

*State Banquet at Kolhapur.*

and sincere a friend he was than the action which he took in the dark days when our Mesopotamian forces were beleaguered in Kut-el-Amara. I quote from the preface to the Memories of His late Highness by the present Dewan of Kolhapur. "When the garrison in Kut ran short of food and the Mahratta sepoy's had scruples about eating horse-flesh, the Chhatrapati Maharaja volunteered to go to Mesopotamia and be carried into Kut by aeroplane in order to talk personally with the men, and, when this proved impossible to attempt, sent them a stirring worded appeal as from one caste-man to his brethren, which effected its object and helped to prolong their gallant resistance." I am glad to think, Your Highness, that you faithfully maintain the sentiments of your father towards the Person and Throne of the King-Emperor. The Mahrattas have been known in past history for their soldierly qualities, and Your Highness' position in this race of soldiers has recently been recognised by the grant of the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army. I take this opportunity of offering Your Highness my warmest congratulations on the high honour which His Majesty has been pleased to bestow on you. By means of the education policy initiated by your father and carried on by yourself, the Mahrattas are now able to take their place among the officials and Councillors of the State, and I trust Your Highness will find them as wise and capable in the Council Chamber as they are brave and hardy on the battle-field.

I have heard much of Your Highness' endeavours to improve the administration of your State in all its branches, and I am glad to have had the opportunity of seeing for myself the outward and visible signs of a well-governed and prosperous State. No one could fail to be struck with the general air of well-being and business-like



State Banquet at Kolhapur.

energy pervading Your Highness' Capital city, and I have noticed with pleasure the measures taken to improve the health and amenities of its citizens by the provision of an up-to-date water-supply, by the widening and improvement of streets and by the construction of two city extensions. Your Highness has also been good enough to arrange that I should see something of the agricultural side of your State and visit some of Your Highness' prosperous villages, and I have noticed with pleasure the efforts which you are making to improve the conditions prevailing in your rural districts. As the ruler of the premier State in the Bombay Presidency Your Highness occupies a very fortunate if responsible position, and you have during the short period of your rule shown that you are fully alive to your responsibilities, and that you have the interests and welfare of your subjects at heart.

Your Highness has referred to the 1862 Agreement and its effect upon your relations with your Jagirdars. As Your Highness is aware the question of the transfer to Your Highness' Government of certain powers of control over the Feudatories of your State, which had been exercised for a number of years by the Government of Bombay, has been engaging the earnest attention of my Government. It is an added pleasure to me on this occasion to be able to announce to Your Highness that with the concurrence of the Secretary of State a decision has now been made on this important question, which has not been free from difficulties. The transfer of control will shortly be effected, and it will be subject to certain understandings and with the proviso that the conditions of existing Thailies of the Feudatories shall remain in force so long as individual Jagirdars who may object to their alteration continue to hold their respective Jagirs and abide loyally by the conditions imposed upon them. In making

*State Banquet at Kolhapur.*

this announcement I sincerely congratulate Your Highness that the conditions which existed when restrictions were placed upon your relations with the Feudatories in 1862 have now passed, and that the exercise of good government over a continued period of years has made possible this change, which is of such far-reaching moment in the history of your State.

I listened with great pleasure to the tribute you paid to the assistance and advice which you have received from His Excellency Sir Frederick Sykes, as you did from Sir Leslie Wilson before him, and to the value of Colonel O'Brien's and Major Lang's connection with your State. I am certain that Sir Frederick Sykes will be anxious to do everything in his power to maintain those happy relations which subsisted between Your Highness and his predecessor. By Colonel O'Brien's retirement Government lost an experienced officer and Kolhapur and its ruler a sincere friend, but in your present Resident you have one who is, I feel sure, a worthy successor to him.

Your Highness, I felt that, as the first Viceroy who has ever visited Kolhapur, I might claim your patience for a longer time to-night than otherwise I would have dared. I must not try it further, except to say that the welfare of Kolhapur, as of all the States of India, will always be a matter of the deepest concern to me. Your Highness has shown us this evening that you look forward to the solution of the important constitutional problems that now face the Indian States in a mood of quiet optimism. You rightly realise that the personal ruler who has won the affection of his subjects by his efforts for their welfare and betterment has nothing to fear for the future and his entrenchments are stronger than those provided by Treaties and Engagements, however sacred these are rightly held



Coorg Addresses.

to be. You recognise also that British India and the States cannot stand apart in the future of this great country, but must co-operate in some constitutional form for the common good of the whole. The solution may not be easy. The Butler Committee has examined the existing position so that we may know our foundations before we begin to build, and we may expect that Sir John Simon's Commission will also have something to contribute to the material already at our disposal on this subject. Your Highness will no doubt have noticed the announcement it was recently my duty to make of the intention of His Majesty's Government in due course to convene a conference of representatives both from British India and the Indian States, for the examination of these constitutional questions. I have always felt that, in any discussion of the future of those two parts of India which make up the Geographic whole, it was essential that British India and the Indian States should as far as possible search together for the solution in which all alike are vitally concerned. For I firmly believe that a happy issue out of many of our present difficulties ought not to be beyond our reach, and I sincerely trust that with general goodwill the procedure outlined by His Majesty's Government may prove the means of finding it.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now give you the toast of our distinguished host, His Highness the Maharaja of Kolhapur.

COORG ADDRESSES.

29th November 1929. His Excellency the Viceroy replied as follows to the Addresses presented by (1) the Coorg Planters' Association, (2) the Coorg Land-holders' Association, (3) the Kodava Sabha, (4) the Gowda Community, (5) the Mercara Municipality on the 29th November :—

Ladies and Gentlemen.—I wish, at the outset, to express on Lady Irwin's behalf as well as my own our

*Coorg Addresses.*

warmest thanks to all those who have combined to offer us such a cordial welcome to Coorg. I need not conceal the keen pleasure it has given us to be able to pay a visit to what we have often heard, and now know, to be one of the most beautiful parts of India. Though I am fortunate among Viceroy's to be the first to see your country, I have no doubt that many must have desired to come this way and would have done so had the beauties of your country been less remote. But if Coorg has waited long to greet His Majesty the King-Emperor's representative, its welcome has perhaps been all the heartier on that account, and the expressions of your loyalty to the Throne all the more sincere. Coorg is at one with all India in rejoicing at the recovery which has been vouchsafed to His Majesty, after many months of serious illness, so patiently borne, and to our happiness so courageously surmounted, and I shall not fail to transmit to His Majesty the sentiments which the several deputations have expressed.

The addresses to which I have just listened cover a wide area of Coorg life and interests. And, apart from the pleasure it gives me to meet such a representative gathering, it is always of great value to me to be placed in possession of the thoughts and wishes of any and every section of those who go to make up the vast population of India. To the best of my power, I will endeavour to say something in regard to the many and varied matters to which you have referred.

You have in the first place mentioned certain important questions which fall within the purview of the Statutory Commission, whose report will shortly I hope be completed. I refer to such questions as the amalgamation of Coorg with one of the greater Provinces, the formation of an autonomous Karnataka Province on a linguistic basis, the grant of Provincial autonomy and the representation of Coorg in the Legislative Assembly. Material on all these possible lines of political development



Coorg Addresses.

has been submitted to Sir John Simon and his colleagues, and I hope you will not think I am merely trying to find an easy means of escape from the necessity of answering your enquiries, when I say that until that body has presented its report it would be fruitless and ill-timed for me to express any opinion on them.

I have been much interested in the plea put forward in the Land-holders' address for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. I appreciate the feelings which have promoted this request. But Coorg is a small Province and I understand that it would be difficult to effect an entire separation except at a large increase in expense. There is too the objection that the appellate authority would be at a great distance and in another Province. If, however, any modifications of the present system are found to be possible at a reasonable cost I will certainly give such a scheme my careful consideration.

Reference too has been made to the possibility of transferring Provincial Gazetted officers every five years. Such transfers could only be made to and from a neighbouring Province, and apart from the question of expense, which would not be negligible, I understand that experience has shown that such an arrangement is not altogether free from difficulties. It will be within your recollection, too, that the principle underlying this request has been very fully debated in the Coorg Legislative Council, where it failed to commend itself to the majority of the House.

With regard to the assessment of Jama holdings, this question was carefully considered in the year 1890 by the Government of India who came to the conclusion that the assessment should not be regarded as having been permanently settled. The sanads merely ratify and confirm the tenure as defined by the custom of the country and the Standing Order of Raja Linga Rajendra. They

*Coorg Addresses.*

recognise the fact that, where the ordinary ryot pays ten rupees, the privileged Jama ryot shall only pay five rupees, but the lower rate though representing a concession is in no sense a fixed sum. I fear that in this matter I do not think Government can reverse their earlier decision, but I am confident that the local Administration will examine sympathetically the question of removing unnecessary restrictions on the cultivation of Jama, Umbli and Jagir lands, and I counsel you to bring to their notice any specific cases in which the restrictions may have operated hardly. You may feel sure that any such request will meet with all consideration and sympathy from your Chief Commissioner, Mr. Pears, who has the interests of Coorg and its people so much at heart.

Then there is the question raised by the Landholders' Association of exemption from the Arms Act. I should be loth to associate myself with the removal of privileges of this kind from a race which has shown itself consistently loyal to the British Government, but I feel that there is a tendency to attach to the privilege a scope which it did not originally possess. For it was not so much a permission to bear arms, as an exemption from disarmament, and I do not think that it is reasonable to claim that an exemption from disarmament in by-gone days, when travel was limited and conditions and weapons entirely different from those of today, should give a right to all Coorgs to carry such dangerous arms as revolvers throughout India. A gun is the traditional Coorg weapon and is borne by many of you as part of your Jama tenure duties, and I would remind you that the privilege of bearing arms has been reserved to you in the orders of 1924, in spite of the fact that old-standing exemptions have been withdrawn from many persons and classes privileged in the past.

The Planters' Association has referred to the question of prohibiting the import of coffee. This matter has not



Coorg Addresses.

yet been finally decided, but I can assure the Association that the points they have raised are being carefully considered by the Government of India in consultation with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, whose advice on this subject is being sought.

As regards propaganda through the Empire Marketing Board for the benefit of the coffee industry, I can promise the Association that any proposals they may make in this respect will receive my Government's sympathetic consideration. I may add that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is now in direct touch with the Empire Marketing Board and is ready to consider, and at their discretion to forward, applications for grants from the Board. It is a condition of such grants that any scheme put forward must prove itself to be one of more than purely local importance, and to be of direct interest to more than one part of the Empire whether from the producing or marketing point of view.

I am glad to find that you are determined to combat that terrible scourge of many parts of India—Malaria. In 1925 an Anti-Malaria Committee was, as you know, formed under the presidency of the Civil Surgeon, Coorg, and measures have been concerted for a campaign against the disease. At the request of the Coorg Government, Lieutenant-Colonel McCombie Young visited the Province in the years 1927 and 1928 to examine and report on malarial conditions and his report is now being examined. The question of obtaining the services of an officer of the Research Institute was considered, but the cost was found to be prohibitive. The local Administration are however fully alive to the importance of obtaining expert advice, and the possibility of arranging for periodical visits of an expert from the Malaria Institute at Kasauli will be explored. A Sub-Assistant Surgeon has meanwhile been sent to Kasauli to be trained and another to the Tropical School of Medicine in Calcutta. Experimental work is

*Coorg Addresses.*

being carried on and, though it is too early to form a definite opinion, there are grounds for hoping for good results. I would impress upon you that such measures cannot be carried out by Government alone and that the co-operation of all is necessary if they are to be a success. Nor is it only a question of destroying mosquitoes. The disease attacks most easily persons whose stamina is weak—so that, side by side with measures for stamping out the carrier, should proceed measures for improving the standard of living.

In this direction I believe that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture show the way to possibilities of great improvement. These recommendations are now engaging the active attention of the Chief Commissioner with a view to submitting to the Government of India a plan to develop the agriculture, including research work, and animal husbandry of Coorg and I can assure you that, when the Chief Commissioner's proposals reach us, we shall approach them with every desire to do whatever we can to help you in these directions.

I fear, however, that the configuration of the country of Coorg precludes the use of irrigation on any large scale and even such a scheme as the Harangi Project involves great expense and no small technical difficulties. I understand that the cost of the scheme is estimated to be nearly twelve lakhs of rupees and that the probable return on that sum would be very small—and in the circumstances I do not think that it would be possible for the Government of India to assist.

I recognise the importance which you rightly attach to communications by road and railway. As to the improvement of the main west coast road, I understand that the Government of Madras promised in 1922 that the question of strengthening bridges on the Tellicherry-Coorg road would be considered as soon as finances permitted,



Coorg Addresses.

and the Chief Commissioner has promised to refer the matter again to them. In the way of a railway there are of course serious physical and financial difficulties to overcome. The nature of the physical difficulties is clear even to the inexperienced eye, and I can readily appreciate the financial difficulties which arise from the high cost of constructing railways in a hilly country, and the comparatively sparse population and low productivity of the area that any railway would serve. The surveys which have been made in this area during the last 30 years have demonstrated the difficulty of choosing an alignment which would serve a sufficiently wide number of interests to make it remunerative. Further investigations however are now to be made into the prospects of a connection from Tellicherry to Makut and to Manantoddy and we must I think await the result of this enquiry.

With reference to the request made by two of your bodies for the establishment of a State-aided Bank in Coorg you are no doubt aware that the Government of India have set up a Central Banking Enquiry Committee and a number of Provincial Banking Enquiry Committees to enquire into banking conditions in India, with a view *inter alia* to the expansion of indigenous co-operation and joint stock banking with special reference to the needs of agriculture, commerce and industry. A sub-committee of the Madras Committee consisting of the Chairman and two members, with whom will be associated two members for Coorg, will examine the possibility of providing banking facilities in Coorg.

The Kodava Sabha have asked that young Coorgs should be afforded chances in the Army and the other All-India Services, and to obtain scholarships. I need hardly tell you that Coorgs have an equal chance with all others for appointment to such services. Indeed with your Chief Commissioner in close touch with you I am not

*Coorg Addresses.*

sure that you are not in a favoured position. I see that two Coorgs hold the King's Commission in the Indian Army and another in the Indian Medical Service and I hope that others will follow their example. There have been but few applications from Coorg for scholarships for study abroad—indeed none since 1911 when one was given for engineering. Such applications can, I am sure, always count upon the goodwill of the local Administration but I must remind you that funds for such scholarships are now provided from the Provincial revenues, so that requests should only be put forward for persons who can really be expected to benefit by higher training and are likely to be a credit to the Province of Coorg.

I am gratified to hear from the Gowda community of the support which they have given to the local battalion of the Indian Territorial Force. It is I am sorry to say not possible to find room for representatives of every community in the ranks of the regular army. The Territorial Force is however open to all and was expressly constituted with a view to communities like yours. Your young men have, of course, the same opportunities as other Indians of entering the army as officers, and the same educational facilities as other communities. I trust that the Gowdas will make use of the opportunities given to them of fitting themselves for the service of their country, and I am glad to hear that this year the applications made by Gowdas for scholarships in schools show that they are conscious of their responsibilities in this direction.

Lastly, I come to the problems of this town itself and I am glad to learn that the City Fathers of Mercara recognise the obligation resting upon them in matters affecting the health and welfare of the citizens under their charge. The development of public conveniences such as water-supplies and sanitation must largely depend on local enterprise, and is of course a matter of Provincial



Coorg Addresses.

concern, but I am sure that, if a carefully conceived scheme is placed before the Local Government, they will lend to it all the encouragement they can.

The question of making a survey of the waterfalls of Coorg with a view to utilising them as a source of electric power was debated in the Legislative Council in 1927. I am not sure that the difficulties in the way of the establishment of an hydro-electric plant are fully realised. Apart from the question of whether a site with a suitable fall and flow of water exists, a very important question is that of disposing of the power when generated. A small plant such as that which would be required for the lighting of a town like Mercara is unlikely to be an economic success unless conditions are exceptionally favourable, while at present it seems unlikely, even if the construction of a large power station were practicable, that there would be a demand for power sufficient to justify the enormous expenditure that such a station would involve. I am sure, however, that the local Administration will not lose sight of the fact that opportunities for such a scheme fully exist in Coorg, should a demand for power arise within a reasonable distance.

I have tried, Gentlemen, to traverse most of the subjects you have referred to to-day, and, though I am conscious that my replies do not in all cases give a satisfactory answer to your questions, I have tried to state frankly to you what I am advised are the practical difficulties which arise on several of the matters you have brought before me. You may at least feel certain that the interests of Coorg are as much in my mind and in the mind of my Government as those of any part of India. It is now not far short of 100 years since the Proclamation was issued which announced that "the rule and dominion of Raja Vira Rajendra over the country of Coorg had now definitely and for ever ceased", and the people of the



*Addresses presented by the Calicut Municipal Council and the
Malabar District Board.*

5 country tried of the old story of murder and disturbances, unanimously voted that they should be placed under the British Government. That decision, I am confident, they have never found occasion to regret, and it is gratifying to hear the assurances which have been repeated this morning of the continued loyalty of the people of Coorg. History is now moving fast once more, for Coorg as for the rest of India, and changes which were hardly dreamt of a generation ago are now in being. There are new responsibilities to be undertaken, new adjustments to be made in the old order of things. In this great task Coorg will have to play its part, and it is my earnest hope that in the outcome the people of this country, as of all India, will find contentment and prosperity.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED BY THE CALICUT MUNI-
CIPAL COUNCIL AND THE MALABAR DISTRICT
BOARD.

In replying to the Addresses presented by the Calicut 30th Novem-
Municipal Council and the Malabar District Board at Calicut ber 1920
on the 30th November, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Lady Irwin joins me in thanking you sincerely for your very kind addresses of welcome and for the assurances which you have conveyed to us of the friendship and goodwill of the people of Malabar. He would indeed show a strange lack of interest in the romance of the European connection with India, who failed to find a fascination in the coast of Malabar, where the names of Vasco da Gama, Albuquerque, Almeida were once household words, and where Portuguese, Dutch and British have in turn played so important a rôle in India's development each over a long period of years.

As you have just said, those ancient bonds of friendship have been strengthened afresh by the declaration



*Addresses presented by the Calicut Municipal Council and the
Malabar District Board.*

which it was recently my duty to make. Every day I receive fresh proof, as I have received proof from your lips this morning, of the firmly established belief that the people of India and the people of Great Britain are now again moving forward hand in hand and in harmony of spirit towards the attainment of a clearly defined purpose. I welcome more than I can say the outlook of hope and optimism with which you view the future that lies before us, for I feel that it is in truth characteristic of the great mass of opinion in this country today, and that it is the surest augury of success in striving for the goal we all desire to reach.

Your addresses this morning have touched on wider things than your own rural or urban problems, and I need not say more, in reply to the hopes expressed by the District Board, than that I am sure the Local Government will do everything in their power to assist the Board in carrying out any definite proposals which it may make for the amelioration of the lot of the people of the District. For on the efficiency of local administration, whether by Municipalities or District Boards, depends to no small degree the repute in which the government of a country is held. Your schools, your hospitals, your roads, your sanitation, your marketing arrangements, all mean something definite every day to nearly every member of the community under your charge, and in shouldering your responsibilities in such matters you are doing work of far more than parochial importance, for you are not only helping the great machine of government to run smoothly, but you are bringing to many sides of human life the means of fuller growth and self expression. May you have all success, gentlemen, in the discharge of your important duties, and may the people of Calicut and Malabar be long attended by all good fortune and happiness.



STATE BANQUET AT COCHIN.

The following speech was delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy at the State Banquet at Cochin on the 1st December :—

1st December 1920.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I should like at the outset to echo the remarks made by Your Highness in regard to His Majesty the King-Emperor. The deep-seated loyalty of the Indian States to the Throne was never more clearly shown than during His Majesty's late illness, and his recovery was the occasion of great thankfulness throughout India and the British Empire.

As Your Highness has just said, this is only the second time in history that a Viceroy has visited Cochin. I cannot but think that this is not the fault of Viceroys but of circumstances. In this world we often find the pleasantest things the most difficult of access, and Cochin lies perhaps somewhat aside from the path which Viceroys ordinarily tread. I therefore think myself all the more fortunate that I should have been able to accept Your Highness' kind invitation to visit this beautiful part of India and I thank you cordially for the warm welcome you have given us. There is the added attraction that I am visiting a coast where memories of the past are so full of interest. I can well imagine the feelings of eagerness with which the early European adventurers must have looked on this rich and fertile coast, and the delight with which the fortunate Portuguese settlers must have hailed the permission granted in 1502 to settle in the town of Cochin, to be followed a year later by the building of a fort and the opening of trade with the country round. It was not until three centuries later when the Portuguese, and in their turn the Dutch, had long since disappeared from the scene, that the Raja of Cochin concluded a treaty with the East India Company, to which he thus became a tributary. Since then, as Your Highness has said, the history of the State has been one of increasing prosperity, and I earnestly trust that this happy state of things may long continue. It is also my hope that, as material prosperity



State Banquet at Cochin.

advances, development of administration may not be permitted to lag behind. Good Government spells happiness for the people and prosperity both for ruler and for ruled, and I trust that Your Highness' first thought as that of all wise rulers will be constantly to preserve the standard of your administration. When Lord Curzon visited Cochin just 29 years ago he paid a tribute to the tranquillity which the State had so long enjoyed and to the good management to which that tranquillity was due. Since then there have been changes of no small significance. The formation of a Legislative Council with an elected majority and the institution of elected panchayat courts and municipalities show an important constitutional advance. The progress in education too has been maintained, and I congratulate Your Highness on the interest you have shown in this essential part of your responsibilities as a ruler. I know that the rulers of Cochin have deep and strong traditions of conservatism and orthodoxy ; it is all the more remarkable that Your Highness should have allowed one of the members of your own family to cross the seas in search of western education.

In material ways too, as Your Highness has indicated, the State has seen notable improvement, and recently great benefit has been conferred upon this town by the action of the Durbar in laying out pipes from the Alwaye River and providing the people with a supply of wholesome water.

The greatest change however which this State is now witnessing is in the construction of the Cochin Harbour works. It is a matter for great satisfaction that such good progress has been made with the scheme for the conversion of the harbour into a port of real magnitude, and I trust that within the next few years the trade of Cochin will show considerable development, to the benefit not only of the port itself but to the whole of Your Highness' State. I would only add that, if full advantage is to accrue from the heavy capital expenditure which is being incurred on



State Banquet at Trisandrum.

the extension of the harbour, adequate railway communications must be provided by which the produce of the rich country within its reach may be brought to the port, and imported goods may in their turn find a ready means of distribution.

I would desire in conclusion, as representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor, to acknowledge the assurance of continued devotion to the Throne and to the Paramount Power to which Your Highness has just given expression. It has been a great pleasure to me to visit the State of Cochin and to make the acquaintance of its ruler and its people. I trust that the efforts of Your Highness and Your Highness' successors will continue to be directed, as they have been in the past, towards the happiness of your people and the prosperity of your State.

STATE BANQUET AT TRIVANDRUM.

H. E. the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the State Banquet at Trivandrum on the 7th December :—

7th December
1929.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The kind terms in which Your Highness has just proposed the health of Lady Irwin and myself are of a piece with the great kindness and cordiality with which we have been welcomed by so many thousands of Your Highness' people at every stage of our journeying since we set foot in Travancore. We have long been awaiting with pleasurable anticipation our visit to South India and before we leave Your Highness' State we shall have achieved our "Furthest South", and stood upon the sacred spot which is the Land's End of this great country.

Few parts of India can, I think, be more favoured by Nature than Travancore, and we have long wished to see those beauties of sea and land of which we have often heard, and have tried to picture to ourselves its wooded hills, its evergreen valleys, its rivers and lagoons, which all go to make up what I think may be called the Spice-garden



State Banquet at Trivandrum.

of India. We have also pictured to ourselves a people happy and contented in their Arcadian surroundings, free from the fears of famine or want and from the ills which poverty so often brings in its train. I have read that the security of life and property in Travancore is proverbial and "is such that people generally prefer to travel by night". We came therefore with high expectations and I can truly say that they have been realised. We share to the full Your Highness' pleasure that our visit should have come at a time of unexampled prosperity in the State, and I know well that, after all due credit is given to the bounties of Nature, the basis of that prosperity lies largely in the wise and liberal administration directed by Your Highness and by those who have ruled Travancore in the past.

I am glad to have this public opportunity of thanking Your Highness for having invited us to visit your beautiful State, and for all the hospitality and kindness you have shown us while we have been here. It is one of my privileges as representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor to visit the Princes of India in their own domains, and to receive the most generous hospitality at their hands. It is my privilege too to receive unfailing expressions of loyalty to the British Crown, such as Your Highness has offered to-night on behalf of Travancore. Such assurances are indeed scarcely necessary from a State whose traditions of friendship with the English reach back to those stirring and unsettled times of the 18th Century, when the representatives of the great Chera dynasty of South India were allies of the English arms. It is not far short of a century and a half since Travancore was included in the Treaty made between the East India Company and the Sultan of Mysore, and those friendly relations have with brief intermissions lasted until to-day.

As Your Highness has pointed out it is just a generation since Lord Curzon, the greatest traveller, I think,

*State Banquet at Trivandrum.*

among Viceroys, visited your State, and as is natural many notable administrative and other changes and progressive measures have taken place since then. Your Legislative Council, which originated in 1888, has been enlarged and reconstituted with an elected majority, and is based upon the equality of the sexes in rights of franchise and election. The Revenue side of the administration, by its separation from the Devaswom department, has been thrown open to Hindus of every caste, and to Christians as well. Animal sacrifice has been abolished in temples. Roads and bridges, water-works, electric light and power, have all received increasing attention. And I think I may safely say that during Your Highness' five years of regency the highest proportion of advancement has been seen. Your unflagging devotion to State affairs, your personal attention to every detail of the administration, and your constant desire to treat all communities in the State alike with fairness and impartiality, have borne the richest fruit in the contentment of your people. I understand that recent years have seen a steady advance made by women in education and in participation in public affairs; I can well believe that this is in no small measure due to the example set by Your Highness, and I cannot deny myself the pleasure of congratulating Your Highness once again on receiving the coveted distinction of the Crown of India, by which His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to mark his appreciation of your regency.

Your Highness, there have been other changes since Lord Curzon visited Travancore 29 years ago. Speaking on an occasion similar to to-night's, he congratulated His late Highness on the steps he had recently taken by renewed adoption for the perpetuation of the ruling line, and it is gratifying to know that Travancore State has through that adoption a Prince ready to succeed to the ancient and honourable traditions of the ruling House. It has been a great satisfaction to hear the good reports of His Highness'



Opening of the Cauvery Metur Canal Bridge.

progress, of his proficiency in riding and his advance in education. I cannot foretell when a Viceroy will next set foot in your State, but it is not improbable that by that time, under Providence, His Highness will be upon the *gaddi*. I wish therefore in conclusion to express to Your Highness, in the first place, my hope and belief that your regency will conclude as happily as it has begun, and to offer to His Highness the best of all good fortune when the mantle has fallen upon his shoulders. I feel confident that I shall hear of him in future years as a Prince whose State is his first thought, and who finds his own principal happiness and reward in devoting himself to the advancement of his people.

OPENING OF THE CAUVERY METUR CANAL
BRIDGE.

11th Decem-
ber 1929.

In opening the Cauvery Metur Canal Bridge at Tanjore on the 11th December H. E. the Viceroy said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am very glad to be able to open this bridge to-day and I must thank Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar and those on behalf of whom he has spoken for having so kindly invited me to do so. Although this bridge is only, in itself, a small detail in a larger scheme, that scheme is one which is destined, I hope, to bring increased prosperity to a very large area and to be one more example of the skill of the Engineer in bringing the gifts of Nature to tracts which she has chosen to endow less generously than others. In giving my name, therefore, to this bridge—which I most gladly do—I have the pleasure of feeling that I shall be associated not only with this bridge but to a certain extent with the wider scheme to which I have alluded.

If I may be allowed to digress for a moment from the immediate purpose of this gathering, I should like to take this opportunity to give public expression to my gratitude for the warmth of the welcome which I have received at the



Address from the Corporation of Madras.

various towns I have visited since I left Calicut. I wish that I could have thanked everyone individually, but that, I fear, was not possible. I have now been able to fulfil a long-cherished desire—to traverse both the western and the eastern coasts of this Presidency—and I have not been disappointed in the high anticipations which I had formed. Not the least attractive part of this programme is to see Tanjore. I have heard much of its fame as the capital of one of the greatest of the ancient dynasties, as one of the chief political, literary and religious centres of the South, as the home of beautiful Hindu monuments and as a centre of artistic manufactures. I am looking forward to seeing as much as I can of its sights and interests in the all too short time before me here.

I am afraid that I shall have left India before the water begins to flow under this bridge. But canals fortunately are more permanent than Viceroys. May the canals of this Metur project vie with Tennyson's Brook which boasted that :

“ Men may come and men may go,

But I go on for ever ”,

and may they continue to minister to the needs of the thirsty soil through many generations when we are all forgotten. I shall always remember the Metur project, and, in hearing, as I hope, of its success, shall be proud that my name has, by this evening's ceremony, been in some way associated with it. And now, if I may, I will proceed to open this bridge, and formally inaugurate its career of public benefit.

ADDRESS FROM THE CORPORATION OF MADRAS.

In reply to the Address of Welcome presented by the Corporation of Madras on the 12th December, H. E. the Viceroy said :—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—Our tour through the Madras Presidency, which has given us the opportunity of

12th Decem^r
ber 1929.



Address from the Corporation of Madras.

seeing many of its important towns and much of its people and its picturesque scenery, has now reached its pleasant culmination in our arrival at the capital of the Province and in the reception which has been accorded to us here this morning. Lady Irwin and I deeply appreciate the evidences of friendship and goodwill which we have seen on every side, and we thank you warmly, and through you the people of Madras, for the way in which you have made us welcome. The history of Madras, both past and present, and the position its people have achieved in many walks of public life, in literature and the arts and sciences, have made us keenly anxious to see for ourselves something of the country and the conditions in which these varied activities have had their rise. I can also myself claim an especial personal interest in this city because here lies buried an immediate ancestor of my own, who was killed in a naval engagement with the French Admiral Suffren in the wars of the 18th century. We know therefore that in the all too brief time that we shall spend in Madras we shall see much that we have long wished to see, and make and renew many valued acquaintances.

In the concise account which you have just given of your responsibilities and problems as a Corporation, you have mentioned the possibility of raising funds by the imposition of a terminal tax. I appreciate your desire to reduce the direct burden of taxation on the residents of your city, but, after examining again the reasons which influenced the Government of India to decide against a similar proposal made by your body 13 years ago, I fear that I cannot find any new factors in the situation which could lead me to hold out any hope of further reconsideration of their previous decision. It is true that the Taxation Enquiry Committee expressed the view that a light terminal tax on passengers might be appropriate in the case of large cities, and that in Calcutta and Rangoon the levy of such a tax has been allowed. But the very special reasons which



Address from the Corporation of Madras.

were held to apply to these two cities do not appear to the Government of India to be equally applicable to Madras, nor to counterbalance the disadvantages we see in the general principle of a terminal tax. The chief objections which we feel to such a tax are that the collection of such a levy is not a legitimate function of the railway companies and that the terminal tax tends to operate as a tax on railways by reducing either their traffic or the fares they can charge. Our contracts with companies do not empower the Government of India to force them to render this kind of service to municipalities, and we feel that such a tax is normally justified only for towns which are centres of pilgrimage and have to spend a considerable amount of money on sanitation and other purposes for the benefit of strangers who, but for a railway tax, would contribute nothing to the cost. I regret therefore that, as at present advised, the Government of India feel unable to acquiesce in the proposal you have made.

I can assure you however of the constant interest which Government takes in the affairs of your Corporation, as in those of all local bodies, and I am confident that your needs and difficulties will always receive sympathetic consideration at the hands of your Local Government, and of your Governor, Sir George Stanley, who is now at the outset of what I know will be a successful and distinguished term of office.

You have rightly, Sir, made reference to the pride which your Corporation takes in the discharge of its onerous duties. They are duties inherited, as you say, from a distant past and you probably remember the old-fashioned phrasing of the Charter granted to the original Corporation of nearly two and a half centuries ago. "Having found", it ran, "by experience that the making and establishing of Corporations in cities and towns that are grown exceeding populous tends more to the well-governing of such populous places than the constant use of the



*Addresses from the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the
Southern India Chamber of Commerce.*

Law Martial in trivial concerns, we constitute the town of Fort St. George a corporation". Those were small beginnings, but to the English this fortress, named after their patron Saint, was during the next century to become a place of growing importance, and it was indeed in these surroundings that the die was to be finally cast as to which of the European nations was at that time to exercise predominant influence in India. Since then Madras has grown apace, and your concerns are now the reverse of trivial. They are on the contrary of vital importance to many thousands of people whose health and amenities of life are committed to your charge. I am always glad to have the opportunity of expressing Government's appreciation of the public spirit which induces busy people like yourselves to add such responsibilities as these to the burden of their other duties, and it has therefore given me great pleasure to meet you on my arrival in Madras this morning. I offer you my best wishes, gentlemen, in the important task in which you are engaged, and trust that this great city may, under your guidance, continue to enjoy the proud position it now holds.

**ADDRESSES FROM THE MADRAS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND THE SOUTHERN INDIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

12th Decem-
ber 1929.

H. E. the Viceroy received addresses from the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Southern India Chamber of Commerce at Madras on the 12th December, to which he made the following reply :—

Gentlemen,—My first duty and privilege is to thank you, as the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor, for your expressions of joy and relief at His Majesty's recovery—sentiments which, as the experience of the last year has so vividly brought home to me, and, I am sure, to you also, are universal throughout India.



Addresses from the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Southern India Chamber of Commerce.

I am very grateful to you for the warm welcome which you have extended to Lady Irwin and myself on our first visit to this great city with which is bound up so much of the earliest history of the connection between Great Britain and India. If a Viceroy could order his travels according only to the dictates of his own predilections, we should not be coming here at comparatively so late a stage in my term of office. But unfortunately personal desires have to be subordinated to other considerations. My pleasure at being here is, however, the more keen for having been deferred, and it is by no means the least of my pleasures in Madras to be able to meet here to-day the representatives of the Mercantile interests in this Presidency. I always welcome the opportunity of meeting businessmen—particularly in their own surroundings—and of hearing from them their views on public affairs. One of the secrets of success in business is, as I understand it, the ability to take a correct decision quickly, and for this purpose an essential requisite, in addition to the necessary technical knowledge of the business concerned, is a very large measure of that most uncommon quality of commonsense. This quality is no less important in administration than in business, and its possessors in the business world have therefore a very strong title to a deferential hearing of their views, not only on matters immediately within their province but also in the wider sphere of every-day affairs, by those who are charged with the administration.

Both the bodies which have presented addresses to-day have exemplified the interest which they take in this wider sphere by their references to the problems of agriculture, and have been good enough to express their appreciation of the action taken by my Government in connection therewith. The economic progress of India is of necessity closely bound up with the prosperity of the cultivator, and it is my earnest hope that a greater measure of prosperity may accrue to him as a result of the measures which are



*Addresses from the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the
Southern India Chamber of Commerce.*

now being taken on the basis of the valuable report of the Agricultural Commission. As you no doubt know, the Council of Agricultural Research has lately been inaugurated by the Government of India, while in this Presidency a committee of officials and non-officials has been set up and is now considering the Commission's recommendations. The Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee is also at work and will go into the several questions relating to the financing of the agriculturist. I can assure you that the Government of India will leave no stone unturned in the effort to bring to fruition the labours of the Agricultural Commission and I am sure that the same can confidently be said of the Government of this Presidency.

As regards road development and the improvement of rural communications to which the addresses have referred, this whole question is now being investigated in pursuance of the Road Development Committee's Report, and I hope that the conclusions when reached and translated into practice will be of benefit to the people of this Presidency.

Mention has been made in the address of the Madras Chamber of Commerce of the needs of the Madras Port. I have been pleased to observe the expansion of trade shown by the Port, and I am very glad that it was possible for my Government to supply its immediate needs by placing additional land at its disposal earlier in the year. I fully recognise that the provision of adequate facilities to meet the needs of expanding trade is essential, and I need hardly add that applications for land for further schemes of development will receive the careful consideration of the Government of India. The last three years have seen a small but steady expansion of trade throughout India and I am glad to know that Madras has taken her share in it. I see that the imports of the Presidency increased from 21 crores in 1926-27 to 24 crores in 1927-28 and 27 crores in 1928-29, and that exports increased during the same three years



*Addresses from the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the
Southern India Chamber of Commerce.*

from 38 crores to 44 and 46 crores. The expansion in shipping too has been even more marked. The Great War caused the total entries and clearances of vessels into and from the ports of the Madras Presidency to drop from approximately five million to less than three million tons, but the leeway has now been made up and I see that last year the figures exceeded five million.

And now I must turn to the question of the Tanning trade which has found a place in both addresses. The Hide Cess Committee, which has recently been appointed, was instituted after full consultation with all the interests concerned. It contains two representatives of the Tanning industry in Madras—a representative of the Madras Tanners and a representative of the Madras Tanned Hides Shippers. This in itself is a guarantee that the interests of the Tanning trade in this Presidency will not be disregarded, and, while it is of course impossible for me to predict the course that will ultimately be adopted, I would add that these interests may certainly count upon very careful consideration at the hands of the Government of India when they come to deal with the Committee's Report.

I fear, Gentlemen, that, were I to go in detail into all the problems which have been mentioned in the address of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, I might be led to trespass too far on the limits of your patience. Perhaps, however, I may be allowed to touch very briefly upon some of them. You have referred to the adjudication of claims between Foreign and Indian Shipping companies. In my address to the Associated Chamber of Commerce last year, I dealt with this question at some length and I tried there to present the problem as I see it, not as one which should be solved by methods of confiscation but as one which might be solved by an alliance of British and Indian industry and commerce, working together for



*Addresses from the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the
Southern India Chamber of Commerce.*

India's commercial and industrial advancement, and for the realisation of the ambition that India should have its own mercantile marine, officered as well as manned by Indians. I would also refer you to the statement on the subject made in the Legislative Assembly last September by the Hon'ble Member for Commerce, and it is my earnest hope that the conference, foreshadowed in that statement and now about to be held between representatives of all the interests affected, may lead to a satisfactory solution of this question. I trust that I may rely upon all those who are present here to-day to work together for that end.

The position as regards sterling capital and rupee capital was exhaustively dealt with by the Hon'ble Finance Member in his speech introducing the budget for the current year. It would appear that misapprehension on the subject still exists, and I cannot, I think, do better than ask those, who may still harbour doubts on the subject, to re-read this very lucid exposition of the policy of my Government, which is, briefly, to have recourse to sterling borrowing only in so far as money required cannot be raised from the investing public in India. Here too I would ask your help in educating the smaller men to invest rather than to hoard their savings.

You have further pressed upon me the necessity of adjudicating the claims between European and Indian commercial bodies for equal representation on public bodies. I fear, however, that this is a matter which my jurisdiction does not embrace. Proposals for the revision of the constitution will shortly come before His Majesty's Government and, at this stage, I can do no more than assure you that whatever claims or suggestions may have been put forward in this behalf will be carefully examined.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I must thank you once again for your good wishes to Lady Irwin and myself and



Address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

for the kind things which you have said. We shall carry away with us from Madras the warmest memories of your cordial welcome and I shall not fail to bear in mind the views and needs which have been expressed in the two addresses to which I have had the pleasure of listening to-day.

ADDRESS FROM THE UNITED PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

The United Planters' Association of Southern India presented an Address of Welcome at Madras on the 12th December 1929. 12th Decem-
ber 1929.
to H. E. the Viceroy, who replied in the following terms :—

Gentlemen,—My first duty is to express the satisfaction which it gives me to be able to meet you here to-day and to thank you for the warm welcome which you have extended to me. With you, and with all the people of India, I rejoice at the restoration to health of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and, as his representative, it is my privilege to acknowledge the loyal sentiments to which you have given expression.

My pleasure at being among you is enhanced by the fact that to me, a land-owner like yourselves, the problems of the land are of especial interest, for, though the present-day difficulties of a British land-owner no doubt differ in form from those of a Southern India planter, I suspect that there is a strong fundamental similarity between them. I am glad to learn that your Association is studying so closely the report of the Agricultural Commission. As you are no doubt aware, its recommendations have already borne fruit in the establishment of the Council of Agricultural Research which will, I sincerely hope, be a powerful factor in the progress of Indian agriculture. Many of the recommendations of the Commission are of course more directly the concern of the Local Governments and are, I know, occupying their attention, but improve-



Address from the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

ments and reforms in the agricultural system of this country, whether stimulated by the Central or by a Local Government, can only attain a full measure of success if they have the support of those who are actively engaged in the working of the land. I welcome therefore the assurance of co-operation in this direction by so representative a body as your Association and also the anxiety, which your remarks evince, for the welfare and prosperity of the cultivators.

I am also very pleased to know of the keen interest taken in the Royal Commission on Labour which will later be visiting Southern India—judged both by your remarks in this connection and by the large numbers among the planting community, both employers and employed, who, I have noticed, have offered to furnish evidence. The Government of India count themselves very fortunate to have secured the services of so representative a Commission, and its Chairman comes to the task with practical experience of achievement in the Labour field. The scope of their enquiries is a wide one and it is my earnest hope that their result will conduce to that fuller measure of progress and contentment which we all desire.

You have stressed in your address the importance of good communications, and I can assure you that my Government are fully alive to the need for adequate railway approaches to the Cochin Harbour, in order that the produce of the country may be brought there and that imported goods may be distributed easily and quickly. With this object the Local Government have recommended the conversion of the Shoranur-Ernakulam line from metre gauge to broad gauge, and the matter is now under the consideration of the Railway Board. In this connection I may mention that the Railway Board have also sanctioned the traffic survey of a line from Kollengode to Trichur. A



Addresses presented by the Madras Presidency Muslim Leagues of 1908 and 1926 and the Anjuman-e-Mufid-e-Ahl-e-Islam and the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India, Madras.

special report has been made by the Cochin Port Conservancy Board about railway facilities to be afforded as a result of the development of the Cochin Harbour, and the Local Government are, I understand, about to give their consideration to the various proposals made therein. As regards roads, I can say no more at present than that the whole question is being thoroughly investigated in pursuance of the Road Development Committee's report, and I am sure that action will be taken as expeditiously as possible on the conclusions when reached.

I will not detain you longer except to thank you once again for your cordial welcome and also for your assurance of co-operation with Government, on which I know I can confidently rely, in the difficult tasks which lie before them.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED BY THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY MUSLIM LEAGUES OF 1908 AND 1926 AND THE ANJUMAN-E-MUFID-E-AHL-E-ISLAM AND THE MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA, MADRAS.

H. E. the Viceroy replied in the following terms to the above Addresses of Welcome presented to him at Madras on the 12th December 1929.

Gentlemen,—Madras with its customary hospitality has been more than generous to Lady Irwin and myself in the number of addresses with which it has welcomed us this morning. We appreciate them very deeply, and none more than those offered to us by the Muslims of Madras Presidency. But I have had perforce to be as brief as possible in return, and this must be my excuse which I know you will accept for answering your three interesting addresses in one reply.



Addresses presented by the Madras Presidency Muslim League of 1908 and 1926 and the Anjuman-e-Mufid-e-Ahl-e-Islam and the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India, Madras.

In thanking you warmly for your welcome, it is in the first place my privilege to acknowledge the expression of your unfailing loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor, whose thoughts constantly go out to the people of India of every race and creed, and to whose heart no wish lies more near than that the humblest of his subjects may enjoy in growing measure the blessings of health and happiness.

The question which, as it appears from your addresses, is most seriously exercising the minds of Madras Muslims, as perhaps of Muslims throughout India, is the position of your community under whatever new form of constitution may be expected, after the present revision has been concluded. May I pause here for a moment to thank those of you who gave such a warm welcome to Sir John Simon and his colleagues when they visited Madras and helped them so materially in the prosecution of their all-important task. Anxiety, as I was saying, has been widely expressed as to the safeguarding of Muslim rights, as to the continuance of communal electorates, and the claim of Muhammadans that they should have at least a proportionate voice in such matters as popular representation and Government service. At a time when all such questions are engaging the anxious thought of the Statutory Commission, whose report will shortly be made known, you will not, I feel sure, expect me to hazard any forecast of the future. But I will certainly convey—as you have asked me to do—the purport of your wishes to His Majesty's Government, and you are no doubt aware that the Madras Government have recommended the continuance of separate electorates for Muslims in their memorandum to the Statutory Commission. There is however one thing that I will say, and it is this. Whatever the future may



Addresses presented by the Madras Presidency Muslim Leagues of 1908 and 1926 and the Anjuman-e-Mufid-e-Ahl-e-Islam and the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India, Madras.

hold in store for India, it must—so far as we can achieve it—be a future in which the just rights and liberties of all communities and all creeds shall be fairly and equitably upheld. And, as rights connote duties, the corollary of this must always be that rights secured to any community should be the means not merely of benefiting that community but of enabling them to take their allotted part in the wider citizenship of India, and make their due contribution to the common political life of the whole country.

On the question of the employment of Muslims in the public services, the general policy of Government is well known. The aim is to correct any unreasonable preponderance of particular communities in the services by taking special steps to admit duly qualified members of other communities. The Local Government have, I understand, given the fullest effect to this principle.

There is the particular question referred to in one of your addresses regarding the absence of any Muslim in the High Court of Madras. I am aware of the reply given in 1926 by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as Member of Council to the effect that Government would try to recruit a suitable Muslim if possible to the Bench. I am also aware of the serious disappointment of Muslims that no Muslim has been appointed in any subsequent officiating vacancy. But, while I am constrained to make it plain that appointments of High Court Judges are not and cannot be based on racial or communal considerations, I would repeat and confirm what the Local Government have previously said that the claims of Muslims for such posts, so far from being ignored, are most carefully and scrupulously considered on every occasion.

The ultimate solution of such difficulties as you have mentioned lies, as you yourselves recognise, in Muslims.



Addresses presented by the Madras Presidency Muslim Leagues of 1908 and 1926 and the Anjuman-e-Mufid-e-Ahl-e-Islam and the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India, Madras.

making good their claim, by education and otherwise, to an adequate share in the public services on the ground of merit alone. I am very glad therefore to have the opportunity this morning of meeting the representatives of two educational bodies which have done so much to improve the position of Muslims in the Presidency, both by technical training and higher education. I listened with pleasure to the tribute paid to the help given by Government and by individual Government officials in furthering these laudable objects.

If it is true that Muslims started late in the race for education, there is all the more value in societies such as yours in assisting to make up the leeway. And I trust that in doing so you will always keep the true function of education in your minds, viewing it not as a mere alley-way to a University degree and thence to Government service, but as an ever widening vista which, as it expands, becomes part of a man's whole life, and shows him the way in which he can best develop his natural gifts for the benefit of himself and his community and mankind. I am very glad to see from your address that you realise the important part which religion ought to play in the education of your children. The dangers which arise from the divorce of education from religion are patent in many parts of the world to-day. To exclude religion from the training of the youthful mind is as foolish and dangerous a proceeding as to build a pretentious house with no secure foundations. No doubt the question of what is the most appropriate means for fitting this religious teaching into your general educational system is one to which the answer depends upon varying circumstances, but, in the assertion of the general principle of the necessity of religious teaching, I wholly and warm-heartedly associate myself with what you have said.



Addresses presented by the Madras Presidency Muslim Leagues of 1908 and 1926 and the Anjuman-e-Mujid-e-Ahl-e-Islam and the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India, Madras.

Finally, I wish to refer to the Moplah question which has been mentioned this morning. As you know, large numbers of Moplahs who were convicted under the ordinary law have already been set at liberty before the expiry of their sentence, and this principle of premature release is being steadily pursued. Of the State prisoners detained under special laws, those who have hitherto been confined in jail are now being released in batches and will be kept under surveillance outside Malabar. This system of surveillance the Government of India have decided, after very careful consideration, it is not at present possible to modify. The general question, however, of releasing convicts and prisoners has received and will continue to receive constant attention by the Local Government, and it was, as you know, a matter in which your late Governor, Lord Goschen, took a warm and practical interest. It is the Local Government's settled policy to set at liberty those not concerned in the gravest offences as soon as ever they consider that it is safe to do so in the interests of the peace and safety of Malabar.

As regards your request for the repeal of the Moplah Outrages Act, it is unfortunately the case that the district of Malabar has in the past been subjected to a number of dangerous outbreaks, the most recent and the most serious of which took place only some seven or eight years ago. It would not be reasonable in these circumstances for Government to deprive themselves of the powers which have hitherto been regarded as indispensable for the purpose of bringing such outbreaks under control.

The colonisation scheme in pursuance of which Moplah convicts have been sent to the Andamans was very carefully devised in the interests of the convicts themselves



Addresses presented by the Madras Presidency Muslim Leagues of 1928 and 1926 and the Anjuman-e-Mufid-e-Ahl-e-Islam and the Muhammadan Educational Association of Southern India, Madras.

and, as explained in a resolution issued by the Government of India in October 1926, cannot now be annulled. This scheme was deemed by my Government to be the most humane solution of the problem how to deal with those who, at a time of fanatical excitement, were led into committing serious crimes against the State by the inflammatory utterances of their leaders. My Government have gone as far as it is possible for them to go in the direction you suggest by putting the scheme upon a voluntary basis, and giving facilities both for the return to Indian jails of any Moplah who wishes to go back, and, in the case of those who prefer to remain, for the conveyance of their wives and near relatives to the settlement. I would emphasise that the Moplah convict settlers in the Andamans live in comparative freedom in conditions very similar to those obtaining in Malabar; they are subject to a liberal system of remissions giving them a definite hope of release, and they enjoy security of tenure in their holdings of land. Since the report of the Jail Committee, to which you refer, all possible measures have been taken to improve the health of the islands; health statistics show a remarkable and steady change for the better, and medical facilities are available within a few miles of every village. There is no truth whatsoever in the suggestion that these islands are unfit for human habitation. On the contrary the islands are beginning to attract free settlers from various parts of India.

I must conclude, Gentlemen, by thanking you again warmly for your cordial welcome and by offering you all my good wishes for the prosperity of the Muslims of Madras Presidency.



ADDRESS FROM THE CATHOLIC INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

In reply to the Address presented by the Catholic Indian Association of Southern India at Madras on the 12th December, 1929.
H. E. the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen,—I thank you for the cordial welcome which you have given to me to-day and, as representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor, it is my privilege to acknowledge your expression of loyalty to the Crown and your assurance of steadfast co-operation with Government, to which I have listened with much gratification.

The history of the rise and spread of Christianity in Southern India dates back many centuries and is one of absorbing interest. I count myself fortunate to have been able now to see for myself during my tour so much evidence both of its past history and of the continued existence of its great traditions. Among the roll of Christian workers in Southern India, the names of St. Francis Xavier—of whom it has been said that “his torn cassock and rough cloth cap were symbols of a faith that looked for no earthly reward”—and of Robert de Nobili are perhaps the most famous in the annals of your Church. Neither they nor their work can ever be forgotten, and the missionary zeal which inspired them is one which continues in these days to find vigorous and generous expression. You have spoken of the services of the Christian communities in the field of education and social progress. I am glad to be able to echo your words in this respect and to add my personal testimony, based on what I have seen throughout India, to their selfless work in all good causes, and, above all, in the care and succour of the sick—a work particularly enjoined by the principles of Christianity. I have heard much of the noble and self-sacrificing labours of your own priests in South India, of their frugal lives and devotion to duty, and I should find it difficult to praise adequately



Address from the Catholic Indian Association of Southern India.

the inestimable work they have done and are doing for the people of this country.

You have referred in your Address to a subject which must be occupying all our minds, the nature of the reforms to be made in the constitution, and you have made particular mention of the question of the representation of Indian Christians in the Central and Local Legislatures. It is not, of course, within my sphere to determine the nature of these reforms, nor would it be proper for me at this stage to discuss the considerations and materials on which the decisions of those responsible will be based. I can, however, assure you that His Majesty's Government will, when the time comes for them to consider these matters, desire to give the most sympathetic attention to the needs of every community.

You have also mentioned, in this connection, that no Indian Roman Catholic has been nominated, since the system of nomination was introduced, to certain All-India Services or to commissioned rank in the Army. You will realise that, in making such nominations, the first consideration must be that of the efficiency of the services concerned, and I am confident that, in the interests of the country, you would not wish it otherwise. You may however feel satisfied that the case of every candidate for such nomination, whether from your or any other community, is, and will be, scrutinised with the greatest care, and I trust that before long you may succeed in securing the acceptance on their merits of candidates in whom you are interested. As regards appointments to the public service made by the Local Government, I am satisfied that the question of adequate representation of the various communities is a subject of their close and constant attention. With this object in view, they have laid down certain



Address from the Catholic Indian Association of Southern India.

principles under which one appointment in six in each service is allotted to Anglo-Indians and Christians (including Europeans), provided always that qualified men are available. I do not think that I can say any more on this subject except that it is my earnest wish, as much as yours, to see members of your community taking their full part in the public service of this Presidency and of India as a whole.

I am well aware of the importance of road and railway development, both as a means of stimulating trade and thereby adding to the prosperity of the people, and also in bringing the amenities of modern civilisation within reach of a larger proportion of the population. The whole question of roads is now being thoroughly investigated by the Local Government in pursuance of the report of the Road Development Committee and I am sure that they will take whatever measures in this direction are practicable, consistently with their duty as custodians of the public funds. Progress in railway development is being maintained. During the year 1928-29, 225 miles of new lines were opened, 60 miles have been opened during the current year and work is in progress for the opening of another 175 miles.

And now, Gentlemen, I must thank you once again for your warm welcome and for the loyal sentiments to which you have given expression. It has been a great pleasure to meet you here to-day and to learn from you personally the needs and wishes of your community. By our meeting you have brought these more clearly to my mind, and I shall henceforth follow with the greater interest and goodwill the work and the fortunes of those for whom you have to-day been spokesmen.



ADDRESSES FROM THE ARUNDHATIYA MAHA
SABHA, ADI DRAVIDA MAHAJANA CENTRAL
SABHA, MADRAS, AND THE MADRAS PROVINCIAL
DEPRESSED CLASSES FEDERATION.

12th Decem-
ber 1929.

H. E. the Viceroy replied as follows to the above addresses presented to him at Madras on the 12th December :—

Gentlemen,—I have been forced by pressure of time to adopt the expedient of thanking you for your five addresses in one reply, but I should like to offer you severally my warmest thanks, and those of Lady Irwin, for the kind way in which you have welcomed us to Madras.

I can assure you that ever since I came to India I have given constant thought to the problem of the Depressed Classes. I have followed with interest the various measures employed to improve their condition, such as the acquisition of land for houses, burial grounds and cultivation, the construction of wells, the organisation of co-operative societies, and the provision of educational facilities by scholarships and otherwise. The appointment of Mr. Rajah to the Indian Central Committee, which co-operated with the Statutory Commission, was evidence that Government were determined that your case should not go unrepresented. Much has been done both by Government and by Government officers, by leaders of public opinion like Mr. Gandhi, by social reformers and Christian missionaries, and I am sure that you appreciate the efforts that have been made on your behalf. But you realise no doubt that the age-long disabilities from which the depressed classes have been suffering cannot be removed in the twinkling of an eye. The process of their alleviation must of necessity be gradual, and in this process you yourselves have your part to play. The problem is one which neither Government nor individual social reformers unaided can wholly solve. It is only those who respect themselves that will obtain respect from others, and this battle a man must fight for himself. He must learn that habits of thrift will improve his standard of life, his general well-being and



Addresses from the Arundhatiya Maha Sabha, Adi Dravida Mahajana Central Sabha, Madras, and the Madras Provincial Depressed Classes Federation.

happiness, that cleanliness, both moral and physical, endows mind and body with vigour, that temperance will save him from many forms of degradation. The existence of such societies as I am now addressing leads me to hope that you realise how far the salvation of your community lies in your own hands. But above all things I would appeal for unity among the different classes which compose your community. Union is strength, and the assertion of your claims for equitable treatment must be seriously delayed if your ranks are weakened by dissension.

Although it is thus to a certain extent within your power to improve your own condition, there are difficult obstacles to surmount unless you can find a helping hand from those more fortunately placed than yourselves. Life is a stern school, and one in which it is not always possible to rise from class to class by one's own unaided efforts. I do not dwell in detail on the particular aspects in which you feel your disabilities, to which you have referred this morning. I appreciate of course their importance in your daily life, but they are part of a wider question, on which through you I may in fact address a wider audience, an audience which I hope and believe is ready to listen to your appeals and to hold out a hand to assist you in raising your status in society.

The very term "depressed classes" provokes the thinking mind to enquire on every ground of justice and humanity what the justification may be for such debasement. Is there, I wonder, a synonym in any other country for the term "depressed classes"? I doubt it. There are social inequalities everywhere, injustices which any one with a soul would wish to set right, contrasts between poverty and riches which it is difficult to justify. But where else in the world is a man by the accident of birth



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irrevocably denied the barest possibility of ever sharing with his fellow men so many of the things that make life worth living ? Few men would think twice about stretching out a helping hand to rescue a drowning man, or would have it in their hearts to knock away the hand on the boat by which the unfortunate man was clinging to the hope of life. And yet I am forced to believe that there are many who are able unmoved to watch their fellow human beings caught in the quicksands of social ostracism, and yet feel themselves debarred by a religious and social philosophy from stirring a finger on their behalf. I am only repeating what many people have said before. You may remember some memorable words used by a great public man and a great speaker, the late Mr. Gokhale. "I think", he said, "all fair-minded persons will have to admit that it is absolutely monstrous that a class of human beings, with bodies similar to our own, with brains that can think and with hearts that can feel, should be perpetually condemned to a low life of utter wretchedness, servitude and mental and moral degradation, and that permanent barriers should be placed in their way, so that it should be impossible for them ever to overcome them and improve their lot".

But words too often fall upon deaf ears, and I make no excuse for adding my appeal to those which have gone before.

All the world knows the greatness of the Hindu religion, its power for good as a religious and a social force, its ideals of national and family life, its inspiration in art and literature, its vitality and absorbent powers. With its roots deep in the soil of antiquity it has produced a civilisation which has stood the test of time. In that civilisation, barriers of caste are a recognised feature and have, no doubt, served a useful purpose in the various stages of its progress. But the world never stands still,



Address from the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association of Southern India.

and, looking at the political, intellectual and economic forces by which it is to-day being moved, I cannot doubt that a tenet which aims at debarring millions of human beings from concourse with their fellows must in the end prove a grave weakness to Hindu society.

As I have already said I do not believe that it is by any sudden convulsion that reform in these matters will come. But, when in so many other ways I see signs of the stimulating of national consciousness in India, I cannot but believe that hand in hand with this will come a quickening of sympathy with the depressed classes and a desire to see them given their proper place in both the social and political life of their Motherland. Meanwhile I wish you well in your task of so organising and educating opinion both within and without your own classes, that in your own generation you may see steady advance made towards the ideal of equal opportunity being afforded to all the sons and daughters of India to do her service.

ADDRESS FROM THE ANGLO-INDIAN AND DOMICILED EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

H. E. the Viceroy made the following reply to the address presented to him by the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association of Southern India at Madras on the 12th December :—

12th December 1929.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—Let me begin by thanking you very warmly for the welcome and good wishes you have just offered to Lady Irwin and myself and by expressing the pleasure I feel at meeting representatives of your community this morning. My visit to the Presidency would indeed have seemed to me incomplete had I lost the opportunity of hearing at first hand the views and problems of the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Community of Southern India. For in this oldest of the Presidencies, where the British connection with



Address from the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association of Southern India.

India first established itself, it is natural that your community should play an important part. And, whether here or in other parts of India, the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Community is one with which I feel that all Englishmen must have a special sympathy. For my own part I can assure you that, since I have been in India, the desirability of finding a solution of the many difficulties which face your community to-day has never been far from my thoughts.

It is easy to appreciate the anxiety with which you, as a small and distinctive minority community, view the problems involved in the future government of the country. Indeed, among the complicated questions that confront those who are endeavouring to devise new forms of constitution, none is more difficult than the means of ensuring adequate protection to the various minorities. I believe that the Madras Government in their memorandum to the Statutory Commission have recommended that the existing separate representation for the Anglo-Indian Community in the local Legislative Council may be retained, and I have no doubt that this is one of the various important matters to which Sir John Simon and his colleagues have given their earnest consideration.

You have also your special difficulties in the effect which the tendencies of the present day may have as regards the continued employment of members of your community on the existing scale in the public services. I can only assure you that my Government have given their most careful attention to the special problems which have arisen in this connection ; for it has to be recognised that changing conditions in India and the increased competition of Indians for posts in the public service must constantly make the question of Anglo-Indian employment more acute. Though Government have no easy specific to offer to deal with this problem, they have adopted a policy intended to prevent any rapid displacement of Anglo-Indians from the branches



State Banquet at Hyderabad.

of the public service in which they are at present employed in considerable numbers, and to give the community time to consider their position and adjust themselves to the conditions of the future.

Whatever the difficulties facing your community may be, your Association has, I am glad to observe, always had a clear idea of what is the best way of meeting them. I admire the wisdom of your founder in foreseeing that the advancement of your community would, as India developed, depend more and more on its own capacity to organise and assist itself. As you have said, your chief activity has lain in the field of education, and there is I think no better way in which you could have combined your efforts than in joining to provide some at least of your boys and girls with a sound school and college education.

I wish you every success in your endeavours, gentlemen, which I am sure are conceived with the single object of enabling those you represent to play a part in the constantly changing life of India worthy of their past and worthy of what it may be in their power to give. I understand that much of your effort is directed to building up a fund for the creation of scholarships, and, as it is always a pleasure to help, in however small a way, those who help themselves, I hope that you will allow me to subscribe a sum of Rs. 2,000 to your future endowment of that purpose. The sum is not a large one or commensurate with your needs, but it is an earnest of my warm solicitude for the future of your community and of my hope that they may continue to find opportunities for service to the great country which has become their home.

STATE BANQUET AT HYDERABAD.

H. E. the Viceroy delivered the following speech at the State Banquet at Hyderabad on the 16th December :—

16th Decem-
ber 1929.

Your Exalted Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am, as Your Exalted Highness has said, one of a long line