

*Opening of the Chamber of Princes at Delhi.*

Chamber will enable those Princes, who have personal experience of and are directly interested in the question, to express their views before recommendations are made by Your Highnesses.

Other items of your Agenda contain proposals involving modifications in the existing Rules of Business. Your Highnesses will realise that such changes should not be lightly undertaken, and I shall listen to their discussion with interest. I would only say at this stage that any measures tending to add to the interest of the discussions in the Chamber are assured of my sympathetic consideration.

I notice one item at least which should not fail in this characteristic, the Resolution to be moved by His Highness of Alwar on the education and training of minor Princes. It is a question of the greatest moment on which widely divergent views are held by people of great intelligence and long experience. It is therefore eminently appropriate for full and exhaustive discussion by Your Highnesses, and I look forward to receiving from the debate much that will be of value to me in dealing with this very difficult problem.

For the second time His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala has been a representative of India at the League of Nations, and we are to have the privilege of listening to his report on his activities at its annual Assembly. I am happy to hear from other sources that he has confirmed and heightened the favourable impression made on the last occasion. The readiness with which His Highness, like others of your Order, who have attended the League, has lent his time and labours to its deliberations is gratifying evidence that the Princes of India are willing; whenever occasion requires them, to subordinate personal convenience to promoting the best interests of India and the Empire.





*Unveiling of the Marquis of Reading's Portrait in the Council Chamber, New Delhi.*

It will also fall to Your Highnesses to elect the Chancellor and the Standing Committee of the Chamber for the ensuing year, bearing in mind that the retiring office-holders are eligible for re-election. Your Highnesses will doubtless wish to express your appreciation of the energy and efficiency that have marked the tenure of his high and responsible office by His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. He has been a watchful custodian of your interests while displaying promptness and courtesy in the conduct of business with my Secretariat. Owing to various reasons only one formal meeting of the Standing Committee was held during the year. Your Highnesses will not however deduce from this that the members have been remiss in their duties. Collectively and individually they have on many informal occasions discussed with me matters affecting Your Highnesses, and I am deeply grateful for the advice and assistance they have given me.

I wish Your Highnesses God-speed in your deliberations, both within this Chamber and without it. The times are momentous and demand clear thinking and wise prevision from all whose hands may shape the destinies of India. You in the States and we in British India are faced by many complex and far-reaching problems, but, if we mutually deal with them in a spirit of friendly co-operation and wise statesmanship, we shall assuredly discover reasonable and successful solutions.

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UNVEILING OF THE MARQUIS OF READING'S  
PORTRAIT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NEW  
DELHI.

His Excellency the Viceroy unveiled the Portrait of Lord Reading, presented by Raja Devaki Nandan Prasad Singh of Monghyr, in the Council Chamber at New Delhi on the morning

23rd February 1928.





*Unveiling of the Marquis of Reading's Portrait in the Council Chamber, New Delhi.*

of the 23rd February, and delivered the following speech on that occasion :—

*Your Highnesses and Gentlemen,*—We are met to-day to do honour to a man who will deservedly rank high among Indian Viceroy's. Many years before he became Viceroy, men knew Lord Reading as one whose outstanding qualities of intellect and character had unaided taken him to the forefront of public life. At the Bar and in Parliament, as diplomat and as man of the world, he had displayed the versatility of his genius, and had gained that almost unique variety of experience, which enabled him in later years to master so rapidly the art of administration at the head of a great government.

As barrister Lord Reading, while still a young man, was acknowledged as the leader of his profession, and gave early proof of a tireless capacity for studying his subject, of an incisive grasp of the points at issue, of brilliance in argument, persuasiveness in advocacy. Political life brought fresh distinction to one who had already securely grounded himself on these foundations, and who was quick to learn and to feel the conditions on which depend success or failure in the Parliamentary arena. In 1913, when he became Lord Chief Justice of England, he might have felt that he had satisfied the highest ambition of his profession, and he appeared to have reached the zenith of his career.

But Lord Reading was not only and not mainly a lawyer, and, when the Great War came, he was ready and able to serve his country in other fields. The Government of the day had constant recourse to, and benefited by, his help, not only in the financial crisis that marked the outbreak of war, but in many other questions of business and administration. In particular perhaps his services in America merited the gratitude of his country. First as head of the Anglo-French Mission, and later as British Ambassador to the United States, he found natural oppor-





*Unveiling of the Marquis of Reading's Portrait in the Council Chamber, New Delhi.*

tunity to exercise those properties of tact and diplomacy, of business acumen and legal knowledge that were peculiarly his. At the end of 1919 he returned—as it then seemed finally—to his post as Lord Chief Justice. But within two years he was again called upon to undertake new responsibilities, and in April 1921 landed in Bombay as Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

The task upon which Lord Reading with high sense of public duty now entered was formidable. In India as elsewhere the years immediately after the war were years of considerable anxiety. The reaction from a prolonged and intense strain, aggravated as it was by a wide variety of other factors, political, financial and economic, had left the country agitated and perplexed. In the confused situation thus confronting Lord Reading on his arrival, it was no easy task to distinguish between the different contributory causes, and trace a clear line of action. But to him difficulties to be overcome acted as a stimulus and inspiration. The gifts which had won him pre-eminence in earlier life were at once thrown without reserve into the discharge of his new duties. Long training in the Courts and in Parliament had accustomed him to the necessity of proceeding by way of careful and ordered thought from the ground-work of a thorough and accurate knowledge of the facts. In the political field, indeed, I doubt whether he had many equals in thinking out in advance all the reactions of a particular policy, and in being himself prepared, and preparing his officers, to meet the consequences. He was always at pains to master the case of his potential opponents, and, when once he had explored and expounded every line of attack that might be taken, there was no argument, no form of opposition, for which he was not forewarned and forearmed.

His policy was a policy founded on boundless patience. He, of all men, knew how to wait ; but to say this is not



*Banquet at Dholpur.*

to say all. If his patience was abused and his conciliatory efforts were not met by a conciliatory response, he knew how and when to take definite decisions.

And, when he laid down his charge, he had the satisfaction of knowing that during his five years of office much had been done to restore the stability which India sorely needed.

I do not seek to-day to do more than sketch some features of Lord Reading's career, but any such attempt would be inadequate, which failed to pay tribute to the part played by Lady Reading in her husband's public life. Most of those here to-day remember her personality ; many know under how grave a handicap of physical health she discharged her duty ; only Lord Reading could tell us how many of his triumphs might never have been won without her counsel and inspiration. She was indeed his other self, and many good causes in India have reason to think of her with gratitude and affection.

For the portrait which hangs before us we are indebted to the generosity of Raja Devaki Nandan Prasad Singh. If a portrait is to correspond faithfully to what those who know the subject best would wish, the painter must have the eye to pierce through the features of his subject to the personality beneath, and the hand to give life to his discovery upon his canvas. In this case those who knew Lord Reading will feel that the artist has acquitted himself of his task with credit, and that he has here left to successive generations a worthy record of one who held nothing back from the ungrudging service that he gave to India.

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**BANQUET AT DHOLPUR.**

1st March  
1928.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the State Banquet at Dholpur on the 1st March :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—Lady Irwin and I are indeed grateful to Your Highness for the very





*Banquet at Dholpur.*

cordial welcome you have given us on our first visit to Dholpur. It is a visit to which we have long looked forward, not only because I welcome every opportunity of extending my acquaintance with the Indian States, but because we were to be the guests of one whom we are glad to feel we may count, and of whom we naturally think, among our personal friends. We had also heard much of Dholpur tigers and of the luxurious, almost demoralising, conditions of their daily life, and wished to see more exactly for ourselves how far rumour had outrun reality. We therefore thank you, Your Highness, for the enjoyment and new experiences you have given us during the last four days, and I know that my fellow guests would wish me on their behalf to express their sincere thanks to Your Highness for all your hospitality.

I greatly appreciate the kindly allusions to myself which Your Highness has made this evening. I need hardly say that Your Highness is right in thinking that I shall always continue to take the closest personal interest in all that affects the Indian States, and that it is my constant desire to study at first-hand the problems which now engage the serious consideration of the members of your Order. I earnestly hope that the report of the Committee of experts, which is now examining some of these questions, will be the means of removing any doubts or uncertainties which may exist as to the legal position of the States, *vis-à-vis* the Government of India and the Crown, or as to certain economic and financial questions which concern the interests of both the States and British India. On the broad view, between the interests of the States and British India there should be no fundamental contradiction, for as Your Highness has said they are each parts of a wider whole, which is India; and the development of India will depend, in vital degree, upon the wisdom with which both her constituent parts can be brought to active and purposeful co-operation



*Banquet at Dholpur.*

I shall therefore gladly welcome any arrangement which may tend to consolidate and develop mutual confidence and friendship.

I have listened with interest to the brief history which Your Highness has recounted of all the changes and improvements which have taken place in Dholpur since Your Highness was invested with ruling powers. It is a record in which Your Highness may surely take legitimate pride, and I am not deceived by your characteristic modesty in giving all the credit to your officials and advisers, though I have no doubt they have fully justified the confidence which Your Highness reposes in them. I will not refer in detail to the many forms in which Your Highness' beneficent activities have found expression. I have had the opportunity of seeing something of them for myself during my visit, and have been allowed the privilege of identifying myself personally with one or two of them, which will undoubtedly affect the comfort and prosperity of your people. Lady Irwin and I would like to thank you once more for the kindly thought which prompted you to identify the Electric Power House with our youngest son. I trust it may be an association of good omen to them both.

Though I do not however refer in detail to all that has been done in the way of extension of such matters as education, sanitation, railways and roads, electricity and irrigation, I desire for a moment to dwell on one feature of Your Highness' rule which in my view contains the root of the whole matter, to which detailed reforms are ancillary, and without which the most grandiose schemes "dwindle to a hollow shell".

I mean the spirit in which these measures are conceived. Your Highness has set before yourself and has followed a high ideal of duty which is manifest in the genuine care and interest with which you watch over the





*Banquet at Dholpur.*

welfare of your subjects. If this spirit animates the ruler, it will percolate through all ranks and classes in the State, and then and then only can full benefit be derived from the increased expenditure on the thousand activities which absorb the attention of a government to-day. That Your Highness is rewarded by the personal affection of your people is well known, and was indeed clearly demonstrated by the spontaneous outburst of popular rejoicing on Your Highness' return to your State after your unlucky encounter with a mad jackal last year, which necessitated a prolonged absence from your home. Your Highness knows how anxiously your many friends hoped for your recovery, and I rejoice in common with your subjects that you were spared to preside, as I trust for many years, over their destinies.

Your Highness has alluded to the happy relations which subsist between your State and the Province of British India on your borders. The breaking up of the marauding gangs of Kanjars, which had become the terror of the country-side, was a source of the greatest satisfaction to me as to Your Highness, and the co-operation between the police of British India and those of Your Highness and other States, by which alone the destruction of these robbers was made possible, is of the happiest augury for the future. I note with satisfaction and fully share Your Highness' appreciation of the good work done by Mr. Young, work which, to the malefactors whom he pursues, must seem uncomfortably energetic and resourceful.

It only remains to acknowledge Your Highness' fervent assurance of the continued loyalty and devotion of your House to the person and throne of His Majesty the King-Emperor. Your Highness referred this evening to the interesting fact that your House was the first in Northern India to be in friendly alliance with the British



*Banquet at Patiala.*

Power, and it is good to think that now, 150 years later, its old traditions of loyalty should be in the keeping of one whose friendship we know to be unswerving and sincere. I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging the services rendered by Your Highness in the wars to which you have alluded. The loyalty of Your Highness and your brother Princes burnt with a steady flame in those dark days. Younger generations are rapidly growing up to whom these happenings are now merely history. But those of us, who lived through them, may sometimes be able if we half close our eyes to recapture, from what then seems to us as yesterday, the thoughts and feelings which for four years were all our life. At such moments the sacrifice, the heroism and the loyalty, which pass before us in retrospective picture, stand out more clearly, and we are proud to know that the ties which bound us together before that great calamity have stood the firmer for the strain.

I now ask you all to join me in drinking to the health, long life and happiness of His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur.

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**BANQUET AT PATIALA.**

8th March  
1928.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the State Banquet at Patiala on the 8th March :—

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—Your Highness prefaced your speech this evening with some very kind and graceful remarks about Lady Irwin and myself, which we much appreciate, and, in thanking Your Highness for the hospitable welcome you have given us in Patiala, I would only add, on Lady Irwin's behalf as well as my own, that it always gives us the keenest pleasure to be either the guests or the hosts of the many Indian Princes whom we are glad to call our friends.





*Banquet at Patiala.*

I will follow Your Highness for a moment into the past of which you spoke just now. Since the early years of last century the friendship of this great Sikh State has meant much to the British power in India. It has been tested in critical times and has never wavered under the strain. The active assistance which Your Highness' ancestor, as you have just said, gave to the British on the outbreak of the Mutiny was indeed invaluable, and led the British Commissioner of that time to write that the support of Patiala at such a crisis was worth a Brigade of English troops to us. I believe that all the existing units of Your Highness' forces bear the scrolls of "Mutiny 1857" and "Delhi" on their colours. In many other fields Patiala soldiers have played their part and above all in the Great War when so many of them laid down their lives. Your Highness' own personal services in the Great War and at other times are well known to all here to-night, and I need not do more than acknowledge, in the full assurance that it comes from your heart, Your Highness' expression of unchanging loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor. I have had the privilege during my visit to review Your Highness' State forces, and I am glad to have seen the fine turn-out and bearing of your men. I can wish them nothing finer than that they should be true to the martial traditions of their race, and I know that we can always rely upon Your Highness to maintain them in a complete and soldier-like condition.

Your Highness mentioned this evening a sketch which I drew not long ago of the principles of good administration and government. I may remark that it was at the instance of His Highness himself that I put down certain ideas on this subject on paper, and it has been a source of gratification to me that so many Princes have, at His Highness' suggestion, asked for a copy of my memorandum, which, I may mention, reflected only my personal



*Banquet at Patiala.*

views and was not intended to apply to Indian States any more than to any other part of the world. I do not know how far it will carry conviction to those Princes who have read it, but the fact that so many should have been interested to see it is, I think, a sure proof that the Rulers of Indian States feel no uncertainty as to the obligation to ensure good administration in the territories over which they rule. My fellow-guests here to-night need not be nervous lest I should embark on a disquisition on political science, but there is a small portion of my note which I think I may be allowed to quote, as they are not my own words but those of Bacon—"Think it more Honour to direct in chiefe, than to be busie in all. Embrace, and invite Helps, and Advices, touching the Execution of thy Place : and doe not drive away such as bring thee Information, as Medlers ; but accept them in good part".

I do not think many will deny that perhaps the principal necessity for a personal Ruler is that he should be able to choose wise counsellors, and having chosen them that he should trust them and encourage them to tell the truth whether or not it is palatable. That Your Highness accepts this as a political maxim is, I think, shown by all that you have told us to-night. I had already had the advantage of reading a note in some detail on the administration of this State, and I am glad to find the evidences of Your Highness' keenness in modernising the administrative machinery and in improving every branch of the public services, especially perhaps the departments concerned with the maintenance of law and order. The re-arrangement of the system of recruitment for the public services ought, I am sure, to have valuable results, and I am particularly glad to hear of the improvements effected in the working of the Police and Judicial Departments which have shown a result in a much quicker





*Banquet at Patiala.*

disposal of cases and speedier justice. It is also satisfactory to know that Your Highness has under serious consideration the necessity of improving the jail accommodation in your State, and to be assured that the need for increasing it is due to the tightening of discipline and the infusion of vigour and energy among the police and judiciary rather than to any growth of lawlessness among Your Highness' people. I will not digress further into the details of the various functions of Your Highness' Government except to say that I am glad to learn that your people are showing a growing realisation of the benefits of education, as is evidenced by the many spontaneous requests they have made for more village primary schools and their readiness to contribute financially so far as their resources permit.

I had occasion only a week or two ago, in the presence of your brother Princes, to congratulate Your Highness on the way you had carried out your duties as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes during the past year, and I am glad to have this more public opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the energy and efficiency that have marked Your Highness' tenure of this high and responsible office. During the last year several intricate and important problems have arisen for discussion between the Indian States and the Government of India, and as Chancellor Your Highness has been thrown into fairly constant official contact with my advisers and myself. I am very grateful for the advice and help which I have at all times received from Your Highness, and I congratulate you heartily on your re-election for the current year by what I think I may term an overwhelming majority.

Not only in India but in the wider councils of the Empire and the Nations of the world has Your Highness represented the Order to which you belong, and at Geneva Your Highness discharged with much credit and



*Opening of the Delhi, S. P. C. A. Hospital and Refuge.*

distinction the onerous duties of a member of the Delegation to the League of Nations Assembly.

It only remains for me, Your Highness, to thank you again for the very pleasant time you have given us here, for the interesting things you have shown us and the sport you have provided. The field trials which we saw yesterday were an item of particular interest and amply prove the value of the Gun dog league of which Your Highness is so ardent a supporter.

We all wish you, Your Highness, a safe and pleasant journey to England this summer, and your speedy return will be eagerly awaited by a host of friends in India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to join me in drinking to the health, long life and happiness of our illustrious host, His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

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OPENING OF THE DELHI S. P. C. A. HOSPITAL  
AND REFUGE.

31st March  
1928.

His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the Delhi S. P. C. A. Hospital and Refuge on the afternoon of the 31st March, said :—

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*—It has given me great pleasure to come here to-day to open this hospital and refuge erected by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Mrs. Lloyd has already made reference to the generosity of Seth Rameowar Jeiporia and of other benefactors, which has resulted in the fine building we see here to-day, and I know that all present this afternoon would wish me on their behalf to thank all those who by contributions or personal effort have helped to bring this institution to completion. There can be few individuals who, if it was put to them that they had been guilty of causing wanton cruelty to an animal, would not at once indignantly deny any such intention



*Opening of the Delhi S. P. C. A. Hospital and Refuge.*

on their part, or who would fail to condemn the very idea of such a thing. And yet we have learnt by experience that, until public opinion in a country is really brought to bear on this subject, and is translated into action by some such Society as we have here in Delhi, hundreds of cases will occur in every town every day, where owing to thoughtlessness, carelessness or callousness, extreme misery and hardship are suffered by our domestic animals. Public opinion on this subject is not of very old birth in any country, but India is, I think, still behind many civilised countries in this respect. And I should have expected that the ideals for which this Society works would have found ready support above all in a country like India where the sanctity of animal life is a tenet of such a large proportion of the population, and where it is therefore a matter of peculiar obligation to protect animals from all avoidable suffering.

It is at any rate our duty to endeavour to form this public opinion, and to try little by little to inculcate in the minds of everyone the idea of mercy to dumb animals and the realisation of the shamefulness of cruelty. And therefore I appeal for support to the Society which is carrying on this admirable work in Delhi and elsewhere. Help is needed from all, from officials and non-officials, from local bodies and private Associations—help in the form not only of money contributions but of active sympathy and support.

I may be permitted to make one more comment. An organisation such as this depends so much on the labour and enthusiasm of one or two devoted individuals that there is always the danger of its collapse when that individual support is removed. I should therefore have thought that some central non-official organisation would be useful, which could both help workers to feel that they were partners in a great and combined effort, and





*Combined Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of the  
St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross  
Society at Simla.*

would assure local Societies against the risk of decay and fall owing to the departure of an individual enthusiast. When talking of such enthusiasts I cannot refrain from mentioning one name, that of Mrs. Lloyd, whose devotion to this cause has meant—and I hope will long continue to mean—so much to the welfare of animals in Delhi and its neighbourhood.

I have now great pleasure in declaring this hospital and refuge open and in wishing it a long life of usefulness in the work in which it will play such an important part.

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

25th June  
1928.

His Excellency the Viceroy presided over the Combined Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society held at Simla and addressed the assembly as follows :—

*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—It gives me great pleasure to preside once more over the joint gathering of those who are interested in these two great charitable movements, and I am gratified to see the satisfactory number of members who have come here to-day and have helped to make this meeting truly representative. In particular we are all glad to welcome Mrs. Cottle, from Bengal, whose devoted services to our two associations are well-known to you. Although this annual function represents, I fear, almost the extent of my direct personal participation in the activities of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society, I need





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hardly say that my interest in these two organisations is constant, and that I heartily welcome the opportunity of reviewing from time to time the work that they have been doing.

After reading last year's reports of the two bodies and listening to the interesting speeches this afternoon of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Major-General Symons, I feel that we may congratulate ourselves on being able to record another year of not unsatisfactory progress. At the same time the progress has I think been uneven, especially as regards the Red Cross Society. Although the Red Cross report shows a considerable increase of membership in some Provinces, it is clear that other branches still need many recruits to their ranks, if they are successfully to fight the forces which we have set it before ourselves to defeat. Those who attended the annual meeting last year may remember that I referred to some figures quoted by Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith as showing the need of extending the activities of both the institutions represented here to-day. That need is still pressing and will no doubt be pressing for many years to come, but to-day General Symons has directed our particular attention to a passage in the Red Cross report dealing with the extension of the junior Red Cross movement, and I think all will agree that some of the figures there quoted, showing the popularity of this movement in other countries, are significant. The one I see is easily held by the United States of America where nearly six million members belong to the junior Red Cross. Our own Red Cross Society, as a peace-time organisation, is of course one of the youngest among the Societies established in the greater countries of the world, and it is natural that, in comparison with these figures from America, our own





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efforts should seem puny ; but I feel pretty sure that, the more we can stimulate interest in the Red Cross among the rising generation, the more firmly is our Society letting down strong roots which will ensure constant and healthy growth in future.

The Boy Scout movement has already established itself in India, and the response which the youth of India have instinctively made to its appeal is proof that they are not deaf to the call of service to their fellow-men. There are surely great possibilities of valuable work to be done by the Red Cross in conjunction with the Boy Scouts, for in great part the objects of the two organisations coincide. I would hope therefore that, from its own particular angle of approach to a common end, the junior Red Cross movement may make no less strong an appeal to the present youth of India, and that, as they and our Society grow up together, they will in future years come to provide the backbone of this organisation.

It has been suggested to me, and to this matter General Symons has referred in his speech, that there is one direction in which the activities of the Red Cross could be extended, and I believe that the Central Committee have recently been devoting their attention to it. I refer to the question of organising relief in the case of national calamities. The splendid work of relief carried out by the American Red Cross after the disastrous floods caused by the Mississippi elicited the admiration of the world. More recently, in a somewhat similar calamity which befell Mexico, the Red Cross of that country was prompt to organise relief for the sufferers on a large scale. In each of these cases the Red Cross was asked by the Government to undertake the work of public relief, and by reason of its pre-existent organisation was first to take the field.





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Similarly at the beginning of 1926, in the devastating floods which occurred in Belgium and Holland, the Red Cross Societies of those countries, with advice and assistance from the League in Paris, administered the whole work of distributing supplies to the sufferers and of taking prophylactic measures against the outbreak of epidemics. India is not infrequently the unhappy victim of such visitations of nature, and only last year, as General Symons has reminded us, we had sad evidence in Orissa and Gujerat of the damage and suffering which nature can inflict. But one of the difficulties in the way of the Indian Red Cross in following the example of Societies in other lands is that the Society is not so much a national society as a collection of Provincial and State branches, and these branches absorb practically the whole of the Society's income. Relief in such cases therefore has necessarily to be a matter for provincial rather than national activity, and, inasmuch as the resources of the branches are more or less ear-marked for their ordinary peace-time programme, they have little or no reserve for unforeseen emergencies. The solution of these difficulties seems to me to lie in the formation of a central fund to be used on such occasions, so that the Central Committee might be able to cope with any sudden and imperative demands. India has joined the International Relief Union, which resulted from a Conference held in Geneva in July last year under the auspices of the League of Nations, with the object of furnishing assistance in the event of exceptional disasters and calamities. The creation of such an organisation, which will operate primarily through national Red Cross Societies, throws on the latter the responsibility of preparing for such work as may fall on them in pursuance of the objects of the central body and, therefore, of endeavouring to augment their own financial resources for supplementing any



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scheme of financial assistance which the International Relief Union may launch. It is an object which I think I may safely recommend to the notice and generosity of all those who have the interest of the Red Cross at heart.

If, as General Symons has said, the Indian Red Cross Society is but a child, it goes hand in hand with an Association whose ancestry reaches far back into the mists of history. The salient features of the doings of the St. John Ambulance Association during the past year have been reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief. I know that you will all be at one with me in desiring to acknowledge the debt we owe to His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey—and I would add in no less degree to Sir Fazl-i-Husain—for the personal interest they took in ensuring the success of the ambulance competitions in Lahore this year. It was indeed a great pleasure to all that Mrs. Dent should have been able to be present on that occasion, and both the organisers and competitors are to be congratulated on the high opinion she formed of all the ambulance work which she was able to see.

The Punjab has also been prominent in the training of ambulance classes in which, as His Excellency the Chairman of the Indian Council has just said, very satisfactory progress throughout India has been made.

Before concluding I would like to thank all those, whether office-holders or members, who by their active participation or sympathetic support have helped to carry on the work of our two Associations during the past year. In many ways and from a variety of causes India is being brought into ever closer touch with other countries of the world, and thus the question of her public health must be recognised as closely bound up with that wider problem of





*Address from the Vizagapatam Municipal Council.*

world-health, on which the attention of all peoples is becoming more and more closely focussed. An illustration of this may be found in the visit to India during the last year both of public health experts from countries of the Far East, and of the delegates of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine. It is not difficult to foresee that the education of the Indian public in the principles of public health will grow in importance as years go on, and the value of the educative work which our two Associations are doing will be steadily extended. I hope and believe therefore that every year when we meet together, as we are meeting to-day, we shall be able to record a further expansion of membership, a widening of interest, and an increasing determination on the part of all to extend the beneficent activities of our two Societies.

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ADDRESS FROM THE VIZAGAPATAM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

In replying to the Address presented by the Vizagapatam Municipal Council on the 26th July, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

26th July  
1928.

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.*—I am most grateful to you for the warmth with which you have welcomed me and I must thank you, and through you the Municipality which you represent, for the cordial address to which we have just listened. My pleasure in visiting your ancient and historic city is enhanced by the knowledge that no previous Viceroy has had that good fortune. It was a great disappointment to me last year that heavy floods prevented me from completing the tour I had arranged in this direction, and I determined that I would take the earliest possible opportunity of redeeming the failure of last summer.



*Address from the Vizagapatam Municipal Council.*

I can assure you that Lady Irwin shares the regret you have expressed, that absence from India has precluded her accompanying me on this occasion.

As you have said, a long history lies behind this city of Vaisakha. A new page in that history is being turned to-day by the construction of a protected deep-water harbour, for it is not difficult to foresee the benefits which must result, both for Vizagapatam and for the country lying within its range, from this great new seaport looking to the East. It has natural advantages, both in the conformation of its sea-board and its position on the long stretch of coast separating Calcutta from Madras, and you may be sure that the Government of India will watch with sympathetic interest the development of the first Indian port in whose initiation and construction they have been immediately concerned.

You have raised in your address various questions connected with the future administration of this seaport, and it is gratifying to see that your Council, on whose foresight the welfare of your citizens so largely depends, realise the responsibilities which will devolve upon them from the growth of population and of local business which may result from the opening of the new harbour. I can well understand your desire that the town of Vizagapatam should progress in importance as in amenities along with the growth in the immediate neighbourhood of new and well-equipped facilities for trade. The inclusion of the harbour area, as you suggest, within Municipal limits and its consequent assessment to Municipal taxes would, I realise, help your Council financially to take up schemes for water-supply and other Municipal services. This is primarily a matter for the Local Government to initiate, though it must of course be considered in special relation to the development of the Port itself, and it is difficult to pronounce on the merits of any such scheme, or on the



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question of taxation or expenditure on local works such as a new beach road, without a thorough examination by those who are immediately responsible. I have no doubt, however, that both the Local Government and the Harbour Construction Authority will give the most careful thought to any representations on this subject which your Council may decide to put before them.

We have a long programme before us this morning and you will not wish me to detain you longer. I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the care which your Council have obviously bestowed on the town which lies in your charge and on the pride which you take in its natural beauties and its traditions. I wish it all prosperity for the future and shall continue to take a lively interest in the progress and development which coming years must bring.

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**OPENING OF THE IRWIN HOSPITAL AT AMRAOTI.**

The following is His Excellency the Viceroy's speech at the opening of the Irwin Hospital at Amraoti on the 28th July 1928.

*Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—I confess that it was not without surprise that I heard the Hon'ble Mr. Raghavendra Rao say, in the course of the speech so full of interest and suggestion to which we have just listened, that 58 years had passed since a Viceroy last visited Berar. I can only think that, if this is so, it has been the fault of Viceroys and not of the people of Berar, who I know are never slow to extend a cordial and hospitable welcome to anyone who visits their country. His Excellency the Governor indeed has told me that there were many bodies, including the prominent organisation of the Berar co-operative Institute, here which wished to offer me a formal welcome, and I am sorry that my engagements have prevented me from devoting a longer time to





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this visit, and from availing myself of the opportunity both of receiving those addresses and of gaining more intimate personal acquaintance of Berar and its people than has been possible in the few all too short hours I have spent in Amraoti.

It has however given me the greatest pleasure to pay even this brief visit and it is an interesting coincidence that, just as a memento of Lord Mayo's visit in 1870 has been left in the Mayo Hospital at Nagpur, the capital of the Central Provinces, so to-day the chief function arranged for my visit to the capital of Berar is to open a hospital, to which you have been good enough to give my name.

In order to appreciate rightly what is the significance of the opening of this hospital, I would ask you to reflect for a moment upon one of the fundamental facts of all human life.

The underlying unity of that life, as we see it all around us, is impaired by countless divisions, and differences, which lead men to range themselves in separate camps and under various banners, to which they give allegiance. And these differences too often take evil shape. Thus as we look across the world we see differences between employers and employed leading to grave industrial disputes, religious differences breeding religious bitterness and not infrequently loss of life, national differences hurling nations into war, and, behind all these, racial differences perpetually obstructing the way to that better understanding, upon which the future of our humankind depends.

These things fill the foreground of our picture, and distract our attention from the real struggle of man with disease that is universal, constant, pitiless, and unending.



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The differences between men are often capable of solution ; and even war between some nations permits neutrality for others, and in time yields place to Peace. But in this fell conflict that all humanity is ever waging against disease, there is no armistice, and there is no neutrality.

And therefore I see in this work that has been done here a real contribution to human progress, and most warmly do I congratulate you upon its achievement.

The Hon'ble the Minister has reviewed in his speech the general lines of the programme of medical and public health development to which your Province has devoted itself. We may all readily agree with him that the progress achieved has been real and notable, and that you have reason to congratulate yourselves both on the farsighted policy of your Government, and on the co-operation and generosity with which the people have helped to make that policy a success. He referred in particular to the attention devoted to the health of women and children, a matter in which I believe your Province can face comparison with any other in India, and to the extension of hospital organisation under the auspices of the Countess of Dufferin Fund. The Central Committee of this Fund have recently been interesting themselves in a scheme for the increase in numbers, and for the better training, of nurses in certain Provinces, and I have no doubt that this is a sphere of public service to which women in India might worthily devote attention. The supply of fully qualified doctors in India is increasing year by year, but it is not too much to say that their work in hospitals and private practice is frequently handicapped by the lack of trained nurses to carry out the treatment they prescribe. In other spheres of women's work your Province has made a great advance, for women have been nominated to the Legislative Council and to



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several local bodies and the question of women's education is being vigorously taken up. I feel no doubt that the Central Provinces and Berar will not be slow to support any scheme which aims at the raising of the standard and status of the nursing profession, and I know that in doing so, as in all other matters which affect the welfare of the Province, they will all be sure of the warm-hearted assistance of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Butler.

Although, as I have said, the principal function to-day is the opening of this hospital, I think—as it is only once in 60 years or so—that you will have patience if I say something about the general conditions and problems of your country.

The first subject, to which it would be difficult to make no reference in Berar, is the great cotton trade on which so large a part of the prosperity of your Province is founded. In the last three quarters of a century, since the administration of Berar was entrusted to the British Government, the cotton industry has shown a vast increase and I believe that Amraoti, corrupted by business tongues to Oomra, now gives its name on the Bombay market to more than one-half of the full total of India's cotton crop. The present generation may find it hard to realise the blessing of internal peace, which with the resultant development of communications has been the chief factor in bringing about this great change. For human memories are short and times of trouble and disturbance fade quickly into history. Yet it was for the upkeep of military forces required for the maintenance of peace in the Deccan that Berar was first assigned to the British Government. I recently learned from His Excellency the Governor the interesting fact that the buildings and lands which until about 25 years ago were occupied by the Hyderabad Contingent at Ellichpur have





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now been handed over to the Agricultural Department for production of high class cattle, and the growth of improved varieties of cotton. There indeed has the ploughshare ousted the lance and sword.

The recently published report of the Royal Commission has focussed the public eye on Indian Agriculture and I was interested to read in that report the commendation of the system, in vogue in Berar, of regulated markets for the disposal of the cotton crop. As the Royal Commission have wisely said "well-regulated markets create in the mind of the cultivator a feeling of confidence and of receiving fair play, and this is the mood in which he is most ready to accept new ideas and to strive to improve his agricultural practice".

It was with great interest too that I learnt that your Government has been pursuing an active road policy. You on your part must have welcomed the announcement that new broad gauge railways are about to be commenced from Hiwarkhed, through Akot and Akola, to Basim, and from Amraoti to Narkhed on the Nagpur-Itarsi line. But the question of communications is far more than a local one, and your geographical position gives you a special interest in the great through routes by road and rail which necessarily traverse the Province. Recent developments have brought into existence a new Trunk route from North to South, and, with the completion of the new line passing through the territories of His Exalted Highness the Nizam, Nagpur now occupies a central position on the shortest route between Madras and Delhi. Of even more importance is the direct railway connection between Raipur and Vizagapatam, for, when the deep water harbour at the latter place has been completed, the eastern districts will have been brought 150 miles nearer to the sea.



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Trunk railway lines are an old story, but the importance of arterial road routes is only beginning to be realised. As I daresay you know, the Government of India recently appointed a Committee to examine the question of road development and the best means of providing additional funds for that object, and I believe their report is about to be submitted. One of the points which is likely to emerge is that in every Province there are roads which are of more than local importance, and, since they link up district with district, their control rests naturally with the Provincial Government rather than with the local bodies. Looking to the future, I conceive it possible that there may be other and still more important roads, the development of which as a means of connecting Province with Province will be a matter of all-India concern. Should that be so, they must be of interest to you, for the arterial roads of the future, whether they run from North to South or from East to West, can hardly avoid traversing the Central Provinces.

Before saying good-bye I must thank you again for the welcome you have given me, which indeed is only such as the warm-hearted generosity and public spirit of the Berari would be expected to extend to a guest. I leave you with the happiest recollections of my brief visit and with my best wishes for a good season and for the continued prosperity of the Province.

I will now, with your permission, proceed to the opening of the hospital that is to bear my name. It is with much gratification that I have taken part in this ceremony, which marks an important stage in the scheme of hospital construction now being carried out. I trust and believe that this hospital has before it a long life of usefulness, and is destined to be a blessing to those who may have occasion to seek succour therein.





## LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF A HOSPITAL AT RATLAM.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech when he laid the Foundation-Stone of a Hospital at Ratlam on the 3rd August :—

3rd August  
1928

*Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—I feel that special interest attaches to my visit here to-day from the fact, to which Your Highness has alluded, that over half a century has passed since a Viceroy came to Ratlam. But there are so many Salute States eager to show their traditional hospitality and to offer a loyal welcome to His Majesty's representative, that a Viceroy has perforce to refuse many cordial and generous invitations which he would desire to accept. I wish indeed that my visit to-day could have been longer, and could have given me time to see something more of a State so famous in the history of Central India. For although the material possessions of the Ruler of Ratlam are now, through ancient misfortunes, no longer as extensive as they once were, there are to-day few names better known to the world in general than that of His Highness the Maharaja of Ratlam ; and I would like to take this public opportunity of again congratulating Your Highness on the birth of a son, heir to an ancient line, for whom I can wish nothing better than that he should follow in his father's footsteps.

Your Highness' reputation as a soldier and a fearless horseman is familiar to all, and your services to India and the Empire both in the Great War and in the Afghan War of 1919 will not readily be forgotten. It has given me the greatest pleasure, Your Highness, to accept your cordial invitation to visit your State and to lay the foundation-stone of your new hospital, and I recall with pleasant memories the occasion on which Your Highness was among those who first greeted me on my arrival in India.



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Before laying this stone I would wish to say what gratification it gives me to know that Your Highness is taking such interest in the development of your State, and is showing so warm a solicitude for the welfare of your subjects. In the course of my visits to many States, I have been glad to observe the serious attention which is being paid to the provision of medical relief, and have been struck by the high standard of hospital buildings and equipment. I congratulate Your Highness on your decision to erect a new hospital on this well-chosen site ; and I know that you will do all in your power, by appointing an adequate and efficient staff and by taking a personal interest in its administration, to ensure its success. It will bring to Your Highness the double satisfaction of being the happy means of commemorating your mother's name and of securing health and happiness to the sick and suffering.

I will now ask Your Highness' permission to lay the foundation-stone, and in doing so I wish this new institution a long and useful life.

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OPENING OF THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE  
AT SIMLA.

1st October  
1928.

In opening the Agricultural Conference held at Simla on 1st October, H. E. the Viceroy said :—

*Gentlemen*,—Let me wish you a cordial welcome to Simla. When the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India reached us, we undertook a rapid examination of its contents in order to decide what would be the best way of securing prompt and fruitful consideration for the Commission's proposals. It was clear from the wide ground covered by the recommendations as well as from their nature that the first necessary step was to determine the relative urgency of the main recommendations and the authority, Central or Provincial, or both



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Before I proceed further, gentlemen, let me endeavour to express what, I am sure, you all fully share, namely, our appreciation of the work accomplished by the Commission. The importance of agriculture to this country has often been emphasised ; it can never be exaggerated. Agriculture is the mainstay of 71 per cent. of the population of India. The practice of centuries has taught the Indian cultivator much that is of value in agriculture. But a great deal that science has brought to light in recent years is unknown to him. And the growing pressure of population on land of which the area is limited has created fresh problems for agricultural science to explore and solve. If the ryot's standard of living is to improve, the quality of his produce and the return which his toil bring him must be improved also. That was the main economic problem to which the Commission had to address themselves. But they took a wider view of their responsibilities. They applied their minds to the whole question of rural reconstruction. They recognised that the conditions of rural life have to be viewed and studied as a whole ; that there is an organic affinity between rural education, rural sanitation and rural economies ; that material prosperity will not, by itself, complete the ryot's happiness ; indeed, that such prosperity can only be achieved if education widens his horizons ; if improved sanitation makes his life healthier and longer ; if his environment is so improved as to send him with a cheerful mind, a quickened interest and a zest for work to his daily task in the field. Their enquiry, therefore, embraced the whole field of rural life. It was careful and intensive. The Commissioners sought not only to investigate all the relevant facts in India. They also tried to ascertain conditions abroad which might help them to complete their survey of the problem and present a comprehensive Report. The result, gentlemen, is a massive volume, full of useful and illuminating facts and





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of stimulating suggestions. I use no language of exaggeration when I say that it represents the most complete and creative document affecting the welfare of the agricultural population in this country that has hitherto been published. My Government and I—and, gentlemen, I hope, I may associate in this observation the Provincial Governments whom you represent—wish to express to Lord Linlithgow and his colleagues our grateful appreciation of their sustained, sympathetic and strenuous endeavour, and our congratulations on the valuable contribution which they have made to the furtherance of a vital and beneficent activity.

Gentlemen, you have a varied and full agenda before you. I do not intend to prevent you from getting to grips with it as quickly as possible. Nor do I propose to select any one of the items on your list of business for detailed comment. I would leave that to Sir Muhammad Habibullah and to other members of the Conference whose expert knowledge fits them for the task. But I shall permit myself a few remarks on the broad unity of outlook which is the outstanding feature of the Commission's Report—a feature to which I have already referred. As the Commission point out, the problem of agricultural improvement is identical with the problem of rural reconstruction. Amelioration of the agriculturists' lot cannot be effected without co-ordinating activity in several fields of administration besides Agriculture proper, particularly in the fields of Education and Public Health. Now, gentlemen, each one of these departments of Government is now under the control of popular Ministers. Initiative to secure such co-ordination rests with them. I have no doubt that such initiative will be forthcoming. The form which it may take and the rate at which co-ordination may progress will depend on conditions and circumstances which, I recognise, vary from Province to Province. I would only ask Hon'ble Ministers to remember



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that co-ordination offers the one magic key to success in the object which the Commission have described for us. The emphasis laid by Lord Linlithgow and his colleagues on the value of combined activity will, I hope, be appreciated at its true value and their various recommendations carried out in an endeavour to move forward together over the whole wide front which we desire to attack. Much of the work must fall directly upon Local Governments, for we recognise the existing constitutional position and have no desire to interfere in any way with their discretion. But whatever assistance by way of counsel and the supply of information the Government of India can render will be willingly and readily given.

There is however one other matter with which the Government of India is immediately concerned, and on which I should like to dwell briefly. I refer to agricultural research. The Commission have rightly placed the guidance, promotion and co-ordination of research in the forefront of their recommendations. Scientific research is the life-blood of economic progress. Knowledge of the processes of nature must be progressively improved and applied in order to stimulate her bounty. Nature must be led, not driven; and if we, by study of her ways, lead nature by the hand, she will join hands with us in placing new treasures at our disposal. If therefore we wish the land to yield to us a harvest richer in measure and quality than what she does to-day, we must call science more and more to our aid. Scientific research is largely responsible for the agricultural prosperity of Java. The same is true of all nations with a developing and progressive agriculture. In this country, the improved varieties of Pusa wheat and Coimbatore sugar-cane have added materially to the prosperity of the agriculturist in the wheat and cane-growing Provinces of India. The veterinary work done at Muktesar has saved and is saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of cattle every year.





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I have mentioned these instances not to glorify the institutions devoted to research which the Government of India maintain, but only because they are most familiar to me. I have no doubt that in the Provinces work not less valuable has been and is being done. But, as the Commission have pointed out, in India endeavour has so far lagged behind the exigencies of the situation. More must be done if we are to cope with the demand made by a growing population and by the increasing stress of competition in the markets of the world. Both factors emphasise the need for increasing the output from land and the quality of the yield. Agricultural research offers a sphere in which the Central Government can help the Provinces, both through the existing agencies which they now control and, if the Provinces are willing to co-operate, in the manner recommended by the Commission. As you are aware, gentlemen, in Chapter III of their Report, the Commission have made proposals for setting up a Central Council for Agricultural Research. These proposals will doubtless be discussed by you, for I observe that the establishment of such a Council is the first item on your agenda. I shall not attempt to anticipate the results of your deliberations on the subject. I shall only say that my Government and I are strongly of opinion that some such organisation should be brought into being as soon as possible. India urgently wants a body which will be thoroughly representative of all-India as well as of Provincial points of view ; which will be able to ascertain and appraise, with the aid of the best scientific advice available in the country, the requirements of the different agricultural tracts ; which will be endowed with adequate funds to guide, promote and co-ordinate agricultural research throughout the country and with sufficiently elastic powers to utilise these funds as its collective judgment may suggest. The scheme drawn up by the Commission is based on principles which appear to fulfil these condi-



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tions and will, I hope, receive your earnest consideration. You will have observed that the Commission's plan does not, as the constitution stands at present, contemplate any call on the Provinces for financing the proposed Council. The Government of India accept this position, and, subject to the approval of the Legislative Assembly, will endeavour to provide any central organisation that may be set up with such funds as their resources might permit. But apart from the question of finance, the whole principle of co-ordinated activity in this sphere requires to be discussed: It is for the Provinces to decide whether they will or will not accept this principle. We do not desire to impose on them any scheme built up on this principle if they do not want it. For, it is obvious that co-ordination cannot be achieved without the co-operation of the Provinces. There is one more important point which I should like to make clear. My Government and I have no intention that, if a central organisation is set up on the lines recommended by the Commission, it should in any way curtail or restrict the freedom which the Provinces now enjoy in regard to agricultural administration and policy. Indeed it is our wish that, if any such organisation materialises, it should be so devised as to enlist the interest and the willing support of the Provinces no less than of the Government of India. We seek voluntary co-operation, not an infringement of Provincial powers and rights.

I had intended, gentlemen, to touch briefly also on the part which the co-operative movement can play in enlarging the happiness and material prosperity of the countryside. Any such observations would be superfluous now after the speech which the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Habibullah delivered the other day when inaugurating the Tenth Session of the All-India Co-operative Conference. I can add nothing to the sagacious and practical suggestions which he made on that occasion for broadening the



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scope of this movement and for infusing into it fresh energy and fresh vigour.

Gentlemen, I shall not detain you much longer. I have tried to explain to you the objects with which this Conference was called and to make a few observations on the importance of the Report and on the attitude of my Government towards the principal recommendation which concerns us as well as Local Governments. I shall be interested to learn from day to day, as your deliberations proceed, what each Province thinks of the many and varied proposals made by the Commission ; what action it proposes to take on them. We recognise, as the Commission recognised, that it is impossible in a day to give effect to recommendations so numerous and so far-reaching. Time is necessary for the mobilisation of the resources and the men, and for accelerating the momentum of public opinion, without which proposals so comprehensive in their range and effect cannot attain full fruition. But I am confident that the resolve to work for the uplift of the rural population, with which each one of you has come to this Conference, will derive inspiration and strength from meeting others who are moved by the same impulse and engaged on a similar task in different parts of this great country. May the contact, which these meetings are intended to provide, infuse new life into your efforts and lend new vigour to your purpose. No ideal could be more humane in its nature, more moving in its appeal, than the ideal of kindling in the breasts of seven-tenths of the inhabitants of this Sub-Continent the desire for a "better and a fuller life", no duty nobler or more powerful as a spur to action than the duty of working with sustained energy and steadfast faith to see your ideal realised. It is my firm conviction that the duty will be willingly and worthily discharged, as it is my earnest hope that the discussions which start to-day may help to bring the ideal nearer to fulfilment.





## DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE LAWRENCE ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL AT SANAWAR.

4th October  
1928.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the prize giving at the Lawrence Royal Military School at Sanawar on 4th October :—

*Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen*,—When a Prize Giving coincides, as it does generally, I suppose, with a Founder's Day, it becomes a dedication, and I think it is a great privilege for any outsider to take part in it.

Now I have noticed that it has very often happened that people, who give prizes away, think it necessary to make a long speech to show that they can make speeches as well as give prizes, but I do not intend to make a speech, for two reasons. Firstly, I am sure that you have very important engagements awaiting you very soon, in the way of restoring your vitality by other means ; and also because, ever since I have been in Sanawar, I have been feeling myself in a completely family party where speeches seem to be quite out of place : therefore, if I may, I want to talk to you for a very few minutes, and tell you one or two things that have occurred to me since I have been in Sanawar.

Now I said this place is very much like a family party, and it seems to me to be a gathering of a family in a party, just as a family gathers together on any great family occasion, when it sets to work to enjoy itself, and to wish many happy returns to the person who has given them the excuse for meeting.

You have been allowing a total stranger like myself, who in spite of his official connection with the school has hitherto had only a cursory acquaintance with it, you have allowed me to take part in all the family entertainments at one time and another since I have been here. I have taken part in listening to communal singing, and thought how ill I myself have done it compared with what I heard last night. I have been introduced to seven or





*Distribution of prizes at the Lawrence Royal Military School at  
Sanawar.*

eight of the greatest scoundrels of the 18th century, assisted by a stern representative of authority, and I was glad to see they were eventually downed by the representative.

All that side of it has been to me wholly delightful and wholly the family atmosphere. Then, as I was thinking these thoughts this morning of the many happy returns to the School that Founder's Day is, you will allow me to say that I think it the greatest privilege being allowed to join in the best way of wishing Many Happy Returns to the School, in which many of us took part this morning in the great corporate Act of Consecration and Fellowship, in your beautiful Chapel ; and I cannot help thinking about your Founder, who, as we may surely suppose, was able to watch and to take part in and rejoice at what you were there doing ; at the contribution that your Chapel was making to what must surely be his great purpose and scheme, namely that all the work that is done in school and on the playing field to produce a trained mind and a physically fit body should be welded together by the contribution that your Chapel makes in order to train both personality and character.

Now a Prize Giving is always a business that divides itself into two parts : one congratulates the people who have got prizes, and condoles with the people who think they ought to have got prizes ; because, after all, if there is any justice in the world, surely, if boys and girls do not always give the right answers, they can retort that examiners do not always set the right questions.

Of course a Prize Giving is much more than what its name actually implies. It is a stock-taking when all those who are interested in the school see what is happening to it, and when they are glad that the school is endowed with a principle like this. All that they have heard about the progress and achievements of the School, and its promises





*Distribution of prizes at the Lawrence Royal Military School at  
Sanawar.*

for next year, makes them very happy and encouraged. But of course a Prize Giving probably means to some people that they are getting nearer the end of their school time, and will soon be departing into other spheres and wider walks of life. We realise, I suppose, when that time comes, a little bit, the elder ones of you I hope, what the School has done, and ought to be, to us all.

May I tell you one thing? When I went to school, I remember that the whole world centred round me. Everything had importance or unimportance according as it affected me. Whether I was allowed to have the right jam for tea and the right bootlaces was of more importance than the murder of a Prime Minister. Gradually when you come to school you find that you yourself, the jam and the bootlaces are not really as important as you began by thinking. Then you ask yourself: "Why are they not so important? What is taking their place?" You suddenly wake up to the amazing fact that you are only one in a much bigger show than yourself. Somebody else is taking your place—all the other people, other boys and girls, masters, School, House; and you gradually learn in that way that Life is a co-operative business, that you cannot do without other people. You cannot accomplish anything in a tug-of-war unless all pull as one; then you manage to effect something.

And so, when you go into wider places, you find exactly the same rules, and all the same kinds of things happen and have exactly the same risks.

I have given away just now a great many books and I always look at the backs to see if I have read them or should like to read them, and I see there are a great many fairy tales which I love reading. Do not let anybody think they are too old to read fairy stories. There are many people who read novels about things like crusades





*Institution of Engineers Dinner.*

and adventure. Do not let us think that they are just things we stop doing in our childhood, for the whole of Life is a fairy story and a crusade for those who keep their eyes open. We read much of chivalry when Knights used to fight in tournaments for ladies' gloves. There is no mistake that there are a great many crusades for you all to go on, a great many weak people to be rescued, and a great many dragons to kill, and I want every boy and girl to go out, not in the spirit of a prig thinking that they have to put the world right, but to go out in the spirit of adventure doing their own job, commanding a little crusade of their own, killing a dragon of their own, and rescuing a princess.

Now you are probably saying : " I shan't remember a word, and I only long for the fellow to stop." Well, he is going to stop, but I want to say 16 more words. You may know an old Dutch saying or proverb that exactly seems to fit what I have tried to say :

Fortune lost : Nothing lost ;

Courage lost : Much lost.

Honour lost : More lost ;

Soul lost : All lost.

[His Excellency subsequently announced that he had asked the Principal to give the whole School three days holiday to commemorate his visit (loud and prolonged cheering).]

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INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS DINNER.

In replying to the Toast of his health at the Annual Dinner of the Institution of Engineers held at Delhi, on the 9th November, 9th Novem-  
ber 1928.  
H. E. the Viceroy said :—

It has not seldom been my experience, when an engineer is endeavouring to explain to me the intricacies



*Institution of Engineers Dinner.*

of his pet project or machinery, to feel acutely the limitations of my knowledge compared with his. If that be the effect produced on me by one of your number, you can imagine the frame of mind in which I rise to address a whole room full of the fraternity. But I can at any rate thank you all without reservation for your hospitality in entertaining me here to-night, and I need hardly say how great a pleasure it has given me to meet so many members of the Institution of Engineers in India. I should also like to thank you, Mr. President, for the very kind things you have said this evening, and the whole company for the way they have received the toast of my health.

I have thought always that engineers were much to be envied. For one thing, they are among those lucky people who have been able to dream dreams in boyhood and realise them in after-life—for every right-minded boy's ambition is to be an engineer, though he may not always foresee the years of exacting training which an intricate and technical science like this requires.

For another thing, the engineer can see with his own eyes the visible results of his work. Many of us laymen, especially if we have at any time had the misfortune to be politicians, must often feel inclined to ask ourselves what has really been the outcome of months or years of laborious work. We cover pages of paper with argument and reasoning and conclusions, or spend our best efforts in making speeches, which rarely are as convincing to our audiences as they seem to be to us, but, when we look later on for tangible results, that we can point to, we begin to wonder what is the sum total of our achievement. The wheels of administration move slowly ; much of what we seek to do is inevitably the second best ; and the world is more ready to accord criticism than approbation. We deal with opinions, you with facts ; and your pages of figures and calculations bring concrete results in the shape of bridges, railways, canals, machines. You can see the girders rising,



*Institution of Engineers Dinner.*

the water flowing, the two shining lines of metal stretching away over the plain and vanishing into the horizon, and, as you survey your work, you can see that it is good.

It is true that most of the great engineering feats in India have been performed by engineers in the service of Government, but, as industry expands, as in the course of nature it must, India will more and more feel the need of qualified engineers, whether in Government service or not. And it is here that your Institution has its function to fulfil. Public bodies and private firms will, if they are wise, always demand engineers whose qualifications are known to conform to certain standards, and an Institution such as yours is the best means of assuring the maintenance of those standards. And more than this; men find in such an Association as this a stimulus to their work. Added to the natural pride, which any good craftsman takes in his work, is the corporate pride he feels in maintaining the traditions of the body to which he belongs. The more jealously you guard those traditions and the more rigidly you insist on the maintenance of high standards and the good name of your profession, the more valuable will your Institution be both to its own Members and to the community at large.

As you have just said, Mr. President, it is now nearly eight years since Lord Chelmsford inaugurated your body, and in doing so he forecast a great and successful future for it. I am very glad to know that it is fulfilling his prediction. Its membership of well over 1,000, from all branches of the profession and in all stages of their professional career, and the formation of Local Associations in every quarter of India, are sufficient proof that it has established its position and are a good omen for its further increase in the future.

And what is the future going to bring in the engineering world? It is a commonplace that the advance made in engineering and mechanics within the memory of this



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generation has probably exceeded that made in any equal period before in the history of the world, and a modern writer has told us that, during the last 150 years, the rate of progress in man's command over nature has been ten times as fast as in the whole period between Caesar and Napoleon.

The pace is tremendous, the effect of change in almost every sphere of life kaleidoscopic, and I sometimes wonder whether we can exactly foresee the effect of all this upon human character and temperament.

Many years ago, Samuel Butler, if I remember rightly, levelled a lance against the gradual and as he thought sinister domination that the machine was bound to establish over the man who had called it into being. Since he wrote, our whole conceptions of time and space are in course of being recast under the influence of modern invention and discovery, and here as in the evolution of industry under the influence of the machine there is some room for Butler's doubt whether man is in fact retaining control over the new forces his ingenuity has released. In any case we can hardly suppose that, when his whole environment is undergoing transformation, man himself will remain constant and unaffected. I was interested to notice, in the speech that Sir Alfred Ewing made at the Centenary celebration of the Institute of Civil Engineers in London last June, reflections not unconnected with those to which I have endeavoured to give expression. The subject of his address he termed "a century of inventions", but, after sketching the amazing progress made in the last 100 years, he asked himself whether that progress had not outstripped the ethical progress of the race. He spoke of the Great War and how that brought home to him what he termed "the moral failure of applied mechanics". But it was not a note of pessimism that, I think, he meant to strike but rather one of inspiration for the future. We may admit that, great as the impetus was which the Great





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War gave to engineering and scientific inventions and research, it was largely an impetus in a destructive direction. Seen from this angle, with full recognition of all that was good in the concentrated effort of the War, the contemplation of the highest scientific genius of man employed upon the destruction of his fellows was not an inspiring spectacle. It was not progress in the sense in which thinking engineers imagine the true development of their profession. You would all, I know, agree that the victory which engineering and science have achieved over inanimate nature is no real triumph unless that triumph is employed and developed for the benefit and greater happiness of mankind. This must be at once the goal and the test of our endeavour.

You were good enough to refer, Mr. President, to the interest I have always taken in the efforts of engineers, whether in India or elsewhere, to develop the country and improve the conditions and amenities of its inhabitants. Well, during the last two and a half years I have travelled pretty widely over India and have seen visible and unforgettable proofs of what engineers have done for the people of India, how canals and railways and other means of communication have secured great tracts from the old terrors of famine, how the desert has been made to blossom, how the lot of the poor has been improved, how wild tribesmen have been tamed, how health has been brought to fevered districts, and new comforts of life to dwellers in the remotest parts. And for this, among other reasons, I rejoice to see engineers joining together in an Association like this, whose tendency will surely always be to direct the science of engineering along beneficent lines.

I thank you, Gentlemen, again for having permitted me to be your guest, and I should like to assure you once more that I shall retain thereby a more direct and personal interest in the future growth and fortune of your Institution.





*Address of Welcome presented by the Bihar Landholders' Association.*

ADDRESS OF WELCOME PRESENTED BY THE  
BIHAR LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION.

14th November 1928. In replying to the Address of Welcome presented by the Bihar Landholders' Association at Patna on the 14th November, H. E. the Viceroy said :—

It has given me great pleasure to be present here to-day and receive the address of welcome to which we have just listened, and I wish to thank you all for the warmth of the reception which you have given to me. Earlier this year I had the opportunity of visiting the southern portions of this Province, and of seeing something of the areas which suffered so severely from floods last year. As you are aware, a Committee of engineers have recently investigated and reported upon the causes of these floods which have repeatedly, in the past, devastated the coastal districts of Orissa, and they have made a number of recommendations designed to mitigate their effects. It would be premature for me to discuss these recommendations, beyond saying that the Committee appear to have discharged their duty with great thoroughness and ability, and that I am sure you can rely upon the warm sympathy and assistance of your Governor in any practical measures that it may be found feasible to take on the Committee's report.

I have been looking forward keenly to our first visit to Bihar and I am grateful to have been given this opportunity of meeting so many of its leading men in the capital of the Province. I know well its ancient fame to which you have alluded in your address. For historians of all ages have spoken of it, and of the old Maurya and Gupta dynasties which made it famous, and from their writings





*Address of Welcome presented by the Bihar Landholders' Association.*

we can gauge the political and religious importance which belonged to this Northern India Empire and the advanced state of civilisation which it achieved.

Of those days, no doubt, the same thing was true as what you have said in your address to-day, that the rural population, which you represent, are the backbone of the country. And you are right in thinking that, in all that pertains to Indian agriculture and in all that makes for the welfare and happiness of those who derive their livelihood from the land, I shall always take the deepest interest. I have had some personal experience of farming and, when you say that Government has sometimes failed to treat Zemindars with sympathy and consideration, I can appreciate your feelings ; I fear that it is not uncommon for farmers in other parts of the world to feel that as a class they are misunderstood. But the lesson of this, as you and your fathers have recognised, is that Zemindars should appreciate the importance of organising themselves on the basis of the interests they share, and of working in harmony for their common good and for the good of their tenants. The strongest buttress of any landed class is a contented and prosperous tenantry and I would therefore urge you constantly to identify their interests with your own.

I have followed with close attention the passage of events in the Legislative Council concerning Tenancy Legislation. I recognise the complex character of the issues under examination, and the sharp difference of interest that is involved. At the same time, if I may offer a word of advice to both those who represent landlords and those who represent Raiyats, it would be that in discussions such as these they should not permit themselves to forget that they are and must be partners in a common



*Address of Welcome presented by the Bihar Landholders' Association.*

undertaking—and that this essential bond between them should impel both sides to the acceptance of a reasonable compromise. For, if the agricultural elements in the community are to receive their due in these political days, they cannot afford to be a house divided against itself.

I congratulate your association on attaining its jubilee this year and I hope that it has an even more useful life before it. For its fiftieth year ushers in an important and critical era. The Agricultural Commission has recently made its full and valuable report, and its recommendations are now under the consideration both of the Central and Provincial Governments. Whatever action Government may finally decide upon, they will have to rely much upon the help of the land-owning aristocracy to put their ideas into practice. It is the big Zemindars, with broad acres and capital behind them, who will have to show the way to others in adopting new ideas and improving the resources which lie ready to their hand. And I earnestly hope that in such practical development Government will be able to count upon the convinced and intelligent support of those whom you represent.

The Statutory Commission too, assisted by their Indian colleagues, are now in the early stages of their enquiry, and will shortly visit this Province. The recommendations which they will in due course make to Parliament must of necessity be of vital interest to your community as to all other sections of Indian life, and I have no doubt they will welcome any expression of opinion on those matters directly affecting your welfare, which you may desire to lay before them.

I appreciate what you have said, gentlemen, regarding the support you are ready to give to steady political progress. In every country, I suppose, the agricultural





*Opening of the Science College, Patna University.*

community, for whom experience shows that there is no short cut to progress in the affairs which are their principal interest, must be more vitally concerned than any other to see stable administration. If therefore in India, where nearly three quarters of the population derive their livelihood from agriculture, it is the duty of Government by every means in its power to promote the welfare of the agriculturist, it is not less the duty, as it is the interest, of the agricultural classes to stand together in the cause of good Government against disruptive elements. And accordingly I greatly value the assurance which your Association has given me of their loyalty and desire to assist the Government.

I thank you, gentlemen, for all your good wishes and I echo your hope that during my Viceroyalty something may be achieved for the lasting happiness and prosperity of the people of India.

OPENING OF THE SCIENCE COLLEGE, PATNA  
UNIVERSITY.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech 15th November 1928.  
when he opened the Science College, Patna University, on the  
15th November :—

*Your Excellencies, Mr. Vice-Chancellor and Gentlemen*,—I must begin by thanking you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, for the kind words with which you have welcomed me to Patna and to Patna University. It is natural, when one hears of Patna University, to think of the ancient University not far from here, at Nalanda, which has been described as "the most magnificent and celebrated seat of Buddhist learning in the world". It attracted students and scholars from all India and embassies from foreign monarchs, and its library was famous far and wide. They seem to have managed things better in those days,



*Opening of the Science College, Patna University.*

or perhaps there was no Public Service Commission, for it was the usual practice that on completion of their education those scholars who were not destined for a scholastic career all received appointments from the king.

1 We have listened to-day to an interesting description of the growth of this University to its present status, and I feel confident that as years pass it will go from strength to strength. The only omission I noticed in the Vice-Chancellor's speech was the absence of any reference to the invaluable part he himself has played, during his five years as Vice-Chancellor, in directing and watching over the young life of this University. There is another name I feel bound to mention. Sir Saiyid Muhammad Pakhruddin has held office continuously since the institution of the Reformed Government and it is very largely due to him that the University and Colleges are what they are to-day. The educational progress achieved has been remarkable, and I am only sorry that, as the position stands at present, the Government of India is precluded from making any contribution from central revenues to work of the kind which you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, have mentioned in your address. Since the institution of the Province the increase in expenditure on education has naturally been most marked in the case of University education, and I think it is perhaps well to remember that such education is only the apex of the whole structure, and that its success must rest upon the provision of adequate facilities for a sound secondary education throughout the Province. In all educational matters on which you may from time to time desire advice, you are fortunate in being able to rely on the counsel of your Governor His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson, whose experience and sympathy will, I know, always be at your command.

As you have said, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, the particular duty I have now to perform is to declare formally open





*Opening of the Science College, Puna University.*

the Science College laboratories. No University to-day in a scientific age is complete without its equipment for scientific research, as one of the many branches which go to make the whole tree of human knowledge, and it gives me great pleasure to declare open these buildings which are to form so important a part of this great University. We hear it said sometimes that the application of science to modern life is the solution of most of the problems which confront us. In that there is no doubt exaggeration, but it is certainly true that India with its great material resources to be developed, its industrial possibilities, its agricultural and engineering problems to be solved, offers wide scope to those whose talents lie in the direction of scientific research. And to those of you who are going to pursue this line of study I would say that, if you take all that a scientific training has to give you, you will find that, besides having much to give to others, you will gain much that will be of use to you in the wider life that will open for you when you have left this University. A modern writer has thus defined the true scientific method : " to trust no statements without verification ; to test all things as rigorously as possible, to keep no secrets, to attempt no monopolies, to give out one's best modestly and plainly, serving no other end but knowledge ". There are some, fortunately, in all spheres of human enquiry who pursue knowledge for its own sake ; there are scientists who have no end in view but that of pure science and exact knowledge, with no thought for personal gain or for exploiting their discoveries. And not rarely have the truly scientific men failed to see the possible application of their research either to their own profit or to the benefit of humankind. But for the ordinary man the problem is so to link up scientific research with technical progress that he may leave the world in some way better than he found it, and I therefore wish a long and successful life of practical usefulness to the buildings which I am shortly to open.



*Opening of the Science College, Patna University.*

I am speaking however to-day to many besides scientists, and an occasion such as this naturally suggests reflections upon the kind of contribution that it is in the power of a great Educational Society to make to the varied and manifold life from which in turn it draws its own vitality. One test—perhaps the most searching test—of educational result is its success or failure in purging the mind of prejudice and false judgment, and replacing them by a genuine love for and zeal in the pursuit of truth. The pursuit is certain to be no easy one, by whatever path you travel. But, if you follow it whole-heartedly, you will find the fields of knowledge stretching ever wider before you on either hand ; and by knowledge I mean not only the objective result of learning but, what is of greater importance, the qualities that are the natural offspring of the effort to learn, and of the recognition of what learning means. It is from this point of view that I believe all Universities, in India as elsewhere, can make so great and so unique a contribution to the civic life of the community. There is no necessity to emphasize the importance of public opinion in any country, especially a country in which democratic institutions are in the process of formation. A great English statesman has written “in a democratic representative Government we want statesmanship, and the only secure basis of statesmanship is that public opinion should be statesmanlike”. But too often we are unhappily reminded that public opinion is by no means infallible.

The truth is that public opinion—or indeed any individual mind—can never have before it more than a fraction of the relevant data, in the light of which complete judgment can be formed. We all, I suppose, have only a limited number of categories into which we tend to thrust the impressions produced upon us by everyday experience. These categories form a picture, to which we are constantly tempted forcibly to accommodate facts.





*Opening of the Science College, Patna University.*

Yet facts are stubborn things, and are apt to rebel against such treatment. But none the less we continue the attempt, and public opinion, therefore, is frequently not so much a judgment of facts as a particular version of them. Many persons too are prone to want to have their thinking done for them and to trust too readily to the printed word and to current catchwords and phrases.

I have already suggested what I believe to be one cure for what is admittedly a constitutional defect of human nature. The function of education, and especially of an institution such as this, is to encourage independent investigation and thought. Situated as it is in a busy and crowded centre, Patna University should be the focus of thought of different communities, different creeds, different interests. Here we should find the play of mind on mind, the habit of independent thought, the scholarship whose hall-mark is that it knows its own limitations of knowledge. And the play of mind on mind will encourage and develop the powers of your students to think independently, and not to rest content without solid foundations for the convictions that they profess. I am not advocating that students should plunge at once into the whirlpool of party politics; there is plenty of time for that later on for those who embark, as some of us at one time or another have embarked, upon that rather bewildering voyage. But when the time comes for you to leave this University—and here I speak especially to the students—and to go back to your homes, in town or village or country as the case may be, I would have you remember that men like you, with a University education, ought to have and will have a great influence in moulding the thoughts of many who have not had the same advantages. And the answer to the question whether that influence will be good or bad will depend, perhaps more than you realise, on the use you make of the opportunities which are now being offered to you by the great institution to which you have the honour to belong.





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ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE MUNICIPAL  
CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF RANGOON.

19th Novem- In replying to the Address of Welcome presented by the  
ber 1928. Municipal Corporation of the City of Rangoon on 19th November  
His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen,*—The welcome which you have given to Lady Irwin and myself has added, if anything could, to the pleasure we feel in setting foot in Burma. Even to those who have been fortunate enough to spend part of their life in India the name of Burma has something of a magic sound, and nobody, I think, could step ashore at Rangoon without feeling a thrill that he has at last opened the door to this enticing land, a land of great waterways and forests, of fertile plains, the home of a warm-hearted and hospitable people. And Rangoon itself is a fitting gateway by which to enter. We shall have but a few days in which to admire your city, but I hope during that brief time to be able to make some acquaintance of its people and its problems, and I shall hope to take away with me, when I leave, that personal knowledge which will mean so much when any question affecting its welfare may in future come before me.

You have, gentlemen, as you have said, the great responsibility of directing the fortunes and development of one of the great cities of the East, a city which has advanced by giant strides in the last half century and for which it is easy to foretell an even greater future. I know that you realise the greatness of the trust which has been committed to you, and that you are determined to discharge it in a manner worthy of its importance.

You made reference in your address to the Royal Commission on Agriculture which has recently given us its memorable report. The Government of your Province is now occupied in a detailed consideration of its recommendations, and I hope that it may be found possible to





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*Address of Welcome from the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce.*

take early action on them, for the benefit of the agricultural community and therefore of Burma as a whole. I noticed that in their report the Commission drew special attention to certain features in the marketing of rice in Burma which, in their opinion, called for revision, and I have no doubt that their recommendations on this subject will be of special interest to you. I trust that in any event the depression in trade to which you have referred may be lifted in the near future and give way to an era of continued prosperity. It is well to know that in your Governor, Sir Charles Innes, you have a leader on whose experience, judgment and sympathy in these matters you can at all times confidently rely.

Your cordial welcome, gentlemen, was expressed with a fitting brevity, to be expected of a body of business-like men. I have tried to follow your good example. Lady Irwin and I warmly thank you again for all your good wishes, and we know that, when in three weeks' time we say good-bye to Rangoon on our departure, we shall leave behind us a large part of our hearts with Burma and its people.

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ADDRESS OF WELCOME FROM THE BURMA  
INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

His Excellency the Viceroy received an Address of Welcome from the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce at Rangoon on the 19th November, and made the following reply :—

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,*—I must begin by thanking you for the kind way in which you have welcomed us to Burma, and Lady Irwin wishes me to join her thanks with mine. I am very glad to have had the opportunity of meeting the members of your Chamber and of hearing





*Address of Welcome from the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce.*

of the obstacles with which you feel your commercial advance is now faced. I echo the satisfaction you have expressed that in the task of surmounting these obstacles you have the advice and experience of your Governor, Sir Charles Innes, to help you.

You have referred to the important question of the financial relations between India and Burma and have suggested that authoritative information on the subject should be made available without delay. I am well aware that Burma like other Provinces in India has felt that she has cause to be dissatisfied with her financial position as determined by the Meston Settlement, and steps have already been taken by my Government to place before the Statutory Commission a full and impartial appreciation of the situation in regard to the working of the Meston Settlement. They have dealt in this with the situation in regard to the finances of Burma, as it appears to them. This will no doubt be supplemented by a statement of the considerations which the Government of Burma deem to be important in this respect and possibly by definite proposals for the future. Representatives of the people of Burma elected by the Legislative Council will have an opportunity of examining and discussing the material thus provided in consultation with the Statutory Commission, and I trust that by this means any defects or inequalities that there may be in present arrangements will in the end be removed.

I do not think that I can altogether agree with your description of Indian trade and industry in general as being in a state of acute depression. The outlook for certain trades, such as your own rice trade, and for certain industries, such as the cotton industry in Bombay and the coal industry, has lately been disquieting, but statistics





*Address of Welcome from the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce.*

of foreign trade for the last eighteen months show a distinct improvement on the average for the preceding seven years. There would seem, therefore, to be good ground for believing that the foreign trade of India is steadily expanding, and, if we can judge by the earnings of the Indian railways, internal trade is also on the increase. I cannot think that any reasonable man will deny that some of the troubles which at present beset our industries are due to causes which are not directly economic and which can be in great part removed by the exercise of sound public opinion determined to safeguard and promote the national welfare. .

I have spoken of the unsatisfactory state of the rice trade, and I regret that, although last year it shared in the general improvement in Burman trade over the figures of 1926-27, the returns for this year have so far shown a severe falling off in the export of rice from Burma to foreign countries. The chief cause of this is the keener competition from other countries of the world. Italian, Spanish and American rices are being grown for the British and Continental markets, and are achieving considerable success. They are of good quality, well-graded and prepared with a careful eye to customers' requirements. The price of these rices is 3 or 4 shillings per cwt. higher than the price of Burma rice ; but, owing to their better appearance and quality, they are still able to push Burma rice out of the market. An entirely new feature of the last two years is the entry into the Indian market of rice from Indo-China and Siam. In 1927-28, 69,000 tons of this rice were imported, and during the early months of the current year the imports have been on an even larger scale. If this intensive competition is to be met successfully, there is need for improved methods of cultivation, so as to increase the yield per acre and improve the quality of the grain, and also perhaps for better methods of marketing





*Address of Welcome from the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce.*

especially in such matters as grading, packing, and more direct contact with the consumer. The Agricultural Department in Burma is already working at such problems as these, and I have little doubt that as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture their work in this respect will become even more useful. I have recently seen some interesting figures which show that the improved varieties of seed now being distributed by the Department of Agriculture give an extra yield of about 300 lbs. of paddy per acre and that this means an increase in the value of the cultivators' crop by about Rs. 10 per acre. When we remember that the area in Burma last year under these improved varieties of rice was estimated at 288,000 acres, you will see the profit which is already accruing to the cultivator. If even one half the rice area of Burma were to be sown with this improved seed, the value of the total crop would be increased by nearly six crores of rupees. You may be assured that my Government are fully alive to the importance of the great rice trade of Burma and earnestly desire and hope that a return to normal trading conditions may be not far distant, and that the trade will in the end regain its former prosperity.

You have also referred to the state of the telegraphic service between India and Burma. My Government fully recognise the importance of a reliable service, but, apart from unavoidable interruptions by storms and cyclones, we believe that the service between India and Burma is as reliable as that in India itself. In addition to the land-lines, wireless communication between Rangoon and Madras has been working for some time with satisfactory results, and experiments are about to be undertaken to see whether recent discoveries in wireless telegraphy cannot be utilised for communication between Rangoon and Calcutta. It is



*Orient Club Dinner at Rangoon.*

hoped that as a result of these experiments it will be possible to establish a telegraph service less liable to interruption.

I have put the facts, as I see them, gentlemen, before you frankly, for there is no use in deceiving ourselves by false hopes or promises. But before saying good-bye to you this morning I wish to assure you again that any considered suggestion which you or any other commercial body in Burma may ever put forward will be examined by my Government with the greatest care and sympathy, for we can ill afford to watch without concern the trouble or adversity of any part of the great Indian Empire.

I would only now repeat that I have welcomed the chance of making the personal acquaintance of those who can speak for commerce in this great commercial centre, and that this meeting will be of great assistance to me in considering the problems with which you are immediately concerned.

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**ORIENT CLUB DINNER AT RANGOON.**

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the Dinner given by the Orient Club at Rangoon on the 21st November 1923.

*Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen.*—We have further engagements to fulfil this evening and you will not wish me to detain you by a long speech. I confess that it is seldom I can find such a good excuse for being brief. But, though our thanks have to be expressed in a few words, they are none the less sincere, and on behalf of Lady Irwin and myself I should like to express the great pleasure we have had in accepting the invitation of the members of your Club to dine with them to-night. We have met with such great hospitality and so many



*Orient Club Dinner at Rangoon.*

kindnesses since we set foot in Burma that we knew we should receive a cordial welcome here to-night, but the kind words which you, Mr. Chairman, have just used have indeed made us feel that we are among friends.

We have seen as much of Rangoon as we have been able to fit into three crowded days, and our only regret is that we have to leave it to-morrow. We wish that our stay could have been longer, but it has been long enough to enable us to appreciate the friendship and good-will which has been shown towards us by all classes. And, as I may have no other opportunity of saying so in public, I should like to say now to this gathering which, as you have said, is truly representative of Rangoon, that Lady Irwin and I have been greatly touched by the welcome we have received wherever we have gone.

Some people perhaps think that the life of a Viceroy is just a round of tiger-shooting and pleasant dinner parties, with an occasional dip into an official file between courses. In reality it is an exacting life and there are moments when he would be more than human if he did not feel the pressure of work and responsibility lying with a leaden weight upon his shoulders. But I can imagine no better relief, no greater incentive to renew his vigour or keep his ideals clear, than such a welcome as I have received in Burma, which stirs the heart and makes the blood run faster, as one reflects upon the generous loyalty to the person of the Crown, by which it is stimulated and evoked.

When we see Rangoon again, we shall have seen much that many people would come from the ends of the earth to see and we shall have many memories of a beautiful and interesting country to carry away with us to India and later on to England. But I think that the chief



*St. Andrew's Dinner at Rangoon.*

memory that will remain with us will be not so much the scenery and colour of this great Province as the kindness of its people and the friendships we have made.

## ST. ANDREW'S DINNER AT RANGOON.

The following speech was delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy at the St. Andrew's Dinner at Rangoon on the 22nd November 1928.

A Viceroy has many privileges in virtue of his office, many pleasures as well as duties. One privilege, that I had hardly hoped for, you have allowed me to-night by inviting me to consider myself for this evening an honorary Scot and to take part in rites which I had thought were not for eyes that first saw the light South of the Tweed.

I am not sure whether all those whom I am addressing this evening are Scots or whether there are many, like myself, of a more Southerly, but still as I hold Northerly, extraction. If it is indeed a purely Scots gathering, it is another example of that racial gift of peaceful penetration which is the envy of other countries; if it includes many aliens like myself, it is only proof of the hospitality which you ever find in a Scottish home. It was your own poet, I think, who said that even in Heaven he would ask no more than a Highland welcome.

To my hosts I would say how highly I appreciate the compliment of being asked to come here to-night; the more so, in that you have strained your national conscience for my sake so far as to forestall the traditional date of your celebration by eight days—unless indeed it be that you mean to seize on my visit as an excuse for having two celebrations in one year.



*St. Andrew's Dinner at Rangoon.*

It is not uncommon for people who find themselves in the position I am in to-night to try and fortify their status by tracing some distant Scottish connection, and pointing to a drop or two of real Scotch in their veins. I make no such effort, though I must confess as a child to having had a passionate longing, which has never wholly left me, to have the right to wear a kilt. But in pondering over my inferiority the other day I was comforted by something I found purely by accident in a book, published only half a century ago, called the Cyclopædia of India. It happened to open at the word England, and the definition I found was this—"England—the Southern part of an island in Europe, which, with Ireland, another island on its west, forms the kingdom of Great Britain that now rules British India. It is said to have been known to the Aryan Hindus". There is no mention, you notice, of Scotland either here, or, so far as I could find, elsewhere in the Cyclopædia. Owing, no doubt, to her national and traditional habit of self-depreciation Scotland appears not to have been known even to the Aryan Hindus! It is only fair to confess that this book was published in Madras. I do not suppose that any publisher in Calcutta, or Rangoon, would have been guilty of such an omission, or, if he had been, would have escaped Scot-free.

But in real life one doesn't have to look far to see what Scotsmen have done in building up our Empire, whether in India or Burma, in Westminster or elsewhere. Your Governor is possessed of the inalienable rights of membership in your very honourable fraternity, and, in India, at any rate, there are places, of which Rangoon is surely one, which one sometimes feels ought not to have been marked red on the map, but disguised under some appropriate tartan. The names of your countrymen are written broadly on Indian history, whether they were Viceroys or Governors or soldiers, in the services or in business. At





*St. Andrew's Dinner at Rangoon.*

home, the monopoly they have acquired and the degree, to which, if I may use a phrase of present-day popular currency, they exploit the slower-witted Anglo-Saxon like myself, is almost as sore a subject in political as in commercial circles, and I have heard it suggested that an All-Parties Conference of Englishmen should demand that Scotland should now grant England complete Swaraj. But if Scots have taken a good deal for themselves out of the pool, let us be generous enough to admit that they have put a good deal in. Both in the Arts—Literature, Drama, Painting—and in the applied and technical sciences, you have stamped the mark of Scottish talent very deep upon the framework of the world. And, when the Englishman has finished with his joking about your humour—which, whether from your fault or his, he generally is totally unable to understand—and has made the necessary reference to your national and wholly praiseworthy qualities of thrift, he is left with the conclusion that the Scot must possess many other very vital characteristics that have enabled him to play the part he has upon the stage of human progress. This is not the occasion, nor am I the person, to discuss these qualities, but I content myself with drawing your attention to one consideration that is relevant to my present purpose.

The Scot perhaps, more than any other type of human mind, has always seemed to me to combine in judicious mixture the philosophical and practical aspects of life. An intense believer in the power of humanity to make progress, and inspired as I think by the true spirit of liberalism in its widest sense, he has been saved by that gift of commonsense—which is so uncommon—from forgetting that progress is not only a thing that lends itself to easy phrases or exalted sentiments, but is something which has to be painfully achieved, and which can only withstand the winds and the storms of life if it rests upon