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SPEECHES

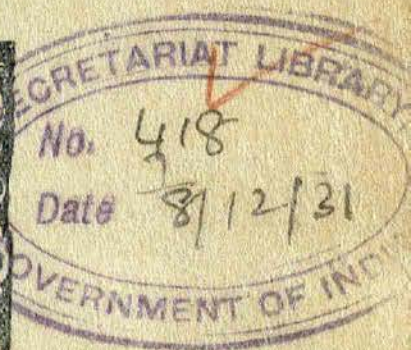
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BY

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SPEECHES BY LORD IRWIN.

1929.

OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITIES' CONFERENCE AT DELHI.

In opening the Universities' Conference at Delhi on the 30th October 1929, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen,—It is a great pleasure to me to join you to-day at the inauguration of your proceedings, and to be able to welcome to Delhi such a distinguished body, representative of the whole of Indian University life. I know that all of you are busy men, ill able to spare the time demanded of you in attending a conference like this and it is cause therefore for all the greater satisfaction that such a large number of delegates should be present.

Of the need for a body such as yours I think there can be no doubt. The institution of the inter-University Board was the direct outcome of resolutions passed at the first Universities' Conference held at Simla in 1924, and I think that those to whose initiative that Conference was due may rightly congratulate themselves on the results which have sprung from their endeavours. Since 1916, when Government may be said to have first aimed at the localised residential and unitary type of University, India has made rapid strides. The number of her Universities has increased more than three-fold. Moreover, the course of University reform in other countries and the report of the Calcutta University Commission have had



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their effect both on the type of new institutions established in India and on the character of reorganisation which some of the older Universities have undergone. Such important developments as these naturally suggested the need for co-ordination, and this, I am glad to say, has been met to a great extent by the Inter-University Board. Its record of work, since its inception, whether in compiling information regarding the courses of study and curricula of Indian Universities or as a convenient forum for the exchange of ideas regarding the life and ideals of these institutions among those most closely associated with them, has been wholly admirable. Indeed, when I consider the results you have achieved, I feel the hesitation natural to one who offers advice to a body of experts on their own subject. But for reasons which I will shortly make plain I think there are few more important things in these days than Universities, and I wish therefore in this perspective and as a layman to make such comments as I may upon University education, in the hope that others more competent may be assisted to find a satisfactory solution of the problems which here face educational statesmanship. Let me in parenthesis say that I make no apology for affirming that such problems exist. A country that felt itself to be immune from the necessity for periodic overhaul of its educational policy would either have attained to perfection which is denied to human effort, or have unwittingly fallen into that paralysing atmosphere of self-satisfaction which spells stagnation. Neither is true of India. India is rapidly growing. Her problem is nothing less than the adaptation, without too violent jar or stress, of an ancient and organic structure of society to the dynamic forces of evolution that are driving the modern world. New forces are moving, unloosing new energies, kindling the imaginations and hopes of millions of the future citizens of India at their most impressionable age. Can this ardour of youth, this



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coursing of blood through the young veins of India be utilised and directed to constructive ends, or will it become an explosive force, charged with incalculable danger to the future of the land? This question should be written in flaming characters over the desks of all who guide public opinion or policy; and that is why I said just now that I thought there were few more important things than Universities.

Let us look back. The first Indian Universities which were founded some 70 years ago on the model of the London University aimed primarily at ascertaining, by means of examination, the proficiency acquired by candidates in different branches of knowledge. Teaching was left to Colleges. In some of these, students fell under the influence of teachers nurtured in the traditions of the older British Universities, and thus imbibed ideals of conduct which helped to produce not only scholars, but men endowed with the light of idealism and with force of character. But the first Indian Universities did not, in the earlier stages of their existence, concern themselves directly with training and developing the personality of those on whom they conferred the hall-mark of scholastic proficiency. Though the legislation of 1904 went some way to recognise the wider functions of a University in the matter of discipline and residence, it was not until 15 years later that, as a result of the Calcutta University Commission, their scope of activity was definitely conceived as embracing not merely the training of intellect but the formation of character. In the light of this conception some Universities have been reorganised, some have been created, and the experience of the working of these institutions, though it is too short to permit final judgment, has already given us much material for synthesis and review.



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And this brings me to what is surely the kernel of the whole matter. What do we really expect from and what is essentially the function of a University? If I had to answer in a sentence I should say "The function of a University is to create and maintain standards". Let me amplify what I mean. I mean principally three things. There is first the standard of learning and research which Universities, as the homes of scholarship, owe it to themselves to preserve. And if learning and research are to have their real value, are to be more to a man than mere graceful accomplishments and decorative adjuncts of his life, they must be human enough to fit into and join up with the various categories of man's activity. I think this is true of all learning. The technical sciences are obviously related to the necessities of our ordinary existence at every turn. History too, and philosophy, and literature, whether ancient or modern, all have their points of contact with everyday human life, and their lessons ring most true when we feel that we can read our own experience in them.

Second, I would assert the necessity of a right standard of judgment. A man's training at a University has definitely failed if he leaves it without such an appreciation of values as may give him a just sense of proportion, a knowledge of how much—for all his store of learning—there is yet for him to learn, and some instinctive sense of the mystery of the universe and of the mystery of man's place in it. Whatever the channel through which this comes into and takes shape in his mind, it seems to me indispensable to real education. And here again in playing his part in the world and in his dealings with other men, whether as politician, administrator, employer, or in professional or business life, a man is trebly armed who knows intuitively the relative importance of all the numerous elements which every human problem must



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contain. Or at least he must have sufficient of the quality, call it imagination or what you will, to appreciate that such elements exist, and if, by fault of training or for any other reason, he lacks this faculty, he is as a man who sees himself in a mirror which shows him his own face magnified and nothing more. His own problems, his own position, his own perspective absorb too much of the picture, and hopelessly obscure and distort his view of persons and things beyond himself. Some of you—and it is not irrelevant to my present argument—will remember the reply given by a wise Master of a famous Oxford College to a lady who asked him what he thought of God. “Madam”, he said, “I have always thought it of more importance what God thinks of me.”

Nor need we fear that such breadth of mind or judgment as I should desire my University to inculcate would result in a type of man halting in decision or uncertain of opinion. That is never likely to spring from foundations of thought and reflexion securely laid. Rather perhaps will it breed a wise tolerance, and teach a man the secret of winnowing the good from the evil in the strangely mixed amalgam that constitutes the world of men and things with which we have to deal.

And third, the standard of conduct. At a University a young man is learning to make use of liberty. He has left the discipline of home and school behind him, and he is given, in greater or less degree, a new found liberty in action, and liberty in study. The time has come for him to put to the test the discipline he has learnt, and on his response to this demand will largely depend the success or otherwise with which he fills the position to which his education should entitle him.

Three standards—learning, judgment and conduct—I have suggested to you as the things that a University must hold in view. Together, each playing its part, they



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will form human character. And the vital importance of securing such standards is apparent when we think that on University men must largely fall the burden of leading others in all the various walks of public life.

Are then, we must ask ourselves, our Universities fulfilling these requirements? It is vital that they should. For the youth of India to-day will, when they are men, have responsibilities graver than perhaps they realise. The political future of India with all its implications of civil and military obligation will depend largely on the character of the generations now passing through their University courses. On them will largely depend the future quality of the Public Service. On their capacity will largely turn the future expansion and development of India's agriculture and India's industry. And in all these things they will succeed or fail according as they can be assisted by their University training to acquire that poise of body, mind, and character which is the indispensable equipment for their task.

I have spoken of University education as having for one of its main objects the training of those who are destined to be leaders of the nation. And it is well, I think, to remember that there is a real distinction between the functions of a University and of educational institutions of a lower order. No one indeed would suggest that these latter have not their essential part to play. One might as well say that the foundations of a building are inferior to or less important than the top story, or, to vary the metaphor, the simpler cells in a living organism less necessary to its life than the more delicate and complex. Both types of institution are essential for any country; and complementary to each other. But they are also fundamentally different, and a clear recognition of this difference is necessary to secure for each its maximum



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efficiency. If a University must of necessity be concerned to prepare those it trains for work different in quality from that which falls to the bulk of the population, it follows that a University is bound to exercise selection, not indeed on any class grounds but on grounds of ability and capacity to profit by its teaching, among those who may apply to be enrolled upon its books.

The results of recently instituted competitive examinations in India force the layman to wonder whether this fact is always borne in mind. The disproportion of successes among the various Universities seems to lead inevitably to the inference that some demand and are satisfied with unreasonably low standards of proficiency. It may be that the older order of things required less exacting tests ; that the occupations for which the Universities prepared their students in former days demanded merely a modicum of mechanical qualities ; that the excess of the demand over the supply could have had no other result. But that is past and we have to ask ourselves to-day whether the true ideals of a University are sufficiently appreciated, or whether Universities themselves and parents and students, under the influence of the past, are not in some danger of demanding and being satisfied with too low a standard for degrees. It was after all a thoroughly fallacious syllogism by which a speaker once sought to champion a certain University whose standards were lower than they ought to be. " It is the business of a University," he argued, " to grant degrees. This University grants a great many degrees. Therefore it is a very good University ".

But, whatever the cause, the gravity of the effects of low University standards can hardly be exaggerated. They lower a University's reputation. They debase it from what is its real and only purpose—the maintenance of those standards on which our civilisation depends, and



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which ought to be to civic life exactly what a high standard of workmanship is to the craft concerned.

Gentlemen, your knowledge of these matters is deeper than mine and I leave it to you to judge whether I am justified in the misgivings which I have attempted to express. Nor shall I presume to prescribe any ready-made panacea. Remedies that profess to be easy are generally ineffective and, in seeking your expert aid in diagnosing and curing the malady, I am conscious that my prescriptions are those not of a specialist but of a general practitioner.

I have laid, I hope, not undue emphasis on the part that Universities must play in the building up of character. For this I have the high authority of the Calcutta University Commission and of the example of the ancient Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. If this part of their work is to be done efficiently, Universities in India must, I fancy, more and more evolve on residential and tutorial lines or, if they must retain their affiliating character, insist on the provision of adequate facilities for higher teaching in the constituent colleges, and for the fostering in their colleges of a healthy and stimulating corporate life among the students. They must on the one hand see that their standards of instruction and examination are high enough to ensure that those who attain them are really capable of performing the tasks for which they will be nominally declared proficient, and on the other insist on maintaining such standards of admission as to exclude those who have neither the capacity nor equipment to profit by University training. I see that in their review of the growth of education in British India, Sir Philip Hartog and his colleagues have made the suggestion that, if Government were no longer to insist on a University degree as a passport to service, except for higher appointments, the pressure on Universities and colleges would probably be relieved.



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This suggestion, along with others in the review, is one on which a body such as yours is eminently qualified to give an opinion, and you will perhaps give it your consideration. One other objective I would put forward for your consideration, namely, the prevention of uneconomical overlapping among the large number of Universities that now exist in India. It would clearly impose a great financial strain on those responsible for the upkeep of these institutions to equip each one of them all for the efficient study of all branches of the Arts and Sciences. It would also be wasting the opportunities for specialisation that the history or the environment of particular Universities provide. This question seems to need special study at your hands.

Gentlemen, my excuse for detaining you so long is your own kindness in asking me to open your Conference this year, and the feeling that in practical affairs it is the privilege of the large body of amateurs who constitute the public to appraise the work of the experts. If the experts wish their achievement to be assessed correctly they must keep the amateur in mind, and help him to judge them aright. It is in this spirit that I have addressed you. But I have also wished to keep in mind the larger public outside. University reform, even if it were begun, would be shortlived if public opinion did not realise its value and lend to it its support. As parents and guardians, as employers, as leaders of opinion, it is the members of the public who have to be convinced of the need for reform. In particular the parents, whose natural affection for their children is often apt to lead them to form exaggerated hopes of their capacity, have to be educated to a recognition of the importance of impartial discrimination so as to save themselves the expense, and themselves and their children the disappointment, that comes of giving a University education to those who are naturally unfitted for it. If



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is at once your privilege and your duty to study the necessity for, and the scope of, University reform ; to suggest measures for the consideration of those with whom the duty of taking decisions may rest, and to rouse and educate public opinion. I wish you every success in the discharge of your heavy and important responsibility.

OPENING OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT DEHRA DUN.

7th November
1929.

In opening the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun on the 7th November 1929, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have all listened with the greatest interest to Mr. Rodger's account of Forest Research in India and at Dehra Dun, and of the inception and development of the Institute which I am to have the honour of formally opening this morning. It is an occasion of no small significance. This Forest Research Institute is, I believe, the largest and most complete in the British Empire, if not in the whole world, and its completion is an event in which India may well take pride. It is a very great pleasure to me therefore that I should have been given the opportunity of taking part in this ceremony.

I remember that my first thought on seeing the layout of the Institute three years ago was that the buildings and their setting were in every way worthy of the great forests with which this country is endowed, and of the fine work that has been, is being, and is yet to be done towards their development and utilisation for the benefit of the people of India. And now remembering that the Indian Forest Department has to deal with nearly one-quarter of the area of British India, that it makes an annual profit of nearly three crores of rupees, and that it



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has such wide opportunities of increasing the prosperity of the people, not only in the villages and remote tracts, but also by the development of trade in commercial centres, I feel that those who have planned, and those who have found the money for, this Institute, have been inspired by no unworthy conception of its potential value to the life of India.

Many of you have a much better acquaintance with the forests of India than I can claim, but even in the journeys that I have performed up and down India and Burma, in hills and in the plains, I have seen enough of the country's wonderful wealth of forestry to realise the value of the trust we have in our keeping and our obligations to use it to the best advantage. The control of our forests has, as you know, already been transferred in two Provinces and it is quite possible that a similar development may before long be seen in other Provinces too. But, where an Imperial asset of such value is concerned, my Government have felt that a great responsibility will still rest upon them, and they have therefore undertaken the financing and direction of forest research. Research is the essential counterpart of the splendid work that is carried on from day to day and from year to year by the officers of the Indian Forest Service, often in face of danger and generally in that isolation which is a stern test of character and of devotion to duty. I feel no doubt that those whose part in the drama of Indian forestry will lie within the four walls of these buildings will make the best use of the great opportunities afforded to them of assisting their Service to achieve even finer results than India has yet seen.

I suppose the first question which anyone—in this utilitarian age—will ask is “What use is all this research? What can the Institute actually show in the way of a dividend on all the money spent upon it?” I confess



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that not long ago I asked Mr. Rodger the same question, and he has been good enough on more than one occasion to give me some account of what has been done since the inception, in a small way, of the Institute in 1906. In the belief that it will be as interesting to my audience as it was to me I will try and summarise something of what he has told me.

Take the Silviculturist's branch. He is the medium by which information on silvicultural subjects is supplied to forest officers all over India, as well as in other countries, and he can, by keeping in close touch with the problems of all Provinces and with progress made in all parts of the world where forests are of importance, give invaluable help to enquirers from every forest division in India. From the investigations of this branch the owner of a forest, Government or private, can learn the age to which his trees can be grown so that the maximum interest on the invested capital may be realised, and the manner in which the greatest possible quantity of good timber can be produced. When planting a new forest, the methods evolved at Dehra Dun, or evolved elsewhere and recorded at Dehra, may save ten years in the time taken to form a plantation, giving a direct gain of nearly 25 per cent. in the present value of the crop. The silvicultural branch can give, and has given, most valuable assistance in the afforestation of barren lands, and I have little doubt that its aid will be called in to help the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, now that that body has begun its work of improving the methods of the Indian agriculturist, by showing how to establish fuel plantations to save valuable manure for the fields.

Then comes the question of utilising the trees when they have been grown. Mr. Rodger has given us some account of the economic side of Research, and I propose only to supplement this by a few instances of actual



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results. Spars for aeroplanes, poles for gun-carriages, stocks for Army rifles, sleepers for railways, are all the subject of exhaustive research at Dehra Dun, and thanks to that research have attained a considerably higher degree of efficiency. The Railways have saved many lakhs of rupees by employing modern methods of preserving second-class woods so that they may be used as sleepers, and large plants are now in operation in the Punjab and in Assam. The Government Rifle Factory at Ishapore will save nearly £10,000 a year by adopting the methods that have been worked out here of seasoning walnut for rifle stocks. The Railways are building seasoning kilns at Lilloah, being convinced by the result of the experiments made here that Indian timbers can be so treated, and their value greatly increased. The Dehra Dun experimental work has also been embodied in the new seasoning kilns at the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbulpore, where they are giving every satisfaction. After many years of work at Dehra Dun, bamboos are coming into their own for paper pulp, and two companies are now being floated in London to work the enormous bamboo forests in Burma, the technical member of the Boards being the pulp expert, who has just retired from this Institute. It is expected that these two companies will be the forerunners of others which will work the extensive bamboo forests of India and Burma, which are now standing more or less idle. Another important question in India is the manufacture of matches from indigenous woods, and, on the recommendation of the Tariff Board, proposals are now being considered for extensive experimental work and for a survey of the forests which contain potential match woods so that India may, as far as possible, produce all her own matches.

In other ways too such as in assisting the manufacture of turpentine, oils from grasses, medicinal drugs, gums and other products, the Economic Branch has done work



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of the greatest practical utility, and a continually increasing demand is being made upon them from every quarter for technical information.

In this Institute too incessant warfare is carried on against the insects and pests which affect the growth of forest trees and damage their timbers. Of all the injurious species the heartwood borer of sal must, I think, bear the Entomologist the heartiest grudge, for its ravages on sal forests have by the Entomologist's efforts been enormously restricted in recent years. There was lately an epidemic in which it was found that no less than five and a half million trees had been destroyed by this borer,—a loss of forest capital of approximately 13 lakhs of rupees. Thanks largely to the advice of the Dehra Dun Entomologist the control operations taken in hand to deal with this outbreak have been so successful that the attack has now almost abated and a loss of several millions of rupees has been prevented.

I have said enough to indicate to you the tale of romance and achievement which is being written here. For myself, I have been fascinated by what in frequent conversations with Mr. Rodger I have learnt of the possibilities which lie before us, and I only wish that I were competent to initiate you, as he has sought to initiate me, into the mysteries of botany, chemistry and mycology which are conducted in their allotted rooms in this Institute. The work of these departments is indispensable to the success of our Research organisation and to the economic utilisation of our forest resources. But I have tried to give you some idea of what the Institute is doing. Nor have I time to refer to the valuable educational work done at the colleges allied to this Institute, for the training of officers in forestry. The work done here, which owes so much to Mr. Rodger's own efforts and to the unceasing interest he and those under him have taken in making it worthy of



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their great charge, is of the very greatest importance, and the construction of these buildings is cause for legitimate pride and satisfaction. Buildings, however, are not everything. It was because my Government realised this fact that, on the initiative of Sir Muhammad Habibullah to whose interest and enthusiasm the Forest Department owes so much, and whose presence here to-day has to our great regret been unavoidably prevented by the duties awaiting him on his return from his responsible mission to Geneva and London, they appointed recently a small but expert Committee, under the presidency of Sir Chunilal Mehta, to advise them about the functions and policy of the Institute and the future of its activities. We are greatly beholden to the Committee for the valuable report which they submitted this summer and which was made public very shortly after it was received. In that report, they made a number of most helpful suggestions and laid down with admirable judgment and lucidity the line of policy which should be pursued in the future. I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging our indebtedness to them. Complete examination of their report must necessarily take time, but I am happy to be able to say that the bulk of their recommendations have already been taken up in consultation with Mr. Rodger and that we hope to give effect, in due course, to very many of them. We intend within the limits of our financial liability to give this Institute, now so finely housed and located, the scientific staff which it requires, and to omit or neglect no measure which we think will make for its continued success and greater usefulness.

The Institute and the various allied activities of which it is the centre must, as I see it, aim at the discharge of a double purpose. Of the most effective utilisation of Indian woods I have already spoken, but it is not less our



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desire to train Indian *personnel* in all the technical branches of forestry research work. The governing consideration must remain that of efficiency, and I am certain no Indian who is concerned to see this branch of India's resources fully developed would be so short-sighted as to desire the employment of Indians in any technical post, just because they were Indians, without regard to their technical qualifications. In research of any kind reliable and accurate work is an absolute necessity. But subject to the maintenance of this technical standard, I yield to no Indian in my desire to see Indians filling an increasingly large place in the several posts that this Institute may have to offer.

In carrying out the policy which I have enunciated the Government of India, I need hardly add, look forward to and most heartily invite the cordial co-operation of the Provincial Governments. The future success of the Institute must depend on the goodwill of the Provinces, and I fully recognise how much the work of the Institute can be furthered, and how much more fruitful the results of its work for India are likely to be, if their co-operation and support are assured. My Government will welcome all the help that Provinces can give us in the work of co-ordinating forest research, and I feel confident that as the years pass the material gain to the country from the activities of the Institute so supported will be greater than I venture to think many of us here to-day can realise.

REPLY TO MUSLIM DEPUTATION AT DELHI.

9th November
1929.

His Excellency the Viceroy received a Deputation composed of representatives of the Muslim community at Delhi on the forenoon of the 9th November in connection with The Child Marriage Restraint Act and after hearing their views said:—

Gentlemen,—I am very pleased to have the opportunity of meeting representatives of the Muslim

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community here to-day, and to hear frankly from them of their anxieties in regard to the matter which has been the subject of our discussion.

I fully appreciate the strength of your feeling on the subject, and wish to state as plainly as I can what seems to me to be the relevant considerations which we all have to bear in mind.

First of all, let me remind you of the legal position by which I and you are both alike bound :

Under the Indian constitution, " The Indian Legislature has power to make laws for all persons, for all courts and for all places and things, within British India " [65 (1)].

This is a very wide power but it is governed by the provision among others of 67 (2) (b)—

" It shall not be lawful, without the previous sanction of the Governor-General, to introduce at any meeting of either Chamber of the Indian Legislature any measure affecting the religion or religious rites and usages of any class of British subjects in India."

In the exercise of this power my predecessor and I think I myself have on several occasions refused sanction to bills which, by reason of their religious or quasi-religious import, would have wounded the religious feelings of a community, and the mere discussion of which therefore would inevitably have aroused sharp communal feeling. And I can without hesitation say that in all such cases any one who holds my office would scrutinise very seriously any such proposals for legislation before granting sanction.

There may be cases of purely religious and spiritual character where a civil legislature would naturally be very unwilling to intervene, unless it were with the assent of the preponderance of opinion in the community concerned. I am thinking of what Maulana Mahommed Ali, in his



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very complete and interesting statement which he was good enough to give me yesterday, has referred to as 'the boundaries of Allah' which must never be transgressed.

But as I see it there are other questions, of which this Marriage question was one, which are border-line cases between sociology or civics and religion. In the statement I have just referred to Maulana Mahommed Ali has spoken of the fallacy of trying to differentiate sociology from religion. But here clear thinking is important. In a matter of this kind, it is impossible for the modern state to disinterest itself, because it clearly bears upon social questions which must be of the most vital interest to it—but in dealing with the question a civil legislature is dealing with it primarily in its civil aspect which must always remain its responsibility.

Difficulty is bound to arise for us all in such border-line cases, and we have to judge them both as men sincerely devoted to our religion whatever that may be, and also as fairminded and progressive citizens of a progressive age.

It is not only therefore a legislature which has to reconcile these conflicting duties but it is a duty which none of us can evade in forming our own private judgments.

You are rightly jealous—as I am in my own case in similar difficulties that frequently arise in England—of spiritual liberty and freedom in matters of religious faith and practice. Where the limits of the civil society and the religious organisation are coterminous these difficulties do not arise, for each is the counterpart of the other in the civil and religious sphere respectively. But neither you nor I can ignore our obligations as citizens in a civil society which is not composed only of members of the same religious profession as ourselves.

It is not necessary for me to stress the civic side of the evils of child marriage with which the bill introduced by Rai Sahib Har Bilas Sarda was designed to deal. The

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action taken by my Government—though it was taken in my absence—was one with which I whole-heartedly concurred, and on which for the reasons I have given earlier Government are bound to adhere to the position which after most full consideration they felt it right to adopt. The Bill, as you know, has duly received Lord Goschen's assent.

But in this particular case I understand you do not claim that the civil authority has sought to debar you from a duty enjoined upon you by religious sanction—for no Moslem maintains that child marriage is obligatory on religious grounds. I am speaking to men not only of deep religious feeling but learned in their scriptures, and I would not presume to speak to you at any length on the provisions of Islamic law in regard to marriage, whether laid down in the Qoran Shareef, the Hadis or in other authoritative sources. But I believe that child marriage is so far as Moslems are concerned an exceptional practice, and one which as a community they are not prepared to defend. I believe it is also true that in Egypt, and possibly in other Muslim countries, marriage laws have been enacted by a civil legislature.

But I take it that your chief concern is in regard to the wider principle of asserting the religious character of the act of marriage, and of ensuring, so far as it is possible for you to do so having regard to those general obligations as citizens of which I spoke just now, that religious liberties and those that are included in the Personal Law should not be impaired by civil legislation against your wishes. Thus Maulana Mahommed Ali, in his written statement, talks of Islamic law as being absolutely self-contained—a complete prescription of everything that a man shall do to God, to his neighbour and to himself. What Muslims fear, as he puts it, is the repeal of Qoranic law by a human and non-Islamic legislature. I have said enough to show you that I recognise



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and largely share your feeling on these points and you may rest well assured that I shall continue to have full regard to the sentiments you have expressed in considering whether or not sanction should be accorded to projects of legislation, and inasmuch as the future constitution of India is now under discussion I shall make it my duty to acquaint those, who may now or later be concerned with the drawing of its lines, with the views you have laid before me.

I would only add in conclusion that I am very pleased that you have seen fit to represent to me so frankly your anxieties, and I trust that what I have said will allay those that you yourselves have felt and enable you to remove anxieties from the minds of others, who were unable to be here to-day.

OPENING OF THE NEW KRISHNA BRIDGE AT SANGLI.

18th November 1929.

In opening the New Krishna Bridge at Sangli on the 18th November, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am deeply gratified that Your Highness should have decided to signalise the first visit of a Viceroy to Sangli by a ceremony of this kind, and to allow me to take part in a function which inaugurates an undertaking destined to be of the greatest benefit to the people of Your Highness' State. Ever since I was prevented by illness two years ago from taking advantage of Your Highness' kind invitation, I have looked forward keenly to visiting your State, and nothing could have exceeded the warmth of the reception I have received from Your Highness and Your Highness' people this morning.

Lady Irwin and I are both deeply grateful to you for the kind terms in which you have just bidden us welcome to Sangli. My visit is, by force of circumstances, shorter than I could have wished, but a Viceroy does not have to



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spend more than an hour or two in an Indian State to realise the loyalty and friendship which its people feel towards His Majesty the King-Emperor's representative. Your Highness has given expression to that sentiment this morning and to the friendly relations which have existed for so long between Your Highness and Your Highness' predecessors and the British Government, and which have been marked by honours and distinctions of which you may well feel proud. Of all those honours the most valued, I think both in Your Highness' eyes and in those of the Government, is the salute conferred upon the Chief of Sangli in recognition of the services of the State in the Great War. I have listened with great gratification to what Your Highness has said regarding the announcement which it was my duty to make on November 1st. I am glad that Your Highness feels, as I myself feel, that great value may be found in the procedure outlined therein which will enable His Majesty's Government before submitting definite proposals to Parliament to have had the advantage of free and full discussion with representatives both of Your Highness' Order and of British India.

I have had the privilege for some time of knowing Your Highness in other surroundings, and I have learnt to value the work which Your Highness has done as a member of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes. This adds to the pleasure I feel in visiting Your Highness in your own State and in seeing for myself the results of your good administration. Here in this town of Sangli the signs of prosperity are apparent in the cleanliness and well-being of the streets and in the commodious buildings which house its population. In the rest of your State I believe that conditions are no less commendable, and I congratulate Your Highness on this satisfactory state of affairs. We have one instance before us of Your Highness' thought and consideration for your

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people in the fine bridge which I am now to open and which you have been good enough to call by my name. Much of the history of India is in its bridges ; they have played their part in the gradual consolidation of a widely varied country and varied peoples, they have added immeasurably to the prosperity and comfort of a great population. This bridge will, I am confident, be widely welcomed by Your Highness' people, and will be a very real boon both to Sangli town and the villages of Sangli State. May it long endure to remind future generations of Your Highness' solicitude for the well-being of those over whom you rule.

OPENING OF THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM AT
KOLHAPUR.

19th November
1929.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech when he opened the Agricultural Museum at Kolhapur on the 19th November 1929 :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The pleasure which I felt in accepting Your Highness' kind invitation to visit your historic State was greatly enhanced by the knowledge that it would be a pleasure experienced by no previous Viceroy. Now that I have broken this fresh ground and received a welcome so genuine and cordial, I have little doubt that my successors will feel a desire to follow in my footsteps. It was, I need hardly say, a grievous disappointment to me two years ago when illness prevented me from visiting Kolhapur, and that disappointment was heightened by the knowledge that Your Highness had already made elaborate arrangements for our comfort and entertainment.

The ceremony I am now to perform symbolises what I hope is a general aspiration throughout India to-day. The recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture have aroused great interest in Indian farming, and have caused Local Governments and Indian



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States to take fresh stock of their agricultural position, and among other things to effect improvements in the methods of the cultivator by means of shows, exhibitions and Co-operative Societies. The buildings I am now to open are Your Highness' contribution to this important movement, and bear testimony to your keenness and foresight in the development of the agricultural resources of your State. I owe you my thanks for the honour you have done me by associating my name with the Museum, which will I am sure be of lasting benefit to the people of Kolhapur.

Agriculture will always be the chief industry of Kolhapur and the main source of the State's revenue. Every advance made for the improvement of agriculture must accordingly, bring wealth and prosperity to the cultivator, and by increasing the resources of the State enable the administration to progress in all its branches. I am glad therefore to be able to congratulate Your Highness on the efforts you have made and are making to study the needs of your agriculturists by the introduction of Co-operative Societies, the construction of irrigation tanks, the employment of trained Agricultural Advisers and the facilities you have recently given to the British American Tobacco Company to introduce the growth of American tobacco in the villages of your State. The measures too which Your Highness is taking to improve your forests cannot fail to be of great benefit to your people. My visit to Panhala yesterday gave me a chance of seeing something of the work already carried out and I know that Your Highness will not fail to seize any opportunity that may offer itself of further development of your plantations.

Your Highness' State stretches from the Sahyadri range to the broad plains of the Deccan. The produce of the forests, the rice and small millets of the hills, the



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larger millets of the plains, the cotton, sugarcane, groundnut and other crops of the rich black cotton soil give a wide field for profitable research, and Your Highness has taken a wise step in establishing this Institution, of which the experimental farm should prove of inestimable benefit to your cultivators.

I am particularly interested in the measures you have taken to ensure that the results of work done here may be widely diffused among your people. The gap between research and work-a-day practice is one which must everywhere be bridged, if both are to work profitably hand in hand for the good of their common purpose. Nor I think is it easily possible to exaggerate the importance of effecting in agricultural communities as intimate a working alliance as may be between the education of the child and the industry of agriculture, which must claim his or her principal activities in later years. For this reason I congratulate Your Highness upon your foresight in attaching a Central Agricultural School to the Museum, and upon the other plans you have devised to link the energies of this plan with the common life of the great majority of your subjects.

With regard to Your Highness' proposal for an extension of the railway from Kolhapur to Dajipur, I understand that this matter is being examined in connection and relation with projects in the same area having identical aims, and I can assure Your Highness that it will receive careful consideration at the hands of Government.

Your Highness, while we are speaking, the crops are growing. We are all anxious to see this Museum, School and Exhibition started on their mission of usefulness, and I will now ask your permission to declare them formally open. Your Highness has asked me to assist you with advice how to make this Museum a success, and, though I am diffident about offering counsel to a race of farmers



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on their own soil and on their own subject, I need hardly say that I shall be glad at all times to help you in any way I can. But from what I have seen to-day I feel well assured that the best guarantee of the success of these Institutions will be that Your Highness should continue to bestow on them the personal interest and understanding which you have shown in their inception. In declaring them open, I wish them a long career of increasing utility to all whom it will be their privilege to serve.

OPENING OF THE O'BRIEN'S TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT
KOLHAPUR AND THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE
OF HER HIGHNESS THE DOWAGER MAHARANI OF
KOLHAPUR.

The following speech was made by His Excellency the Viceroy at the opening of the O'Brien Technical School and the Unveiling of the Statue of Her Highness the Dowager Maharani of Kolhapur at Kolhapur on the 19th November 1929.

Your Highness, Rao Bahadur, Ladies and Gentlemen,—
I take it as a great honour that I should have been asked to unveil this statute of Her Highness the Dowager Maharani, and to open the O'Brien Technical School. You have spoken eloquently, Diwan Sahib, of the true meaning which this twofold ceremony possesses for the State of Kolhapur, and I am glad to be able to join you in congratulating His Highness upon this happy occasion. His Highness' interest in education of all kinds is no new story, and it is gratifying to know that, in accord with the growing demand in other parts of India for an extension of technical education, His Highness has decided to increase the facilities for this sphere of training in Kolhapur. The difficulty of finding suitable and adequate employment for the educated classes in India is one of the most serious problems which face us in this country to-day. Efforts



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have been and are being made to solve it, but we are still far from finding the true answer to our question. A partial solution however is, I believe, to be found in industrial, mechanical and commercial employment, for which training such as this Institution will provide must clearly be the foundation. I am confident therefore that the School I have just opened will be of great and real benefit to the youth of Kolhapur. The supply of technical and scientific training however must be adjusted wisely to the demand, for it will have little value in the absence of adequate opportunity to apply it. I trust therefore that, in so far as it lies within your power, Your Highness will not fail to encourage industrial and similar enterprises which lie within the resources of your State.

In naming the school after that able Political Officer, Colonel O'Brien, who during the period in which he was Resident at Kolhapur enjoyed the friendship and trust of Your Highness, you have given public and appreciative recognition of his work and worth. The excellent relations which in the main subsist between the Rulers of the Indian States and the representatives of Government accredited to them are a subject of congratulation no less to the Rulers than to the Officers of the Political Department of my Government. Throughout the many States I have visited I have not only found these cordial relations existing but have met with memories of gratitude and affection regarding the work of Political Officers during a hundred and fifty years. The public is not always aware of this and a certain amount of ill-informed criticism has been directed against a Service which has served well not only its Government but also the States. Though it is the primary duty of Political Officers to interpret the policy and wishes of the Government of India they are also in a very real sense the friends and champions of the States, and from my own experience I can say that they



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are never backward in championing the cause of a Durbar, where this differs and in their view rightly differs from the point of view held by the Government of India. I trust that the measure of the usefulness of this institution dedicated in Colonel O'Brien's name will be that of the esteem in which he was held by Your Highness.

Let us now turn our thoughts to Mr. Karmarkar's fine work of art which His Highness has presented to this city, and which I have just unveiled. It is well that a city or a State should perpetuate the memory of its benefactors, and Her Highness in spite of her secluded life has done much for Kolhapur to entitle her to the gratitude of its people. Speaking in this place I need not enlarge on her charity to the weak and poor, her care for the children and women of this State, her determination to improve the conditions of life and upbringing for all. I feel sure that in these and kindred works of service of her humbler fellows she has found the secret of true and enduring happiness, and I fervently hope that she may enjoy health and strength for many years to continue her good work.

Gentlemen, your city is already indebted to His Highness the Maharaja for a statue of his late father. This second statue is a fitting counterpart. Its site too has been well chosen, at the junction of two broad thoroughfares forming part of the important scheme which has been of such benefit to the people of His Highness' capital. The roads also, I notice, are named after two men in whose hearts Her Highness' charitable endeavours will always strike a ready chord of sympathy, His Excellency Sir William Birdwood and Sir Leslie Wilson.

Your Highness, I thank you for inviting me to perform this ceremony. I can readily picture to myself the double pleasure you yourself must feel at this moment, the pleasure of a dutiful son paying reverence to an



Unveiling of a Statue of Sir Leslie Wilson.

honoured mother, and the pleasure of a good ruler commemorating in lasting form the care and sympathy of his House for the loyal people of his State. I trust that, as the eyes of future generations rest upon this statue, they may interpret it as a memorial to one who deserved well of the State she sought to serve, as an expression of that family affection which is the foundation of all human society, and as a symbol of that mutual regard and responsibility by which the relations of ruler and ruled should be inspired.

UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF SIR LESLIE WILSON.

19th November 1929.

In Unveiling the Statue of Sir Leslie Wilson at Kolhapur on the 19th November, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have had other opportunities of speaking in Kolhapur to-day and I do not propose therefore to make too great a demand upon your patience. Nor indeed, after listening to His Highness' eloquent and heart-felt eulogy of Sir Leslie Wilson, do I feel that there is much for me to add about a personality whose memory is still fresh among the multitude of friends he has left in India.

But I must thank Your Highness warmly for having allowed me the privilege of unveiling this statue. It is fitting that Kolhapur should pay such a mark of honour to Sir Leslie Wilson, for during his tenure of the Governorship of Bombay he made, in a very special sense, the interests of the States within his political charge his own. During that period several States were transferred from the charge of the Presidency to that of the Government of India. But the personal regret which Sir Leslie Wilson must inevitably have felt at this change of relations acted only as a spur on him to show how much a Governor could still do on behalf of the States in political relations with him. Upon those who were left he bestowed unremitting care and solicitude with the happiest results. His



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genial personality won the friendship of the Rulers in a marked degree, and his passion for clean government and all good causes was a constant stimulus to the Princes and Chiefs to improve their administrations and to do all in their power for the welfare and prosperity of their people. He rightly thought that more improvement could be obtained by friendly encouragement and judicious praise than by threats and warnings. He was justified in the issue, and he often expressed his belief that many of the States in his charge could in the progressive and beneficent character of their administrations show an example to all India. I am glad to believe that he had good reason for his faith. His pride in their achievements made him an enthusiastic and whole-hearted supporter of the States in seeking to secure recognition for their just claims and aspirations, and they on their part owe him a deep debt of gratitude for his labours on their behalf.

Your Highness has good cause therefore to value his friendship and to perpetuate his memory in the statue which you see before you. I know that Sir Leslie Wilson himself appreciates very highly the honour you have done him, and that he is not likely to allow time to efface the memory of the good friends he has made among the Princes and people of the Bombay Presidency.

STATE BANQUET AT KOLHAPUR.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following speech: 19th November 1929.
at the State Banquet at Kolhapur on the 19th November :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must begin by thanking Your Highness warmly for the cordial terms in which you have just proposed my health and Lady Irwin's. We are both most grateful to you for the welcome you have given us to your State and for all the hospitality you have shown us in it. We too have found our time all

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too short, but thanks to Your Highness' excellent arrangements we have seen a great deal that was of interest and we shall carry away the happiest recollections of our visit.

When I landed in India three and a half years ago, Your Highness was one of the first Princes to greet me and to give me a pressing invitation to visit your State. I determined to take an early opportunity of accepting Your Highness' invitation, and I was only prevented by illness from doing so two years ago, to my own great disappointment and, I fear, to Your Highness' great inconvenience.

I have listened with much interest to Your Highness' account of the progress made in the State under your rule. Your Highness has rightly spoken in terms of praise of your late lamented father who, as social reformer and leader of his community, exercised so important and beneficent an influence not merely in his State but throughout Western India. I am pleased to know that Your Highness is pursuing the same tradition of far-sighted policy, and is building on the foundations which he has laid. I have been greatly interested in all I have heard of your late father's successful efforts to spread education among the more backward classes of the community, and to break down certain social barriers which he felt were hindering his reforms. My attention has specially been attracted to the system of hostels attached to schools and colleges in Kolhapur, and I am glad to hear that Your Highness continues to carry on this good work.

It is impossible to recall the name of your father without remembering with gratitude his loyalty to the British Throne and the Empire, and his personal work and influence which were of such value in the Great War. Nothing could have illustrated more vividly how staunch