a formal and official relationship was about to take the place of the cordial and unfailing goodwill that had previously subsisted between your States and the Government of Bombay. I think I may now safely say that, if this was the case then, the intervening three years have amply proved that there was no foundation for any such apprehensions, and we may confidently assert that the rapid advances made by Kathiawar along every avenue of progress in recent years are a sure indication of the success of this great reform. I am also glad to observe that, in the large majority of cases that have come under my notice, the advice of Lord Reading "to inaugurate also a new period of mutual toleration, compromise and real co-operation in your relations with each other" has been taken to heart and loyally acted upon by you.

In these changing times, gentlemen, you are faced by the same problems as confront the greater States, but you have your own special difficulties also, in that smaller units may find it hard to reach the standard of administration demanded by modern opinion or to keep pace with the progress shown by their larger neighbours. I am not here to advocate what is impossible or to place before you ideals that are obviously beyond your reach. But I would ask you all to realise that the principal justification of all rule is that it should be good rule,



*Durbar at Rajkot.*

that you are the custodians of your peoples' interests, and that their welfare rather than selfish enjoyment should be your principal and constant aim. I am glad to understand that many of you appreciate this ; but it is so important that none should lag behind, that I feel myself justified in bringing it specially to your notice on this occasion. The provision of independent courts of justice, the provision of good schools and the maintenance of roads and communications are functions of Government which I would especially commend to your attention.

The prosperity of the cultivating classes is another important factor making for contentment, and I am told that in many States this is hampered and improvement is stayed, because the cultivator is a mere tenant-at-will liable to ejection at a moment's notice. A right of tenancy has been found elsewhere to be an indispensable incentive for better agriculture. I know there are difficulties and that measures are required to prevent the right falling into the hands of the money-lenders. But, when dangers can be foreseen, they can be avoided, and I would strongly direct your attention to the far-reaching benefits inherent in security of tenure, to the cultivator, to the countryside and ultimately to the ruler of the State or Taluka himself. For his people's interests are in reality his own, and he need not doubt that any improvement in their general conditions will be later on reflected in the public revenues. I trust that the findings of the Royal Commission on Agriculture may produce much of interest to the land-owners in this Province. I would recommend all of you who can do so to visit the Agricultural Show which will be held next year by the Bombay Government at Ahmedabad. You will not fail there to learn much of value to your tenants in new methods of agriculture and improved varieties of crops, though I am well aware that in the matter of horse-breeding and the rearing of live-stock some of the farmers of Kathiawar have won for themselves a position of pre-eminence.

*Banquet at Rajkot.*

As representative of the King-Emperor, I have been distressed beyond measure by the terrible havoc that has been wrought by the recent floods in some parts of Kathiawar, and I know that many of you here to-day have undergone heavy losses, although the damage has happily not been so serious as in the neighbouring country of Gujerat. To those of you who have suffered I offer my sincere sympathy; but it is perhaps some consolation, after the drought and famine that you have sometimes experienced in former years, to know that the water-level in rivers and wells must have risen to its maximum, assuring success to the winter crops and providing the copious vegetation which may bring good rain again next year. In 1926 also the monsoon was plentiful, and I trust we may now stand at the commencement of a cycle of good years and an era of progress and prosperity for all of you in Kathiawar.

Chiefs and Talukdars, I am sincerely glad to have met you here to-day; as Viceroy and Governor-General I have special care for the interests of all Indian States, both great and small, and I should have felt my visit to the Western India States Agency incomplete without this opportunity of greeting you personally and making your acquaintance. I would wish to assure you, as has already been done by my predecessor, that you can count upon the friendly help and sympathy of myself and my officers in your troubles, upon our advice in your difficulties and upon our encouragement in all measures taken by you for the improvement of your administrations and your peoples' good.

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**BANQUET AT RAJKOT.**

2nd November 1927.

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

*Nawab Sahib, Your Highness, Chiefs and Talukdars, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—On behalf of Lady Irwin and



*Banquet at Rajkot.*

myself I thank you very warmly for your cordial welcome to us this evening and the kind terms in which our healths have been proposed. It has been a great pleasure to us to have the opportunity of visiting the Western India Agency within the second year of my Viceroyalty and of realising at first hand the interest and importance of the States in political relations with my Agent. What I have seen and learned can now be of value to me during the greater portion of my tenure of office. Even a brief visit can be effective in enabling one to view local questions in a truer perspective.

For many years you were connected with the Bombay Government and your aspirations and difficulties were not so directly as they are now in charge of the Viceroy and the Imperial Government. But certainly since I assumed office in April 1926, I have not been allowed to forget Kathiawar, and some at least of your problems have been insistent in their claims on my attention. It is not surprising therefore that I have seized an early occasion of coming to see for myself a group of States presenting such a variety of interesting aspects.

You have rightly, Nawab Sahib, laid stress on the many claims of your Province to be visited by the Viceroy. I have heard of the ancient and honourable history of your Ruling Houses and of the steadfast loyalty to the British Crown and friendly co-operation with its officers which have marked your relations with the British Government during over 100 years. Your fine traditions will be an incentive to future progress, and I am assured that in all times whether good or evil His Majesty the King-Emperor can count on the devotion of all the Princes and Chiefs of the States of Western India.

Other States may call to the artist, the sportsman and antiquarian by the beauty of their scenery, the wild density of their hills and jungles, their ruined cities and

*Banquet at Rajkot.*

historic past. While you have these also you can more fully justify your invitation by your modern and progressive administrations and your intimate association with problems of vital and present interest to India as a whole. As a great cotton-growing country you are closely linked with one of India's most important industries; your wide plains have favoured the rapid development of an extensive system of railways; your merchants and traders have been for generations in touch with the life and energy of the great Ports of Bombay and Karachi. It is not, therefore, remarkable if your administrations reflect and respond to modern ideas more fully than where these conditions are non-existent. It is possible that these conditions, while making your problems more vivid, also make them more troublesome to the Government of India; and the Political Secretary will bear me out when I say that the Western India States Agency occupies quite its full share of the time of the Central Secretariat! This is partly inevitable and due to the complexity of interests involved in the many interlacing jurisdictions that mark this Agency. I am glad to understand from my Agent that the States as a whole have responded to my predecessor's appeal for compromise and arbitration, but there still appears to be a residuum of cases which are not amenable to such settlement. I trust that they will grow fewer as time passes, and that future Viceroys may enjoy the charming friendship of the cultured Princes of Kathiawar without the painful necessity of giving constant decisions that cannot satisfy one at least of the contending parties!

I would have wished that my time among you had been longer so that I could have visited more of your States, Bhavnagar for whose administration during the minority of the young Maharaja we are responsible, Dhrangadhra with its new industries, Morvi and Gondal, the pioneers of railway and other enterprises, Palitana

*Banquet at Rajkot.*

with its hill of which I have heard almost too much—and many others. In these days a Viceroy's time is greatly occupied, and it is impossible for him to visit all the places he would wish. I have however seen enough to realise your importance and to understand the position given to you by common repute as among the vanguard of the progressive Princes of India.

I know well that in all your endeavours to maintain the high standard of your Administration you have had a whole-hearted supporter in the late Agent to the Governor General, Mr. Watson, and that you will continue to have a firm friend and also adviser in Mr. Kealy. It has been a great pleasure to me throughout my recent tour to find on all sides evidences of the mutual friendship and esteem which exist between my new Political Secretary and the Princes of the Western India States. Such feelings will not fail to be of the greatest assistance to him in the responsible duties which now devolve upon him.

Along with all other thoughtful members of your order you are now anxious and deeply concerned about the question of your constitutional position in regard to, and your future relations with, the Government of British India. It is a political puzzle of the utmost difficulty and one to which I do not attempt here and now to give any final answer. I would only say that, in my view, the more your Administrations approximate to the standards of efficiency demanded by enlightened public opinion elsewhere, the easier it will be to find a just and permanent solution. Your rights, dignities and privileges under your Treaties and Sanads have been frequently reaffirmed and I am certain that no British Government will fail to maintain them. Nor even apart from them would any change affecting your position be likely to be proposed without the fullest possible consideration being given to your views and sentiments.

*Banquet at Rajkot.*

In my conversations, however, on this general question with many of the Princes I have become aware of a strong body of opinion in favour of early exploration of some of the more technical ground by which it is surrounded. Whatever may be found to be the ultimate solution of the wider problem of the States viewed in relation to developments in British India, there is, I think, force in the contention of many of the Princes' order that there are meanwhile certain practical questions which may profitably be examined without delay. It has therefore been decided by the Secretary of State to appoint a small expert Committee, firstly, to report upon the relationship between the Paramount power and the States, with particular reference to the rights and obligations arising from Treaties, Engagements and Sanads, and usage, sufferance and other causes; and, secondly, to enquire into the financial and economic relations between British India and the States and to make any recommendations that they may consider desirable or necessary for their more satisfactory adjustment.

The personnel, I trust, will be announced shortly and it is hoped that the Committee will assemble in India in order to commence its enquiry in the near future. I have little doubt that it will command the confidence of the States and meet with all the assistance it may require at the hands of the members of Your Highness' Order.

I of course share the regret felt by all of you that it has recently been found necessary to reimpose a Customs Line at Viramgam. Such a line must, I recognise, in some ways be an inconvenience. The disadvantages are, however, being reduced to a minimum by the successful efforts that are being made to work in co-operation with the States. The circumstances which have led to the measure have been involved and difficult, and I and my Government have to guard the interests of British India while doing justice, to the best of our judgment, to the legitimate claims of the Maritime States.



*Banquet at Kapurthala.*

I am glad to be told that your experience has justified the transfer of your States to direct relations with the Government of India and its officers. The change was made before I reached India, and I find it difficult to realise conditions in which so large and important a group of States did not share in the common policy and methods of the Political Department directly under the Viceroy. All systems have their drawbacks, but it is my hope that you will continue to be satisfied with the present arrangements and will find at the hands of the Viceroy and his officers not less sympathy, consideration and attention than you had from the Government of Bombay.

I hope to meet many of you again at the Chamber of Princes in Delhi and at Simla if ever you travel to that over-crowded mountain top. I thank you once more for the kind things you have said about Lady Irwin and myself. We shall both cherish the most pleasant recollections of our visit to Kathiawar and of your welcome to us this evening.

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BANQUET AT KAPURTHALA.

His Excellency the Viceroy replied in the following terms 26th November 1927.  
to the toast of his health by His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala at the Banquet at Kapurthala on the 26th November :—

*Your Highness.*—This is indeed a rare occasion and I rejoice that your hospitality has enabled me and so many others to be present at it. I must begin by asking Your Highness to allow me as spokesman for all your guests to say how warmly we wish you many and most happy returns of the birthday which we so auspiciously celebrate to-day. The fiftieth anniversary of any event in the life of an ordinary man is apt to find him nearing the end of his active career, or in mellow retirement. We are delighted to think, Your Highness, that your Golden

*Banquet at Kapurthala.*

Jubilee as Ruler should come while your natural force is still unabated, and you are able still with full energy to devote yourself not only to the affairs of your State but also to wider and Imperial politics. If I may be allowed for once at a State Banquet to make a remark on our host's personal appearance, I would say that nobody looking at His Highness to-night would readily believe that half a century has passed since he took his seat upon the *Gadi*. May I, while I am on this topic, go one step further, and echo His Highness' satisfaction that whereas, since he came of age, the figure of his State's revenue has doubled, that of his own weight has decreased by half.

Your Highness has just spoken in the kindest terms of Lady Irwin and myself, and we both warmly appreciate all you have said. I would also ask you to believe how grateful we are for the hospitality with which you have entertained us and for all the trouble which you and Your Highness' officials have taken to make our stay in Kapurthala so comfortable and pleasant.

The brief sketch you gave us to-night, Your Highness, of the progress in internal administration during the last 50 years was enough to indicate the vast improvements which your rule has brought to the State. It is not for me to follow you in detail through them, but I know both from my own personal observation and from what I have heard from my advisers, that Kapurthala ranks high among the Indian States in the quality of its administration. This, I have no doubt, is largely due to the sound principles upon which that administration is based, to the keen interest which Your Highness has always taken personally in State affairs, and to the attention to detail which you apply in a remarkable degree to all that comes under your supervision. Among the most valuable qualities in any ruler are the faculty to choose wisely those to whom he entrusts responsibility, and the capacity to trust those whom he has so chosen. I know very well



*Banquet at Kapurthala.*

how much, as you have said, Your Highness' State owes to the ability and efficiency of your Chief Minister, Khan Bahadur Abdul Hamid, who has enjoyed Your Highness' confidence and filled this responsible post with success and credit for the last 12 years.

To this high standard in the public service we must largely attribute the peace and contentment which continue to prevail in your State, and the harmony which exists among the various sections of your subjects. He is indeed a happy man in India to-day who can say that in his part of the country no discord exists between the two great communities, and I know that Your Highness will do everything in your power to preserve this happy state of affairs. It is a great pleasure to me to hear of the close co-operation which has always existed between Your Highness and the British authorities. A striking example of this was seen in 1923 when the storm centre of the Akali trouble was not far from your borders, and the Police of Kapurthala played an important part in combating sedition, and worked whole-heartedly in conjunction with the Punjab Police in putting down the forces of lawlessness and disorder. I sincerely hope that those troublous days are past, never to return, but I know that, if need be, we may always rely on Your Highness' traditional friendship to Government and loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Your Highness' State troops continue to maintain their high reputation. The reports I receive of them are excellent and speak of the fine quality of the troops and specially of the proficiency they have attained in signalling. I was greatly impressed by the turnout and general appearance of the Guards of Honour and Escort which I had the pleasure of seeing yesterday. Great credit is due to the Durbar and to Your Highness personally for the attention you have bestowed on this important part of your administration, and I have no doubt that any future

*Banquet at Kapurthala.*

contingency that may arise will find your State troops as ready and fit to take the field as they have been in the past.

The question which Your Highness has touched upon of the future relations between the Government of India and the Indian States is, as you know, of deep concern to me, and I can assure you that I am most anxious if I can to pave the way for a solution of this difficult problem in such fashion as may be to the satisfaction and the benefit of both parties. Your Highness has no doubt noticed the announcement I made a few days ago at Rajkot that the Secretary of State has decided to appoint a small expert Committee which will be able to explore some of the more technical ground by which this question is surrounded. I am satisfied that Your Highness is right in believing that the necessity of good internal administration is perhaps more vital to the States to-day than it has ever been before, and I rejoice to know that Your Highness so faithfully puts into practice the principles you have enunciated to-night.

I have referred to the part Your Highness has played in International politics. In a letter which I lately received from Lord Lytton, the leader of the Indian delegation to the recent Assembly of the League of Nations, he spoke in the highest terms of the value of Your Highness' presence at Geneva this year. As you have just said, your familiarity with European life and politics stands you in good stead on such occasions, and India has been fortunate in having as one of her representatives at Geneva for two successive years one who could dispense such sound sense within the Assembly Hall and such princely hospitality outside.

Your Highness, it is now with very real and sincere pleasure that I am able to announce publicly that His Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased



*Opening of the Young Men's Christian Association Building in  
New Delhi.*

to confer on you the Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. I congratulate you most heartily and with my own congratulations I know that I can associate those of the whole company here to-night.

It adds to my pleasure that I should further be authorised by His Majesty to announce this evening that your Private Secretary, Sardar Muhabbat Rai, and your Military Secretary, Sardar Jarmani Dass, whose services at Geneva were I know of the greatest value, have been appointed Officers of the same Most Excellent Order.

I am glad to think that your long and successful period of rule, no less than the services you have rendered in the cause of world peace, should have been recognised by such a high distinction, and I am particularly gratified that it should have been possible for me to make this announcement on so memorable an occasion as your Golden Jubilee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink the health of our distinguished host His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala, and with the toast to offer him your congratulations on the well-won honour I have just announced.

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OPENING OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN NEW DELHI.

H. E. the Viceroy opened the Young Men's Christian Association Building in New Delhi on the 3rd December with the following address :—

3rd Decem-  
ber 1927.

*Ladies and Gentlemen.*—I did not come here to-day so much to make a speech as to gain for myself a personal impression of the work which the Young Men's Christian Association have been performing and are yet to perform in Delhi and to gain some acquaintance of the surround-



*Opening of the Young Men's Christian Association Building in  
New Delhi.*

ings and conditions in which the work will be carried on. But I must say briefly what pleasure it gives me to have been invited to perform this ceremony to-day. For I have heard a good deal of the work which the Association have for some years been carrying on in Delhi City, and I am quite sure that, if this further development which we are inaugurating to-day continues to follow the same principles of co-operation and mutual service, it is destined to have a very real influence for good in the lives of many present and future residents of New Delhi.

I think we must all have been struck by many features of the statement which Mr. Singha made to us this afternoon, perhaps most of all by the catholicity of membership of the Delhi Young Men's Christian Association. It shows that there is plenty of common ground—the common ground of humanity—on which people of all creeds, if they have the will, can combine, to the inestimable advantage of all. I believe it is a fact that nine-tenths of the subscriptions on which the Delhi Association depends come from those who are not Christians and that men of all communities lend their services freely for the benefit of their fellow-men without question of caste or creed.

Mr. Singha has mentioned the names of many gentlemen who are in particular entitled to our gratitude for all they have done in this work. I and all of us here to-day echo all that he has said. He has not, however, said what he himself has done, and I know that a great deal of the success of the Delhi City Branch has been due to the single-hearted enthusiasm with which he has carried out his own onerous duties. I am very glad to think that the development of this institution in New Delhi will be in such capable hands as those of Mr. Singha and his many devoted colleagues.



*Opening of the Young Men's Christian Association Building in  
New Delhi.*

Mr. Paul, whom I am very glad to welcome here to-day, has said that the Young Men's Christian Association does not tolerate any partisan propaganda. I need hardly say how heartily I endorse that principle. If it were otherwise, indeed, I feel that the Young Men's Christian Association in India would never have reached the position it now holds throughout the country and could not for so many years have performed the admirable work of which we are all well aware.

The ideals which the Association sets before itself are not easy of achievement, but the path towards them lies in one territory alone, the realm of unselfish and single-minded devotion to a cause which is as wide as humanity itself. In the pursuit of these ideals the Association can have no enemies except the forces which are everywhere at work to lead men to substitute manner ambitions of self-interest or the like for the nobler purpose of service of their fellows. So long as members of the Association are true to these principles, there will be few quarters from which they will not receive encouragement and goodwill.

I will now ask your permission to open this new building. The fact that its construction, as Mr. Singha and Mr. Paul have said, has been made possible by the generosity of a well-wisher in Canada is in itself a symbol of the all-embracing brotherhood of humanity. Let me express our gratitude to Mr. Massey and to all those who, by financial assistance or by personal service, have helped to bring this building into existence, and to wish it and all those connected with it all success and prosperity for many years to come.

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6th December 1927. DEPUTATION OF THE CALCUTTA MARWARI ASSOCIATION.

His Excellency the Viceroy, in reply to the representatives of the Marwari Association, expressed his great pleasure at meeting them. He said that few would deny that industrial and commercial and business enterprise was one of the foundations on which political life was built up and that one of the tests of any political system was the scope it gave to the productive elements in a country to flourish and extend themselves. He referred to the wide commercial interests of the Marwaris and their consequent interest in political questions. Referring to the statement of the deputation that Government was apt to leave loyalists in the lurch and to bow to agitators, His Excellency admitted a loud-spoken minority sometimes got more than its share of a hearing. This was partly the fault of those who are not articulate enough. These were days of organisation—in politics as well as in business. If the Marwari Association lacked political organisation and power to make their voice heard and their views known, they ought to take steps to remedy this. They *must* organise, and they might be assured that Government would never underrate the well-being of the less articulate communities. They must, however, themselves be prepared to take their part by placing themselves in a position to assert their views, whether to Government, the Statutory Commission or any other body.

His Excellency then referred to the criticisms against the Statutory Commission. He said that though Indians were entitled to say that a mistake had been made by His Majesty's Government, they had no right to say that a calculated affront had been intended. He need hardly say that His Majesty's Government realised, to the full, the need of the greatest possible goodwill between Britain and India in their official, commercial and other relations. His Excellency also said that though Indians might, if they so thought, say that the wrong method had been



*Opening of the "Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital" and laying of the Foundation-stone of the "Sir Ranjit Singhji High School" at Baria.*

chosen of associating Indians with the Commission, they had no right to say that Indians were not being definitely and at every stage associated. He said that the future historian would pay little attention to the personnel of the Commission ; he would lay great emphasis on the fact that for the first time in the relations between Britain and India representatives of the Indian Parliament had been invited to confer with the representatives of the British Parliament. His Excellency went on to say that in the next few months everyone would be called upon to decide whether or not they would support the Commission. It was no use standing out and giving no opinion at all ; everyone must range himself on one side or the other and he could hardly doubt that everyone with a real stake in the country, as they considered the issues involved, would recognise the necessity of doing everything in their power to ensure that the enquiry to be undertaken by the Statutory Commission should be the means of assisting both Great Britain and India to form a wise and well-founded judgment on these grave matters. In conclusion His Excellency again emphasised that the Marwari Association were themselves responsible for seeing that their point of view was effectively presented.

OPENING OF THE "SIR LESLIE WILSON HOSPITAL"  
AND LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF  
THE "SIR RANJIT SINGHJI HIGH SCHOOL" AT  
BARIA.

8th December  
1927.

In performing the above ceremonies at Baria on the 8th December, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—The nature of the double ceremony which Your Highness has asked me to perform to-day has a significance which in these progressive times it is hardly necessary for me to emphasise.

*Opening of the "Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital" and laying of the Foundation-stone of the "Sir Ranjit Singhji High School" at Baria.*

It is a happy symbol of Your Highness' continuity of purpose that as one building is completed the foundation-stone of another is laid ; and the fact that one building is a hospital and the other a school is in itself sufficient evidence of Your Highness' constant solicitude for the physical and intellectual well-being of the inhabitants of Baria State. I am glad of this opportunity of complying with Your Highness' request and of being intimately associated with institutions which will perpetuate the names of Your Highness and of His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, whom I am proud to rank among my friends and whose unfailing interest in medical relief has been of such benefit to the Bombay Presidency during the past four years.

I most heartily congratulate Your Highness on the successful completion of a new and well-equipped hospital. The growing popularity of medical institutions in this State is a clear and welcome indication not only that the distrust of modern medicine is steadily diminishing, but also that Your Highness' hospitals and dispensaries are being rightly and efficiently administered for the people's good. This hospital, which I have no doubt will claim Your Highness constant and watchful interest, cannot fail to remedy a sorely-felt need in your State, and I know that many sufferers who would previously have been left to languish and to die will have cause in the future to be deeply grateful to the enlightened benefactor who is their Ruler. I am gratified to learn that the philanthropy of Colonel Maharaj Naharsinhji and Mr. Harilal Parekh is to be commemorated by the thoughtful action of Your Highness in associating for all time two wards of the hospital with their memory.

I am well aware that Your Highness' efforts in the direction both of healing the bodies and of training the



*Opening of the "Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital" and laying of the Foundation-stone of the "Sir Ranjit Singhji High School" at Baria.*

minds of your subjects have been hampered at every turn by unusual obstacles ; the vagaries of the climate, the inaccessibility of many districts of the State, the conservatism of your general population, leading them to view new departures with suspicion, have made the introduction of modern medicine and progressive education an ideal difficult of attainment. It is all the more creditable to Your Highness that you have so far accomplished your desires ; indeed, the building of which I am to-day, by Your Highness' indulgence, to be privileged to lay the foundation-stone will be the second High School in the Baria State. I hope and believe that in due course the onward sweep of education will lead to a demand for yet more High Schools, and that Your Highness will have occasion still further to add to their number at no very distant date in the future.

I am interested to learn that education both primary and secondary is free in Baria, and that there are also scholarships provided for deserving students. Your Highness' valuable scheme for giving to primary education an agricultural tinge is the seed of a policy which will prove its merit increasingly as time goes on ; education is principally intended to fit a man to make the best of his environment, and I feel convinced that vocational training of the type that Your Highness has inaugurated is of exceptional importance in an agricultural country like India. The conception of the "scholar-ploughman" is far removed from the old traditional hierarchy of mediæval India, with its high-caste landlord and low-caste tiller of the soil ; but it is a conception which is more in keeping with the ideals of modern democracy than many arbitrary distinctions between man and man that exist to-day. I think perhaps one of the chief contributory causes of the middle class employment, which is one of the most

*State Banquet at Baria.*

disquieting features of Indian life to-day, is the refusal of the young man of education to return to his old village and use his knowledge on the land, and I am glad to see that Your Highness realises the necessity of equipping the young idea in your State with a sound knowledge of the theory of farming. I am pleased to hear that the consequence of transferring the control of educational institutions to the State ten years ago has been to stimulate the Durbar to great efforts in this direction; Baria has done well in accepting the option offered to all the major States in the Agency of assuming their own responsibilities of school-inspection, and I trust that Your Highness' officials will continue to prove themselves worthy of the confidence that has been reposed in them.

I will now ask Your Highness' permission to proceed to declare open the "Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital" and to lay the foundation-stone of the High School which is to have the honour of bearing Your Highness' name.

## STATE BANQUET AT BARIA.

8th December  
1927.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the State Banquet at Baria on the 8th December :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—It has given Lady Irwin and myself, Your Highness, the greatest pleasure to make the acquaintance of your State and its people, and the interest of our visit here is enhanced by the knowledge that this pleasure and privilege have fallen to the lot of no previous Viceroy. We thank you gratefully for the cordial welcome you have extended to us and for the kind terms in which you have just spoken. I particularly value the assurance Your Highness has given of the continued loyalty and devotion of yourself and your people to His Majesty the King-Emperor, a loyalty which has been proved in the past and will, I know, not be found wanting in the future.



*State Banquet at Baria.*

I am indeed, Your Highness, not unaware of the history of your ancient House, of its conquest and rule of Champaner, its struggle against invaders and neighbouring enemies, and of the heroic deeds of your ancestors of whom the chronicler has said that "they were no unworthy scions of a race to which has been assigned the palm of martial intrepidity among all the royal houses of India".

A hundred and twenty-five years have passed since Baria State first came into contact with the British power. By that date Your Highness' house had indeed lost some of its old material possessions and no longer held sway over the wide territories it had ruled in the past. But it had lost none of its old independence and still carried its head high, even as it does to-day.

Baria troops readily took the field in company with the British against their common antagonists, and the assistance they eagerly rendered during that troublous period was acknowledged to be of the greatest value. That tradition still stands firm. Your Highness' two platoons of infantry and troop of cavalry form a highly efficient force, well-run and keen on their work. Their turn-out is reported to be excellent, and I am glad to hear that they have made such a favourable impression when joining in neighbouring manoeuvres with units of the Indian Army. I am glad to know that we can trust to Your Highness to turn out if need be such an efficient body of men, and I have reason to believe that in the event of trouble Your Highness and Your Highness' brother would be found at the head of your armed forces.

Your Highness has referred to the scheme you have in mind to extend the cultivation of your State by the construction of irrigation works, and I need hardly say that I shall be keenly interested to hear whether your investigations show that this is feasible. You have also urged the necessity of building further feeder lines of

*State Banquet at Baria.*

railways. You may be aware that the question of railway construction and development in the whole area in question is under examination by the Railway Board, and an officer deputed by them for this purpose has recently visited the Agency. My Government is fully alive to the value of opening up country by means of railways, but you will realise that rival claims have also to be considered. In the meantime, however, it is satisfactory to know that sanction has recently been given to the construction of a line from Piplod to Deugad Baria.

I have seen a long list, Your Highness, of the progressive measures which you have carried out in your State during your period of rule. I have referred earlier to-day to your achievements in the realms of education and medical relief. That you also have the agricultural prosperity of your subjects at heart is proved by the revision of your system of taxation, your institution of a Savings Bank for agriculturists, and your grant of occupancy rights in agricultural lands to cultivators. Your interest in the promotion of industries and commerce and in the improvement of your towns and villages is patent too to the observer. I am particularly pleased that Your Highness should have seen fit to mark the occasion of my visit by further action which will in due time enure to the benefit of your subjects. I have no doubt that you reap the reward of all these labours in the gratitude and increased happiness of your people.

Of Your Highness' personal services to the Government there is also much to say. In all emergencies you have given proof of your practical loyalty and anxiety to serve the King-Emperor. You served in the Great War, and, if you had had your way, you would have been found with our recent defensive force in Shanghai. In all ways indeed when opportunity offers I know that the British Government can always count upon your valuable assistance.



*Opening of the Boy Scouts Jamboree in Bombay.*

Our stay in Baria has been regrettably short, and we would willingly have devoted more of our time, if it had been possible, to gaining a better acquaintance with Your Highness' State. We thank you sincerely for the hospitality you have shown us to-day, and we shall often look back with pleasure to our visit.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to the health and prosperity of His Highness the Raja of Baria.

OPENING OF THE BOY SCOUTS JAMBOREE IN  
BOMBAY

In opening the Boy Scouts Jamboree in Bombay on the 11th December, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

11th December 1927.

*Brother Scouts.*—It gives me great pleasure to be among you all to-day and to take part, as Chief Scout for India and Burma, in this Jamboree, which I believe is one of the biggest that has ever taken place in India.

I have been much struck by the growth of scouting in India ever since I became your Chief Scout. This year's Census, which has just been completed, shows a total of over 108,000 Scouters and Scouts in India and Burma, an increase of nearly 28,000 in one year. In the previous year the increase was almost as great, so you may all feel certain that you are taking part in a movement which has a great future before it. And as numbers have grown, so has efficiency.

I have inspected bodies of Scouts all over India, and have always been impressed by their smartness and keenness, and I am very pleased to see the fine and efficient turn-out here to-day. But this Jamboree has a special significance. As Sir Chunilal Mehta has said, Scouts from all the four corners of India have gathered together

*Opening of the Boy Scouts Jamboree in Bombay.*

here, of many different races and creeds. And this gathering is therefore significant as a symbol of the brotherhood of Scouts all over India,—a brotherhood which, as Sir Chunilal Mehta has well said, revives the best traditions of the old teaching of India. And as Scouts are brothers all over India, so are they brothers all over the British Empire.

Many of you, I have no doubt, are now seeing Bombay for the first time. You will carry back to your homes a wonderful picture of a great city, a great harbour, of crowded streets and shipping from all over the world. But another impression which I hope you will carry away from this Jamboree is an increased realisation of the brotherhood of all Scouts. A scout is a Scout all the world over ; anything you do as Scouts in your own particular troop or association affects the credit of Scouts all over India.

That is one thing you should take away from this Jamboree with you. Another, I hope, is the determination to remember and adapt anything you have learnt from other Scouts whom you have met here. I have no doubt each troop has been comparing itself with its neighbours, thinking that in such and such a way its own turn-out is the best. That is as it should be ; pride in yourself is the basis of all self-respect. But this does not mean that you have nothing to learn from others, and I feel sure that one result of this Jamboree will be an increase of efficiency in Scouting far outside the limits of Bombay itself.

Before I say goodbye, I wish to express my gratitude to your Provincial Chief Scout, His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, for allowing me the privilege of opening this Jamboree to-day. I know well how much Scouting in Bombay owes to Sir Leslie Wilson, and how fortunate you are in having a Chief Scout who himself is both a boy and a Scout at heart. I must thank you too, Sir Chunilal



*Milowners Association Dinner, Bombay.*

Mehta, and Mr. Venkateswaran and your lieutenants for all the trouble you have taken to make this great gathering a success.

Brother Scouts I wish you all goodbye and good luck, and all success both now and throughout your lives.

MILLOWNERS ASSOCIATION DINNER, BOMBAY.

The following reply was made by His Excellency the Viceroy to the toast of his health at the Milowners Association Dinner at Bombay on the 12th December :—

12th Decem-  
ber 1927

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.*—It is a real pleasure to me to be here to-night as your guest and I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the cordial manner in which you have all responded to the toast which the Chairman has just proposed. As you have just said, Mr. Chairman, it has generally been the rôle of Bombay in the past to welcome the coming and to speed the parting Viceroy, seeing little of him in mid-career. I do not know what reasons forced my predecessors to take this self-denying ordinance, but I do not think we need suspect them of any deliberate design to avoid your city except on two occasions, on the threshold of office when a man is still immune from criticism, or, as some might say, when as yet he had had no opportunity of doing wrong, and at the close of office, when he can speedily leave criticism behind, or when his opportunities of wrongdoing in India are on the point of being finally extinguished. The true reason, I fancy, was that each Viceroy like a gourmet keeps the tit-bit to the end. Ever since I came to India I decided to visit Bombay as soon as I could and I am very glad that my hopes in this matter have been so pleasantly fulfilled. There is, apart from all other considerations, the vital importance of your city to India and the Empire. It was no bad bargain which the King of England made in 1661 when he took

*Millowners Association Dinner, Bombay.*

the island as part of the dowry of a Princess. You will agree that—in 20th Century jargon—it was ‘some’ wedding present. He seems, however, to have been less prudent a year or two later, when he sold it to the East India Company for ten pounds. This, I need hardly tell you, was before the Union with Scotland, but I quote it as an early example of the solicitude which the British Government have always shown for the Bombay business man. Since that somewhat indifferent bargain, Bombay has never looked back. Her prosperity has gradually increased, now slowly now apace, and the result to-day is a great city with a great public life under the inspiration of great leaders, some of whom, like the late Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, are no longer with us, and many of whom I am glad to see here to-night.

As Mr. Mody has hinted, yours is a city which has ever made a ready response to any demand on its generosity of public spirit ; one calls to mind the princely benefactions of the late Sir Dinshaw Petit, and the untiring activity in public and private life of that grand old man of Indian politics, Sir Dinshaw Wacha. In all this building up of your City’s position, the deciding factor has been the co-operation or friendly rivalry of Indian and European merchants working side by side. I doubt whether any other city in the world contains so many distinct national types or is so entirely cosmopolitan in character, as your Chairman has observed ; and each section of the community has played its individual part in making Bombay what she is to-day. I think I may say that the influence of Bombay in India, in whatever field of its many-sided activities, whether politics, or finance, or sport, is difficult to exaggerate and is, I sometimes suspect, a good deal greater than your natural modesty permits you to believe.

In the creation of this position, I can assure you, I am not blind to what has been due to the great mill industry, which is to a great extent the foundation of

*Millowners Association Dinner, Bombay.*

Bombay's prosperity, and of that of a great part of the country as well. Vast numbers of people are to-day supported directly or indirectly by the industry—in the factory or the field, at the loom or at the plough, all making their contribution to, and in turn reacting to, the economic needs of a world of which all the parts are becoming daily more interdependent. Your size and importance render you responsible for large numbers of persons from whom you draw your labour—it is your business that has created this human concentration, and I would ask you to use all your influence to the end of bringing all members of your Association to recognise the moral obligation that rests on them in such matters as housing, health and general welfare of their workers.

I appreciate how much many of you have done and are doing to-day, but the surface of the problem is only scratched, and the health and mortality figures of your city are a grim reminder both of how many-sided the problem is and how far we yet are from being able to congratulate ourselves upon the results of the efforts made. I know very well the difficulties, but every year that passes will see the civilised conscience of the world more and more aroused upon these matters, and it behoves us all, officials and unofficials, to keep them constantly before our minds. You will not however, I know, expect me to compare the importance of the industry with that of other Indian enterprises or to say at this moment when I am just about to leave the port for the starboard side of India, whether cotton or jute is my favourite flower. Still, leaving aside comparisons, all the world knows what a great structure the Bombay mill industry has become, and it is a structure which could not have been built without each community taking its share in the work. It stands to-day as a concrete proof of what well-directed energy can achieve.

*Millowners Association Dinner, Bombay.*

I do not propose to say much about the present position of the mill industry to-night. Business would not be business but for its periodical ups and downs, and a temporary set back was perhaps to be expected after the feverish activity and soaring prices of the Great War. I am confident of the industry's ability to overcome its difficulties for I know that your Association will never spare time or trouble to promote the best interests of this great trade. Of my Government's good-will and sympathy you need never be in doubt, and I cannot help referring here to the friendly battles which have been waged on this subject during the past year. In the first place I would say that after all that has happened it is very forgiving and generous of your Association to entertain me like this. I almost feel that you are heaping coals of fire on my head, for your deputation left Simla last summer having obtained, possibly as much as you expected, but certainly not as much as you would have liked. But in spite of that you are returning the compliment by plying me with all that hospitable Bombay can offer.

The same friendly spirit has, I am glad to say, characterised all the discussions which have taken place between your representatives and the spokesmen of Government. Mr. Mody has referred to his consistently cordial relations with Sir George Raïny, though, indeed I am not prepared to shoulder responsibility for Sir George's behaviour at the Committee table of which you, Mr. Chairman, have taken note: the joint liability of my Council does not go as far as that! At the same time I wonder whether you may not occasionally think that his wide experience in Tariff Enquiries makes him more difficult to convince than might be the case with one who had not served this arduous apprenticeship. A President of the Tariff Board turned Member of Council is not altogether unlike a poacher turned gamekeeper.

As an indication of the co-operation between the Government and Millowners, I might mention the Trade



*Millowners Association Dinner, Bombay.*

Mission which is shortly to be sent to certain countries to review their possibilities as markets for Indian cotton goods, and to make recommendations for the encouragement of the export of cotton manufactures from India. I have every hope that this constructive effort to assist the cotton export trade will bear valuable fruit, and I am glad that a representative of your Association has been able to lend his services for this important Mission.

I am very glad that I have been able to extend the friendships I made in Simla last summer by meeting to-night so many leading mill-owners. For there is nothing so valuable as personal contact in making each side realise the other's difficulties ; we are sometimes apt to imagine that, whatever the obstacles that may stand in our own path, the way of others is smooth or would be if they were only reasonably intelligent ! It is, I think, very often in friendly intercourse like that of to-night that we arrive at a fuller understanding and appreciation of one another's point of view.

Before I sit down, Mr. Chairman, I must say how cordially I wish your Association and the industry it represents a long life of continued and increasing prosperity. Your Association is valuable not only to yourselves ; it is also a great asset to the Government of India. There is hardly a single important question connected with industries, factory legislation or labour during the past fifty years in which the Government has not been assisted by the considered views of the mill-owners of Bombay. Your members have played and are playing a conspicuous part in Imperial, Provincial and Municipal Administration, and I am sure that Sir Cowasji Jehangir and Sir Chunilal Mehta are all the more useful members of His Excellency the Governor's Executive Council for having been Members of the Committee of your Association.

In thanking you again therefore for your hospitality to-night I trust that the future will see a continuance of these happy relations between Government and the

*Opening of the Tansa Completion Water Works at Bombay.*

leaders of the industry you represent, and that we may continue to count on the same assistance and advice as we have in the past received from the Millowners Association.

## OPENING OF THE TANSA COMPLETION WATER WORKS AT BOMBAY.

13th Decem-  
ber 1927.

The following is His Excellency the Viceroy's speech, which was read by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, owing to the indisposition of the Viceroy, at the opening of the Tansa Completion Water Works at Bombay on the 13th December :—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen.*—The first public function in which I had the privilege to take part on my arrival in India last year was to receive an address of welcome from the Municipal Corporation of this city. I said then that I hoped at no distant date to make myself acquainted at first hand with some of the problems with which the Corporation was grappling and see the improvements which they were carrying out. Your kindness has enabled me to realise this hope and to have the privilege of taking part in the final stage of the great scheme we are inaugurating to-day. I must thank you, Mr. President, and all the members of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, for inviting me to perform this ceremony, on which I shall always look back with interest and pleasure. The history of this scheme and of its predecessors which you, Mr. President, have just given us, is proof of the vital necessity of an increased water supply to Bombay. In a modern city like this we are apt sometimes to take as a matter of course the great public services of water-supply, lighting, conservancy, and other conveniences which mean so much to our daily health and comfort, and to forget the care and thought which were devoted by men of foresight and technical skill to the inception, the construction and the maintenance of public works of this character. But I know that every resident



*Banquet to His Majesty the King of Afghanistan at Bombay.*

of this Municipality will agree with me when I say that they owe the Corporation a real debt of gratitude for having undertaken and carried through this important scheme.

In the construction of these works the Corporation are the first to acknowledge the great assistance given to them by the Government, especially in connection with the building of the Kasheli Bridge. The original promise of 5 lakhs made by Government was, as time went on, found to be quite inadequate for this vital part of the scheme, and finally their contribution was raised to about 14 lakhs of rupees. The work from beginning to end, I believe, cost nearly 5 crores, and I think that this must be perhaps the biggest work of its kind ever undertaken in India by any body other than Government. I am told that the complete system of pipe lines embody a mass of material greater than that employed in any other water works in the world, not even excepting America. Whether that home of giant enterprises would admit this claim, I cannot say, but I state it as evidence of the spacious and farsighted ideas which actuate your Corporation in their schemes for the development of the city and the welfare of its inhabitants. I will now ask your permission to declare open the Tansa Completion Works, and in doing so wish them all success.

**BANQUET TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF  
AFGHANISTAN AT BOMBAY.**

Owing to His Excellency the Viceroy's indisposition, His Excellency the Governor of Bombay read out the speech which the Viceroy intended to deliver at the Banquet given in honour of His Majesty the King of Afghanistan at Bombay on the 14th December.

14th December 1927.

The following is His Excellency the Governor's speech :—

*Your Majesty.*—I have to express to you, Your Majesty, on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and

*Banquet to His Majesty the King of Afghanistan at Bombay.*

Governor-General of India, His Excellency's sincere and deep regret that severe indisposition has prevented him from being present in person to greet Your Majesty on your official arrival in Bombay and has been the unfortunate cause of his absence from this Banquet to-night. His Excellency has asked me to express, in his own words, the welcome which he offers to Your Majesty on behalf of India :—

We have to-day played our part in the making of history. For to-day it has been our privilege to welcome His Majesty King Amanulla on the opening stage of that great journey to foreign countries across the seas which, first of the Rulers of Afghanistan, he has set before himself. Warm is the welcome which India tenders to her Royal neighbour—a welcome prompted by feelings of friendship towards his kingdom and by admiration for its Ruler, who within so short a span of years has done so much to develop and invigorate his country. I envy His Majesty the enjoyment of the panorama of country after country that will unfold itself before him, and his interchange of ideas with the Rulers and statesmen of many nations. But the road in front of him is a long one. Nothing but a high sense of patriotism could have inspired the resolve to sustain its hardship and fatigues. And, if India has been enabled to contribute to the comfort of His Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen on the first stage of this memorable journey, India will account it her good fortune. His Majesty on leaving these shores will carry with him India's good-will. May he carry with him also pleasant recollections of his short sojourn amongst us. And now I bid you join with me in drinking to the health of His Majesty King Amanulla, King of Afghanistan, wishing him a pleasant stay in our midst, a fair and prosperous journey across the seas and beyond, and a safe return in fulness of time to Afghanistan, long to rule to the enduring benefit of his people.



### BANQUET AT REWA.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the Banquet at Rewa on the 9th January :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—I must thank 9th January 1928.  
Your Highness very warmly for the cordial welcome you have just offered to Lady Irwin and myself, and I can assure you that both my medical adviser and I have listened with gratitude and interest to the reference Your Highness was good enough to make to the indisposition which at one time threatened to forbid my visit. It is my privilege also to acknowledge the sentiments of loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor to which Your Highness has given expression. It has also given me great pleasure to be assured by Your Highness of the friendly assistance which you have always received from those officers of Government who have been associated with your State.

We have just listened to a most interesting speech. I always welcome surveys, such as Your Highness has given us, of the administrative history of Indian States, for they lend an added meaning to much that I see and hear during my visits and give me, as Your Highness has said, an insight into the aspirations and difficulties of the Ruler himself. I know well that Your Highness' task, as Ruler of Rewa, is no light one. The vast area of the State, the backwardness of many portions of it, and the comparatively small revenue available are factors in a problem which is by no means easy of solution. One great difficulty is, I know, the mistrust, shared by many of your people, of many of those new elements in modern life which may mean the gradual disappearance of old customs in a State, the disturbance of the placid contentment of its people, the loss of isolation and aloofness from the outer world. It is seldom that any one views without regret the passing of the old order of things, and I know that Your Highness has sometimes to take a difficult choice between respect for ancestral ways

*Banquet at Rewa.*

of life and the relentless logic of modern progress. But you have, I believe, marked out for yourself the course of obvious wisdom, to welcome and encourage the forward movement in your State, and to lead it circumspectly along lines suited to its environment. In approaching your task you have youth, intelligence and physical energy on your side, and I think that we have every ground for hope that your reign will be a most memorable one in the annals of Rewa, and that you will guide the fortunes of your State successfully through the difficulties which must always be associated with a period of awakening and development.

I am well aware of the personal interest Your Highness takes in the administration of your State and of the example you set by hard work and simple living, and I know that, if I offer Your Highness advice on one or two aspects of your duties as Ruler, you will appreciate that it is given with the sole purpose of assisting you to achieve the objects which you have already set before yourself. In particular I wish to stress the importance of maintaining the efficiency of the public services in your State—whether administrative or judicial. Over-centralisation in any sphere of public life seldom stands the test of time, and perhaps the most solid frame-work a State can have is a well-qualified and well-paid *personnel* in its public services, fit to be given a full measure of responsibility themselves, and who may be trusted to give their orders, their decisions or their advice without fear or favour, and with a single eye to justice and fair-play. It is not always easy to find this material ready to your hand, and I believe that hitherto, owing perhaps in part to the lack of educational facilities, the local supply of competent officials in Rewa has been insufficient to meet the demands of your public service. From this point of view alone Your Highness will realise the importance of encouraging education of the right sort within



*Banquet at Rewa.*

your territories. Some time, I know, must elapse before educational facilities in Rewa can reach the standard already attained in most other parts of India, but I feel sure that much in the meantime might be done to stimulate educational progress among your subjects and to associate them more closely with the higher branches of the administration by selecting some of the most promising of them for education and training in British India. Most countries have learnt by experience the value of a generous system of State scholarships, and I think it possible that Your Highness would find any expenditure in this direction well repaid by the results.

Your Highness has spoken to-night of the possible development of the mineral resources of your State. I am in full sympathy with this desire and I can assure you that, if expert advice is required, the Government of India will be prepared to help in every possible way. At the same time we have to guard against the delusion that mineral wealth has only to be tapped to bring prosperity and improvement to the whole country side, and I know that Your Highness will not put too great a trust in the prospect of sudden and easy enrichment. More important, more permanent, and in this sense I might say a better investment, than development of material resources is the development of your human resources, and I have no doubt that Your Highness is alive to the necessity of pursuing a policy which will lead to the progress and contentment of your people as a whole. Your State, like the great majority of India, is so largely dependents upon agriculture that a sound agricultural policy will probably be of more benefit than anything else to the people, and in a sound agricultural policy I include the improvement of cattle, an object which must carry a very special appeal to the heart of every Hindu Ruler.

I can assure Your Highness that the Government of India sympathise with your anxiety for the development

*Banquet at Jodhpur.*

of railway communications in your State, and it was a matter for regret that it was not possible to find a suitable route for the Central India Coalfields railway within Your Highness' territory. As Your Highness knows, new alignments have now been proposed from Katni to Sangrowli through the coalfields and from Maihar to Mauganj through Rewa, and an estimate has been made of the cost of engineering surveys of these lines. Before incurring this expenditure, however, the Railway Board have decided that it is necessary to make an investigation into the traffic prospects of these lines, in order to see what return would be likely on the cost of constructing them. The result of this enquiry is still awaited.

Before I conclude I must pay a tribute to the measure of achievement which has already been accomplished by Your Highness, particularly the improvement of communications, the land revenue settlement, the reorganisation of the Police and Medical Departments and the building up of a reserve fund. If this rate of progress is continued, Your Highness will be able, at the end of the long reign which we all hope and believe to lie before you, to look back on a truly remarkable career of usefulness and service to India and to the people committed to your charge.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to rise to drink to the health of our host His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa.

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BANQUET AT JODHPUR.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the State Banquet at Jodhpur on the 24th January :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—*Lady Irwin and I thank Your Highness warmly for the cordial



*Banquet at Jodhpur.*

welcome you have extended to us, and for all the care and forethought which has been taken to make our stay in Jodhpur so happy and enjoyable. Especially do I welcome the opportunity which this visit affords of gaining a more intimate acquaintance with the Princes and peoples of Rajputana and of seeing for myself a country so famous in history and so charming in its scenery. I doubt whether in any part of this great continent the contrast between the past and the present creates a more vivid impression upon the mind. Here in Jodhpur the rose-red fort stands, a romantic and picturesque sentinel over the plains of Marwar. Its massive architecture reflects the stubborn spirit of its builders, and every stone speaks of the brave deeds of Your Highness' ancestors in the wars which fill so many pages in the history of this country-side. Below it the eye travels over the town of which it was once the protector, but which has now spread far beyond the circle of its guardian walls and whose railway, electric power house, schools and hospitals are visible signs of a modern progressive administration.

Over a century has passed since Your Highness' ancestor first entered into treaty relations with the British Government, and in the years that have elapsed, as Your Highness has reminded me, the Jodhpur house has maintained its reputation for unswerving loyalty to the Crown. I prize most highly Your Highness' renewed assurance of fidelity to the traditions of your house. Practical expression was given to these traditions in the great war by the assistance rendered by the fine regiment of Lancers which I had the pleasure of reviewing to-day. Of the honourable distinction then gained by it Your Highness has good reason to be proud, and I have no doubt that, should occasion ever arise, the battalion of Infantry which Your Highness has lately raised under your personal supervision would give an equally good account of itself.

*Banquet at Jodhpur.*

The name of Sir Pertab Singh who took the Jodhpur Lancers first to France and then to Palestine is a household word throughout the British Empire, and it is not necessary for me here to recall the services he rendered to the Jodhpur State, or his lifelong devotion to the British Crown.

Your Highness has refrained from any attempt to survey the administration during the four years which have elapsed since you were invested with ruling powers, but happily the veil, which your modesty has drawn over your achievements, has been lifted for me, and I have learnt with pleasure that these four years have been marked by commendable activity in all branches of the administration. Many new primary schools and an excellent High School have been added to the educational institutions of the State. I much regret that time would not allow of my paying a personal visit to the latter and to the Rajput school at Chopasni which has done and is doing such notable work for the education of Rajputs. Considerable progress has also been made with the construction of a new Hospital which, when finished, will, I understand, challenge comparison with any institution of its kind in India. At the same time, by spending large sums on extensions and improvements to the State railway, Your Highness has shown that you recognise what a valuable asset good railway communications are, both in facilitating the work of administration and in promoting the social and economic development of the State. Not only has it been unnecessary to finance these projects by raising a loan but, despite this considerable expenditure, the invested funds of the State have actually been increased. I congratulate Your Highness on this record of progress and on the careful administration which has maintained your State in such a sound financial position.



*Banquet at Jodhpur.*

I sympathise with Your Highness' anxiety lest your railway system which has been built up with such foresight and energy should be adversely affected by the construction of a broad-gauge connection between Karachi and Agra. This important scheme is now again to be examined. Much will of course depend on the alignment eventually selected. Should the project materialise, Your Highness may rest assured that every endeavour will be made to reconcile conflicting interests and to evolve a scheme which will provide the facilities demanded by a growing port like Karachi without neglecting the rights of existing railway systems.

Your Highness' reference to the agricultural conditions in Marwar touches a subject in which I am deeply interested. I have learnt with great satisfaction of the energetic measures which are being taken for the improvement of the methods of agriculture in Marwar, and I was much impressed by the show of horses and cattle, especially of the famous Nagore breed, which I saw on Monday afternoon. In a country which by its nature is pastoral rather than arable, experiment and research with the object of developing the best breeds of sheep and cattle will, I feel convinced, well repay the trouble and money expended on them.

I trust that the labours of the Royal Commission on Agriculture will result in the introduction of more scientific methods in an industry which is the central economic factor of life in India and the importance of which Your Highness has recognised in your philanthropic proposal to endow a chair of agriculture at the Benares Hindu University and scholarships for the study of veterinary and agricultural science. I accept with the warmest pleasure Your Highness' suggestion that the chair and scholarships should be endowed in my name.

*Banquet at Jodhpur.*

Your Highness has referred to the geographical and economic links which bind together British India and the Indian States and to the reactions which constitutional advance in British India may have on the position of the States. Your Highness is aware that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Harcourt Butler is now enquiring into certain aspects of the relationship between the Paramount Power and the States, and I hope and believe that this enquiry will provide us with a sound basis on which we shall be able in due time to build. In the meantime I will only say that I believe with Your Highness that, if there be on both sides good-will and a common desire to find for the various problems a solution which will conduce to mutual prosperity and progress, we can face without anxiety whatever the future may have in store.

I feel that I cannot let this occasion pass without making reference to Your Highness' generous support of the Army in India Polo Team in their endeavour to retrieve the International Polo Cup from America. But for Your Highness' loan of some of your finest polo ponies, apart from your financial assistance, it would have been difficult to send a team to America at all. Though they did not meet with the success we had hoped for, we all admire the gallantry of their effort against opponents who, on the play, would appear to have been invincible.

I desire in conclusion to express my gratitude to Your Highness for your appreciation of my endeavour as Viceroy to gain an intimate personal acquaintance with the Ruling Princes of India and their States, their problems and aspirations.

In the short time I have been in Jodhpur I have seen ample evidence that Your Highness' solicitude for the welfare and prosperity of your subjects has already won for you an assured place in their affection and esteem.

*Banquet at Udaipur.*

This should be alike the pride and the reward of every ruler who has the interests of his State at heart. With the rapid spread of education the problems which the Princes of India have to solve are daily becoming more complex, criticism of their administration more and more insistent, and the highest standard of government more generally demanded by public opinion. It is wise to recognise and not to ignore the forces which are at work, and to realise that a Prince who neglects to discharge with humanity and justice the sacred trust which he has inherited is not only sacrificing the interests of his subjects and his State, but is weakening the position of the Order, to which he has the honour to belong, and is failing in his duty of co-operation for the moral and material advancement of India as a whole.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to rise to drink to the health of our host His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur.

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BANQUET AT UDAIPUR.

The following is His Excellency the Viceroy's speech at the State Banquet at Udaipur on the 27th January :— 27th January 1928.

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen*,—I rise to offer my cordial thanks to Your Highness on behalf of Lady Irwin and myself for the kind terms in which you have proposed our health, and to my fellow guests for the way in which they have honoured it.

Udaipur and the Mewar State are places of which one may truly say that "their fame has gone out into all lands". Nobody who has heard of India has not heard also of the picturesqueness of Your Highness' State and the beauty of your capital, or of the fame of its Ruling House in the annals of Indian history. Nobody who visits India would think his visit complete were he not to see for himself this home of ancient Rajput chivalry.

*Banquet at Udaipur.*

It was therefore with peculiar pleasure that I received Your Highness' invitation, because it gave me an opportunity not only of seeing for myself this famous city, but also of drawing closer my personal relations with a Ruler who is held in deep respect by the Princes and peoples of Rajputana. It was a further pleasure to me that, as Your Highness has said, my visit should coincide with a year of excellent monsoon which has ensured plenty and contentment for the ensuing season.

In these last two days the charm of Udaipur has indeed cast its spell upon us. In surroundings such as these, pictures of its ancient glories, stories of its old struggles and triumphs come up easily before the mind, and we look forward with keen anticipation to seeing the scene of some of its most famous exploits when we visit Chitor on Sunday. The story of Chitor and of Your Highness' House covers many pages of Rajput History, and great must be your pride to reflect that, after the vicissitudes of 12 centuries, the fortress still remains in the hands of a direct descendant of Bapa Rawal. Your Highness' lot has fallen in less warlike times, but that the old Sisodia spirit is still undimmed is clear from the unabated zest shown by the sportsman of nearly four score years who is still able to endure the rigours of an Indian Summer day with the youngest of his staff and to bring down his tiger at the end of it.

Your Highness has alluded to the friendship of Maharana Sarup Singhji. We shall never forget the steadfast loyalty of Your Highness' great predecessor at that critical time, perhaps the most critical which the British power in India has ever had to face, and I rejoice to think that the cordial relations then subsisting between my countrymen and Mewar continue firm to this day.

Let me step, Your Highness, for a moment from the past to the present. Changes are taking place in the



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India of to-day, so rapid and momentous as to demand most careful vigilance and statesmanship on the part of all who are responsible for the administration of any portion of this great continent. I feel confident that Your Highness, while preserving all that is best in the old, will with the well-known loyalty of your house do all that is in your power to assist in the solution of the many difficult problems that loom on the horizon.

I will not detain Your Highness longer except to thank you cordially for your princely hospitality and to give you an assurance of our deep appreciation of your kindness. Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join with me in drinking the health of our most distinguished host, His Highness Maharana Sir Fateh Singhji Bahadur of Udaipur.

ADDRESS TO THE COMBINED LEGISLATURES.

His Excellency the Viceroy addressed the Houses of Legislature on the 2nd February 1928 as follows :—

2nd February  
1928.

*Gentlemen,*—With the exception of one topic to which I will return later in my speech, I do not propose to-day to deal with all the various important subjects which are likely to come before you for consideration this session. But there are one or two matters to which I think it is proper that I should make brief reference.

Our relations with Foreign States along our great land frontier, from Persia in the west to Siam in the east, continue, I rejoice to say, very cordial in character. India has been honoured by a public visit from His Majesty the King of Afghanistan on his way to Europe, and the warmth of his welcome by Government and people alike was evidence of the links of friendship and common interest that bind the two countries together. It was a matter of much disappointment to me that indisposition debarred me from active participation in the

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welcome to His Majesty. My disappointment was no less great that indisposition should have robbed me of the pleasure of making the personal acquaintance of that sagacious statesman His Highness the Prime Minister of Nepal, now in Calcutta on a visit which only the state of his health precluded from being a public visit and which I trust will soon lead to a complete restoration of his normal vigour.

I pass from the subject of India's external relations with her territorial neighbours to mention recent events affecting the position of Indians overseas. Hon'ble Members will have observed with great satisfaction the cordial spirit in which the appointment of the Right Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri, as our Agent in South Africa, has been from the first received both by the Union Government and by the various sections of the public, both European and Indian, in that country. Since his arrival our Agent has performed invaluable work in consolidating the friendly relations between the two countries, in stimulating among the Indian settlers the desire for self-help, and in promoting between Europeans and Indians in South Africa a clearer perception of mutual obligations. He has realised the highest expectations of those who, appreciating his capacity and gifts, expected most from him, and there is therefore every reason to hope that questions which are still outstanding or may arise in the future will be harmoniously adjusted.

Indians in East Africa have also recently claimed the special attention of my Government and of Hon'ble Members. Acting on a suggestion of a representative deputation of the Legislature which waited on me in Simla last September, my Government have recently sent Kunwar Maharaj Singh and Mr. Ewbank to assist the Indian communities concerned in connection with the Commission, which has been deputed by His Majesty's



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Government to examine locally certain aspects of future policy. Our representatives have already made a rapid tour of the territories in which Indian interests are important, and are now working there in close relations with the accredited leaders of Indian opinion. Hon'ble Members may feel confident that any case which the Indian settlers may desire to advance will be effectively presented, and can count upon careful consideration at the hands of the Commission.

I now turn to the major political question which it is necessary that I should ask you to examine in greater detail. Since I last addressed the Legislature, His Majesty's Government have, as Hon'ble Members are aware, taken certain decisions in connection with the Statutory Commission, which are of vital concern to India. Circumstances made it impossible for me to announce these decisions to the Legislature, as I should naturally have wished to do, and I therefore avail myself of this, the earliest convenient occasion, to make some observations in regard to them.

I need not recapitulate what I said in my statement of November 8th. That statement gave at length the reasons which had promoted His Majesty's Government to accelerate the date of the enquiry and to appoint a Parliamentary Commission. It outlined the proposed procedure at the various stages, and indicated broadly the lines on which His Majesty's Government hope to unite the best efforts of the chosen representatives of India and Great Britain in the wise ordering of India's future. Within the general framework as there described, the Prime Minister made it plain in the course of the Parliamentary Debates that it was the considered intention of His Majesty's Government to leave to the Commission itself full discretion as to the methods by which they should approach their task. The Commission

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arrives in India to-morrow, not as yet on its more formal mission, but with the hardly less important object of enabling its members to acquaint themselves with the general working of the legislative and administrative machines, and hold informal consultations for the purpose of determining the most appropriate means of discharging the responsibility which Parliament has laid upon them. Considerable difference of opinion has become apparent as to the way in which India should receive these decisions of His Majesty's Government and of Parliament. On the one hand, those who speak for important sections of Indian political thought have been loud in their criticism and condemnation of the scheme approved by Parliament. On the other hand, many thoughtful and distinguished Indians, as well as large and powerful communities, have declared themselves in favour both of the Commission's constitution and of the general procedure that has been devised, and have expressed their readiness to give it all the assistance that they can.

I do not propose to enter far into the lists of controversy, but there are two points to which I think it right to refer. It has been freely said that His Majesty's Government have done Indians a real injustice, in denying to them adequate means by which Indian opinion may influence and affect these proceedings. Such charges as these arise in part from the genuine failure of some critics to appreciate features of the scheme which I thought had been sufficiently plainly stated. It has, for instance, been assumed that representatives of India would not confer with the Joint Parliamentary Committee in London, until after Parliament had reached main decisions of principle upon the second reading of a Bill. That this is not the case is clear from my statement of 8th November, in which I said that it was not the intention of His Majesty's Government to ask Parliament to adopt



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any proposals which, as a result of the Commission's report, might be put forward, without first giving an opportunity for Indian opinion by personal contact to exert its full weight in shaping the view of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in regard to them. I was careful to point out that at this stage Parliament will not have been asked to express any opinion on particular proposals, and that therefore, so far as Parliament is concerned, the whole field will still be open.

Apart from such misapprehensions, I am free to admit that the question of whether or not better means could have been devised for associating Indian opinion with the enquiry which Parliament is bound to undertake is one on which every man is entitled to hold his own view. But though Indian leaders have the right, if they wish, to say that His Majesty's Government have chosen the wrong method of such association, they are not at liberty, if they desire to retain the character of true counsellors of the people or of honest controversialists, to say that His Majesty's Government have not sought means—and I would add very full and very unprecedented means—of placing Indians in a position to take an ample share with them in the evolution of their country's future. I cannot help thinking, if we may attempt to look beyond the present dust and turmoil of argument, assertion and debate, that there is real danger in some quarters of mistaking shadows for reality. I doubt whether those who criticise the broad framework of the plan approved by all parties in Parliament have reflected upon what is implicit in the idea of the Select Committees of the Central and Provincial Legislatures. In the earlier stages there is the association of these Committees with the Commission, through whatever procedure the Chairman and Members of the Commission, after placing themselves fully in touch with Indian opinion, may deem best calculated to enable them to discharge the duty entrusted to

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them. In due time the Commission will have completed its task and the matter will pass into other hands. At this moment as the Commission moves from the stage, the Central Legislature has, if it so desires, through chosen representatives of its own perhaps the greatest and most powerful means of influencing the further current of events. It is at this juncture invited, through some of its number, to sit with Parliament itself, acting in its turn through its own Joint Select Committee. Let us picture to ourselves the Joint Select Committee of Parliament and the Select Committee of this Legislature, sitting together in one of the Committee rooms of Westminster to consider the proposals of His Majesty's Government. These proposals will deal with a vast problem on which Parliament indeed has to decide, but where it is no more to the interest of Great Britain than it is to that of India that the issues should be clouded by avoidable difference or disagreement, and in regard to which therefore Parliament will naturally seek to reach decisions that command as great a measure as may be of reasoned Indian political support. Is it not fair to conclude that both the Joint Parliamentary Committee charged with the function of making final recommendations to Parliament, and earlier the Commission—each being masters within very wide limits of their own procedure—will desire to go to the furthest point that they deem possible, in order to carry along with them the convinced assent of the representatives of India, with whom they will under the plan proposed be working in close and intimate relations? To suggest that in these circumstances the effect of Indian opinion, if it avails itself freely of its opportunities, will be no greater than that which might be associated with the rôle of witnesses, and will not indeed be such as to influence the course of events throughout every stage, is to advance a proposition that no political experience can support, and that I



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should have thought no one who was versed in the process and management of public affairs would seriously maintain. Any such impression is as strangely at variance with the intentions of Parliament recorded in recent debates as it is with any such picture as I have sought to draw of the process in operation. It is surely obvious that what will be of supreme importance to India at both stages will be the quality of the men she has chosen to represent her, and it is difficult to conceive of any way in which Parliament could have given more clear indication of its desire both to give full weight to Indian opinion, and to recognise the dignity and position of the Indian Legislature. In such matters it is well to remember that constitutional forms are nothing but instruments in the hands of men, responding to the skill of the craftsman as the plain chisel in the hand of the expert sculptor. And as men are greater than the instruments they use, we gravely err if we suppose that complaint however loud of the tools, which circumstances has placed in our hands, will suffice to induce posterity to hold us guiltless, if in the result our workmanship whether through lack of will or of capacity is found wanting. Whatever men may be tempted to think at the present moment, I dare predict that the searching inquest of history will not fail to return judgment against those who sought to use their power to hinder when it was in their power to help.

The other main point to which I invite attention is the statement, which has been widely and repeatedly made, that His Majesty's Government have deliberately offered an affront to India by the exclusion of Indians from the *personnel* of the Commission. I have said enough to make it plain why I do not think it reasonable for any Indian to feel that he or his country has been slighted by the decision of His Majesty's Government. The relative merits of the various methods of associating India with this business are, as I have said, matters on which

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opinion may legitimately be divided. But to go further and say that His Majesty's Government deliberately intended to affront Indian feeling is a very much more serious charge to make, and the first duty of those who make it is to satisfy themselves that it is well founded. Let me make it very plain that I expect Indians, as I would myself, to be sensitive of their honour. None, whether individuals or nations, can afford to be otherwise, for honour and self-respect lie at the foundation of all social life. But honour and self-respect are not enhanced by creating affronts in our imagination, where none in fact exist. For the essence of any such offence, as of rudeness in private life, lies in the intention behind the act, and no reasonable person would dream of blaming the conduct of another where the intention of discourtesy was lacking.

In the present case British statesmen of all parties have stated in terms admitting of no misconception that the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission was in no way intended as any affront to India. Time and again this assertion has been repeated, and I would ask in all sincerity by what right do leaders of Indian opinion, who are as jealous as I am of their own good faith, and would resent as sharply as I any refusal to believe their word, impugn the good faith and disbelieve the plain word of others? I would deny to no man the right to state freely and frankly his honest opinion, to condemn—if he wishes—the action of His Majesty's Government in this regard, or to say that they acted unwisely or in misapprehension of the true feeling that exists in India. That again is a matter of opinion. But what no man is entitled to say—for it is quite simply not true—is that His Majesty's Government sought to offer a deliberate affront to Indian honour and Indian pride.

I have thought it right to speak plainly on these misunderstandings because they have been widely



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represented as the justification of some at any rate of the counsels, which urge Indians to abstain from all part or lot in the enquiry now to be set on foot. I feel at the same time a profound and growing conviction that those who would argue that such abstention will do no harm to the cause of India are dangerously deluding themselves and others. There are of course some who would wholly deny the moral right of Parliament to be the tribunal in this cause, but, as I have said more than once, however much I may respect many of those who take this view, I do not pretend to be able to reconcile it with the actual situation which we to-day have to consider. I have during the time that I have been in India been careful to avoid saying anything that might magnify differences that must inevitably exist, and have never invited any man to forego principles to which he felt in conscience bound to subscribe. But let nobody suppose that he is assisting the realisation of his ideals by reluctance to look on facts as they are. It is in no spirit of argument or lack of sympathy with Indian aspirations that I repeat that India, if she desires to secure Parliamentary approval to political change, must persuade Parliament that such change is wisely conceived, and likely to benefit those affected by it. She has now the opportunity of making her persuasion felt, through the means of the Commission statutorily established. The Commission has been established with the assent and co-operation of all British parties. They will carry through their enquiry with, it is hoped, the generous assistance of all shades of Indian opinion. But whether such assistance is offered or withheld, the enquiry will proceed, and a report will be presented to Parliament on which Parliament will take whatever action it deems appropriate. Anyone who has been able to read the full report of the debates in Parliament on the motions to appoint the Commission must have

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been impressed by the evidence of spontaneous good-will towards India, with which the speeches of responsible spokesmen of all parties were instinct. This good-will would naturally be a factor of immense importance in determining the attitude of Parliament towards these questions, and I would very earnestly hope that it might not be lightly cast aside. And yet it is certain that an agitation, fostered and promoted by methods which have led to grave occurrences in the past, is bound to breed serious misgivings in the mind of the British Parliament, with whom at present lies the final decision in Indian political affairs.

What then in India or Great Britain is to be gained by a policy of boycott? Neither I nor anyone else can predict the effect upon the Commission's report, or later upon the mind of Parliament, if many of those who claim to speak for India decide at every stage to stand wholly aloof from a task in which Parliament has solicited their assistance and collaboration. It is clearly possible for people to stand aside, and withhold their contribution, just as it will be possible for the Commission to prosecute its enquiry, and with the assistance at its disposal reach conclusions, in spite of such abstention. But at the least it would seem certain that such an attitude must interpose yet further obstacles to the discovery of that more excellent way of mutual understanding, which the best friends of India, of every race, well know to be requisite for her orderly evolution to nationhood. And, meanwhile, in order to mobilise national resentment at an alleged deliberate affront, that has never been more than the fiction of men's imaginations, appeal will have been made, under guise of vindicating national self-respect, which there has been no attempt to impair, to all the lowest and worst elements of suspicion, bitterness and hostility.



*Opening of the Chamber of Princes at Delhi.*

Those were wise words of one of India's most distinguished sons a few weeks ago, which repeated the lesson—taught more than once of recent years—that it is easier to arouse than to allay such forces, which too readily pass beyond the control of those who invoke their aid.

I do not know whether I am sanguine in hoping that even at this hour it may be that words of mine might induce some of those, who aspire to guide their fellow-countrymen in India, to desist from a line of action, which at the best can only lead to negative results and disappointment, and may at the worst bring consequences of which India is unhappily not without experience. But in any case I feel it to be not less incumbent upon me now to state what I believe to be the truth in this matter, than I lately judged it to be my duty to direct the attention of India to the communal antagonisms, that threatened the destruction of any attempts to build an Indian nation. The counsel I then gave was, I am glad to think, regarded as that of a well-wisher, sincerely desirous of assisting India. But the counsel of a friend must be independent of what at any particular moment some of those whom he addresses may desire to hear, and, if that which I now give is less universally certain of acceptance, it is not less dictated by my desire to dissuade India, as I verily believe, from mistaking the path at one of the cross roads of her destiny.

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OPENING OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES AT DELHI.

H. E. the Viceroy presided over the Seventh Session of the Chamber of Princes at Delhi on the 20th February and opened the Proceedings with the following Address [*N.B.*—This speech was not published.] :—

20th February 1928.

*Your Highnesses*,—I take great pleasure in welcoming Your Highnesses to-day to the seventh session of the Narendra Mandal. It is the second over which I have had

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the honour to preside and the first to be held in this building, where it will hereafter be permanently located. I trust that Your Highnesses will find the Chamber comfortable and convenient, and that for long years to come it will see the annual gatherings of your Order.

Fifteen months have elapsed since our last session and during the year 1927 there was no meeting of the Chamber. This was because on this occasion, in accordance with the expressed wish of Your Highnesses, it has been decided to hold the meeting in February rather than in November. I recognise advantages in the change, and I regret only that one factor may have caused inconvenience to some of Your Highnesses. For, since the Indian Legislature is also in session in February, we have been unable to place at your disposal the residential accommodation that would otherwise have been available. It may be that this has caused the falling off in attendance which I am sorry to notice this year. I trust that, when the houses which some of Your Highnesses are building in Delhi are completed, the difficulty of accommodation will be to some extent removed, and I may again be able to address a fully representative Chamber.

Death has again taken toll among our members and some who might have been with us to-day have passed away. Two of them belonged to an older generation of Rulers, now fast disappearing, and were links with a past, which though not distant in time, is already becoming historic. His Highness the Maharao Raja of Bundi had ruled for 37 years before his lamented death last summer. He was a loyal and steadfast friend of the British Government as was testified by the honours bestowed upon him by His Majesty the King-Emperor. Remote among his jungle fastnesses he saw little of modern change, and only once attended a meeting of this Chamber. Your Highnesses will, I know, wish to join me in expressing sympathy with



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the bereaved family. I would extend the same sympathy to the family of His late Highness the Maharaja of Karauli. Like the late Maharao Raja of Bundi, His late Highness of Karauli belonged to an old school, whose numbers are diminishing year by year, and, by those who knew him, he will long be remembered as the true type of Rajput gentleman and sportsman. I must refer also with regret to the late Raja of Jawhar who on more than one occasion attended sessions of this Chamber.

Yet another change has to be recorded in the membership of this Chamber owing to the abdication of His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur, who has been constrained by the weight of age and ill-health to give up his responsibilities as Ruler of his State. I would wish him many years of happy retirement and trust that his son who succeeds him will prove worthy of his high position.

In addressing Your Highnesses at the opening session of the Chamber 15 months ago, I referred to the special importance of the problem of the relations of the States with the Government of India, and indicated my desire to hold frank and friendly discussions on the topic with Your Highnesses' Standing Committee. The Chamber approved, and, in pursuance of your wishes and mine, conversations were held between us in Simla last summer when many aspects of this question were subjected to preliminary examination and discussion. The free interchange of views that there took place has been of value, certainly to myself, and I trust also to the Princes who took part in them. In the course of those conversations it became clear to me that, if and when larger proposals involving wide changes in the present relationship between British India and the States fell to be actively considered, it would be of real importance that many matters of immediate relevance should have been previously examined.

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Many of Your Highnesses expressed doubts regarding some aspects of your legal position *vis-à-vis* the Government of India and the Crown, and it seemed proper that steps should be taken by which these doubts might be resolved. It also appeared desirable to explore possible means of removing the uncertainty which many felt regarding a number of economic and financial questions where the interests of both British India and the States were evidently concerned. Upon my recommendation therefore, in which I think I was acting in accordance with Your Highnesses' desires, a small expert Committee has been appointed by His Majesty's Secretary of State to examine these questions, and, as Your Highnesses are aware, it assembled here last month and is now in the midst of its labours. I am happy to believe that its *personnel* has been generally approved by, and will command the confidence of, Your Highnesses.

The terms of reference to the Committee are known to you, and on all points lying within them it is of course open to Your Highnesses to express your views as fully and comprehensively as you may desire. I have become aware of some anxiety on the part of Your Highnesses lest the Committee's time in India may be too short to enable your representations to be properly prepared or to be adequately considered. I can assure Your Highnesses that I no less than yourselves desire that ample opportunity should be given for a full appreciation of your position on all relevant issues. In this I think you can safely rely on the sound sense and sympathy of the Committee itself, and Your Highnesses may rest assured that the Members of that Committee will share my desire that means may be devised which will permit you to place them in full possession of your views.

I do not wish, and it would be improper for me, to attempt any forecast of what the findings of the Com-



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mittee may be. But Your Highnesses will agree that its appointment is a landmark in the history of our relations. Changing conditions bring changing needs, and, if we are to move forward with wisdom and foresight, we should start with full and mutual appreciation of the various factors in a very complex problem. I accordingly appeal to all Your Highnesses to give close and earnest thought to these subjects, and to present your reasoned opinions to the Committee without reserve, for the happy and successful issue of this enquiry will depend in large measure on the thoughtful co-operation and good-will of the Princes' Order.

I have spoken more than once recently of the great importance at this juncture of Your Highnesses being able to meet any criticism that may be brought against the quality of your various administrations, and I make no apology for emphasising this once more. At a time when constitutional changes are under consideration in British India, it is inevitable that much attention should be directed, both in the press and on the public platform, to conditions in the States. However ill-judged may sometimes be their conclusions and however unjust their criticism, there is underlying truth in the contention that the progress of all India must depend in some measure on the advance made in the States. The form of government may be of less importance than the spirit that inspires it and many States, as I gratefully acknowledge, have shown that they appreciate the modern ideals of good administration and strive within the resources at their disposal to attain to them. But there are others where it is not so, and where the reproach that the Ruler employs his revenues largely or even primarily for personal pleasures is not entirely without foundation. Such cases are harmful to the States in these days of publicity far beyond their immediate circle, and the Princes who are responsible for misgovernment or

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scandal, besides failing to discharge their duty to their subjects, do grave disservice to their Order.

Since I last met Your Highnesses I have been privileged to travel widely among your States, to see the working of your administrations, and to view the mighty strongholds of your famous ancestors. My experience has enabled me to feel more keenly even than before the atmosphere of romance and chivalry in which your Houses were founded, and to realise the strenuous endeavour, high courage and selfless devotion that have marked so many pages in your histories. I can now appreciate better their importance in the record of India and can understand the old Indian ideal of Kingship exercised in consultation with loyal nobles and a contented people. Your Highnesses have great traditions and are the inheritors of fine and noble qualities. You have been trained to rule and should possess the vital forces that inspired your fighting forefathers. The days of internal strife are happily over and the energy, courage and foresight that gave your ancestors victory on many a hard-won field can now be diverted to promote the peaceful progress and development of your States and people. It is for Your Highnesses in these critical days to maintain and enhance the name of your ancient and honourable dynasties, and to show that the Prince may be in the fullest sense the servant of his people and the wise custodian of their best interests. In all measures to these ends you may count upon me for advice and assistance whenever you may seek them.

Since our last meeting, India has been blessed by a good and plentiful monsoon, and most States have shared in the general prosperity. Floods in Gujerat and Kathiawar have however caused severe losses in some of the States of Western India. They serve to remind us how precarious are the conditions of agriculture, and how necessary it is to adopt all possible measures for the welfare and



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prosperity of the agriculturist. We may soon expect the report of the Royal Commission on this most vital subject, and I trust that Your Highnesses will give its recommendations your earnest attention. Both in fighting against difficulties and in securing the spread of improved methods, success will be more certain if the States co-operate wholeheartedly with the neighbouring Provinces in British India.

This leads me to a further matter on which I would ask your help. The Government of India have appointed a Committee to examine the desirability of developing the road system of India, and the means by which such development can be most suitably promoted and financed. After the Committee have submitted their report, it may be found desirable to invite the co-operation of the States in any scheme of through road communications which may be recommended. With the development of motor transport the value of a good road system for the convenience of passengers and marketing of produce has enormously increased and any sound scheme will, I am certain, command the enlightened support of Your Highnesses.

It will be in Your Highnesses' recollection that, at the session held in November 1926, I announced the intention of the Government of India to convene a Conference in order to discuss the various aspects of the opium problem in so far as it affected Indian States. I then appealed for the co-operation of Durbars in our endeavours to solve this problem of world-wide significance. A Conference was accordingly held at Simla in May last under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. Das. The discussions were conducted in an atmosphere of the frankest mutual understanding and the results were decidedly encouraging. It was agreed that the whole subject should be fully investigated, and it was recommended that a Committee on which the Durbars concerned were duly represented should be appointed for

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the purpose. It was proposed that this Committee should visit the States that were interested and should enquire thoroughly into local conditions. The recommendations of the Conference were accepted by the Government of India, and the Committee is now engaged in its investigations. I have every hope that by this means we shall succeed in arriving at conclusions which will be found acceptable to all parties concerned.

A further question which has a bearing on international relations is that of the Slavery Convention, which the Government of India have undertaken to bring to the notice of the States. Slavery in the ordinary sense is not now practised in any State, but, in dealing with all customs involving forced labour, I trust that Your Highnesses will do your utmost, both by educating public opinion and by your own action, to prove that you are in sympathy with the ideals underlying the Convention.

At the session held in November 1924, His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar moved a Resolution recommending the exemption of all Members of the Chamber of Princes in their own right from the payment of customs duties on articles imported for their personal use, a privilege now enjoyed by Ruling Princes whose dynastic salute is not less than 19 guns. This Resolution was carried, and at the time my predecessor said that the matter must form the subject of further examination before the Government of India could accept the views thus put forward. He however undertook that it would receive the most careful consideration. The Government of India and His Majesty's Secretary of State for India have given full weight to the importance which Your Highnesses attach to the matter, but the conclusion at which they have arrived is that the matter is not one that can be considered apart from the general question of the fiscal relations between the Govern-



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ment of India and the Durbars, which is one of the questions under investigation by the Indian States Committee.

I would refer again to the important problem of the future of the Chiefs' Colleges. My Government has now formulated proposals which are being considered by the Governing Bodies of the Colleges concerned. Their views will be carefully examined before decisions are finally reached, and I would urge Your Highnesses to give early and earnest attention to our scheme. The proposals are tentative only and subject of course to modification in the light of your criticisms, but it is in the evident interests of all the Colleges that an early settlement should be reached ; since, while doubt and uncertainty exist, it is difficult to recruit the right type of Masters on which the success of these institutions must inevitably depend.

Your Highnesses, as I hope, will agree that the programme before you at this session contains a variety of important items and gives promise of interesting and useful debates. Although there has been only one meeting of the Standing Committee, it has been able to carry some of its discussions to successful conclusions and three of the Summaries, which have been under examination for some time, are now ready for presentation to the Chamber.

One relating to the employment of Europeans and aliens in the States has behind it the unanimous opinion of those who attended the Standing Committee and may be expected to receive Your Highnesses' approval. A similar unanimity supports that relating to the question of the assessment of compensation for land required in British India and in Indian States for irrigation and navigation purposes. The remaining Summary on the difficult question of the construction of tramways in the States is supported by a majority vote only on certain points of considerable practical importance. Its ventilation in the