

*State Banquet at Imphal.*

It was a great disappointment to Lady Irwin and to me two years ago when urgent and important business called me back to Delhi and forced me to cancel the visit to Manipur to which we had been so keenly looking forward. My regret was all the greater because I was fully conscious of the trouble to which our sudden change of plan must have put Your Highness and Your Highness' officials.

As Your Highness has just said, it is nearly 30 years since Lord Curzon, that much travelled Viceroy, came to Manipur. The ways of Viceroys are always mysterious, and it is a mystery to me why other Viceroys have denied themselves the pleasure of visiting this beautiful corner of North-Eastern India. The truth is that we have not always time to follow out our own inclinations, nor has it always been possible to perform the journey to Imphal with the ease and comfort in which we have travelled here today. The magnificent motor road which now connects the capital with the railway line, 134 miles away, has indeed changed the conditions of travel since Lord Curzon did his journey by bridle path through Silchar.

Much else has happened in the intervening space of 30 years. At that time Your Highness was a boy, but you may remember that Lord Curzon spoke of the good education you had received, and promised that as long as your rule was good and you showed justice and benevolence to your people you would be supported by the British Government.

It is a great pleasure to me to be able to say tonight that I believe that the hopes expressed by Lord Curzon have been fully realised. The part Your Highness played in the Great War is still fresh in our memories. Not only did you offer the British Government the resources of your State, but you placed your personal services and those of your men at their disposal. That generous offer was carried into practice by Your Highness supplying

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a double company for service in the army and for motor ambulances, and also a labour corps which went on service to France.

Before the Great War had ended, the Kuki rebellion gave Your Highness a further opportunity of displaying your loyalty to and support of Government. I read lately the resolution in which Sir Nicholas Beatson-Bell, the Governor of Assam at that time, placed on record his high appreciation of Your Highness' attitude throughout the rebellion, and of your statesmanlike view of the problems connected with it. He emphasised especially the good effect produced by Your Highness' tours in the valley and by your presence in one of the expeditions, and he ended by expressing hope, which I warmly echo this evening, that never again will Your Highness' rule be disturbed by any unrest among your subjects. Following on this unrest Your Highness gave practical proof of your desire to improve the administration of the hill tribes in the State by consenting to the employment of sub-divisional officers in the hills under the control of the President of the Durbar. More recently your decision to allow a responsible body of missionaries to carry on medical and educational work among the Kukis is further evidence of your determination to fulfil your obligations as a ruler. I think I need scarcely say that it is in recognition of the sincere desire of Your Highness, expressed in words and translated into action, to meet the wishes of Government in such ways as I have just described, that Your Highness' State has received from time to time liberal treatment in the matter of financial assistance.

Before I conclude I should like to offer Your Highness and your people my sympathy in the loss to life and property caused in the State by the recent earthquake and the floods of the previous year. It gave my Government the greatest pleasure to assist towards the reparation of the damage caused by the floods by granting a



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substantial loan to Your Highness, and by agreeing for a further period of three years to let the tribute stand at five thousand instead of fifty thousand rupees on the understanding that the savings are utilised for expenditure in the hills.

It remains only to thank Your Highness once more for the great kindness you have done us by inviting us to Manipur. We only wish that time could have permitted us to make a longer stay. Our visit has given us the privilege of making the acquaintance of Your Highness and of many of Your Highness' people, and the warm interest which we shall always take in everything that concerns your State will be quickened by the personal memories we shall retain of all the kindness which has been shown to us here.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you now to join me in drinking long life and prosperity to our host His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur.

SHILLONG MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

His Excellency the Viceroy received addresses of 10th January welcome from the Shillong Municipal Board and the Siems 1931. of the Khasi and Jaintia people at Shillong on 10th January 1931 and replied as follows :—

Gentlemen,—It has given Lady Irwin and myself the greatest pleasure to have been welcomed with such kindness on our arrival in Shillong by the residents of the capital and by the Siems and representatives of the Khasi and Jaintia people, and on her behalf and on my own I thank you very warmly for all that you have said in the two addresses to which we have just listened. We had of course often heard of the beauty of your hill station and of the country which surrounds it, and now at last we are able to see for ourselves that those who sang its praises have in no way exaggerated. Indeed I fully agree with those who, whether right in their

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etymology or not, derive the name of Assam from the Sanskrit word which in English means "the peerless".

It is therefore all the greater satisfaction, Mr. Chairman, to have your assurance that the Municipal Board of this town are so fully alive to the obligation incumbent upon them of making Shillong in every way worthy of the material with which Nature has endowed it. Now that you have an elected majority on the Board, the general body of voters shares with you the responsibility of keeping your municipal services up to date in every way, and I trust that the people of Shillong will always insist on the maintenance of high standards in these matters. I listened with pleasure, Mr. Chairman, to the tribute you paid to the work being done in the important field of public health by the Welsh Mission Hospital and the Pasteur Institute, a work which must surely be of great and lasting service to the people of this Province.

The interest of our visit to your capital has been greatly added to by the presence of the Siems and representatives of the Khasi and Jaintia people, some of whom have I know performed arduous journeys to welcome us here today. Your address, gentlemen, has properly recalled the ancient history of your race, its national pride and its virile character. It possesses in marked degree an attribute which, in days gone by, made the men of my own race famous as fighting men, a natural skill in archery. The conditions of society and administration in your hills have been well set forth in the memoranda prepared by the Government of this Province for the Statutory Commission, and the Commission themselves have clearly stated the problem of your future administration as it presented itself to them. This, along with the general question of certain kindred tracts in other parts of India, is a matter which is now within the purview of His Majesty's Government and the Conference now assembled in London. I will not therefore

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say more than that, whatever the constitutional development may be, I have no doubt that the rights and privileges of the Siems will be safeguarded, and that, so far as may be practicable, steps will be taken to preserve the national individuality of the Khasi race. This, I know, is a matter in which—as in all others affecting the welfare of this Province and its people—His Excellency Sir Laurie Hammond takes a close personal interest, and of which he has a wide and sympathetic knowledge. I will only make one comment of a general kind. A desire has I think been expressed by some of the Khasis and Syuntengs that the district excluding the Siemships should be made a regulation district and should not be included in what are now known as the backward tracts. The reactions of such a step upon those Khasis who live in Siems' territory is clearly an important consideration in coming to a decision on this matter. For I think it may be laid down as an axiom that the introduction of the land revenue system, with the free transfer and purchase of land, the establishment of Courts of Justice under the Calcutta High Court, the imposition possibly of a road cess, in fact all the administrative improvements which would accompany the inclusion of the British portion of the district as part and parcel of Assam proper, would be likely to result in the Khasi States being drawn by economic competition to follow the line of development adopted in the rest of the district.

May I, in conclusion, thank once again all those who have gathered here today for the very kind reception that has been given to Lady Irwin and myself. Our time in India is, to our great regret, drawing near its close, and my present tour is probably my last in British India. All the more vivid therefore will be the picture we shall take away with us of your beautiful country and its friendly people, and we shall never cease to wish you and all the people of Assam a full measure of happiness and prosperity.



ADDRESS AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE FOURTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

17th January
1931.

His Excellency the Viceroy delivered the following Address at the opening Session of the Fourth Legislative Assembly on the 17th January 1931 :—

Gentlemen,—It is my privilege today to welcome Members of this House to the opening session of the fourth Legislative Assembly. Among them are many who have already made their names in public life, and, if we regret, as we must, the absence of some who have hitherto been frequent participants in our debates, we are glad to see again many, who are well known to the Assembly, along with others of proved quality in other fields, who have come forward to serve their country in this sphere.

My first duty is to offer my sincere congratulations to your President on his election to his responsible and honourable office. He brings to his duties a wide experience of public affairs and of legislative procedure, and I am confident that he will discharge his important functions with dignity and with wise impartiality. Though the election has on this occasion been contested, I have no doubt that, now the decision of the House has been taken, the President will on all occasions be able to count upon the loyal support of all parties and persons in it.

I would have wished that this Assembly might have been convened for its first meeting at such a date as would have enabled those of its members, who have attended the Round Table Conference, to be in their places at the beginning of the session. There are however certain fixed dates and certain requirements of procedure which have limited my choice in this matter. The Railway Budget must be completed in time to permit us to bring the second-half of the general Budget before the House at the beginning of March. Moreover, on the occasion of a new



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Assembly, the Standing Finance Committee and the Railway Standing Finance Committee, which at other times complete the greater part of their task before the beginning of the session, have to be reconstituted. There are also important measures of legislation, to which I must presently refer, and for which it was clearly essential to give ample time for discussion. These were all reasons which would have made delay inconvenient.

On this particular occasion too I was anxious that the work of the session should be completed before I laid down my office, and, as the date of my departure from India was uncertain until a week or two ago, I felt it desirable if possible to conclude our business by about the third week in March. For these reasons I decided to summon the House in the middle of January, and I trust that this may not have exposed Hon'ble Members to inconvenience. It has meant, I fear, the absence today of certain prominent members from their places, but, while regretting this, I trust I have made plain the reasons that appeared to preclude the adoption of any other course.

The same considerations of urgency did not apply to the Council of State, and, as their session will not open until February, I have had to forego the pleasure of addressing them on this occasion. I shall hope, however, towards the close of the session to ask the Members of both Houses to give me an opportunity of taking my formal farewell of the Central Legislature.

For myself this occasion must necessarily be tinged with regret. For it marks the opening of the last session of the Legislature with which I shall be concerned, and it brings nearer the day when I shall have to say good-bye to many friends in India, amongst whom I am fortunate to



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count large numbers, who are and who have been Members of this House. I am however happy to think that, when the time comes for me to lay down the responsibilities of my present charge, I shall hand them over to one, well known to India, who is singularly well qualified to guide her destinies at this particular juncture, and who has during a long and distinguished period of Indian public service already assured for himself a place in the esteem and friendship of very many of India's people.

Before I speak of the legislative and other business which will come before the House this session, there are certain important matters of more than departmental interest, which deserve mention.

Our relations with Foreign States along the whole of our great land frontier continue to be of a cordial character. On the North-West Frontier the disturbances, which marred the spring and summer months of last year, have subsided, and, except in our relations with the Afridis, normal conditions may be said now to have been generally restored. As a result of two unprovoked invasions of the Peshawar District during the summer by lashkars of certain sections of the Afridi tribe, it was decided by my Government, with the concurrence of His Majesty's Government, to take measures for the protection of Peshawar against this danger, by preventing hostile concentrations from again using the Khajuri and Aka Khel plain, on the western border of the Peshawar District, as a base for such attacks. In pursuance of this decision some miles of road have been or are being constructed to link up the plain with adjoining areas in which communications have been developed, and portions of the plain have been occupied by troops with negligible opposition. A considerable number of troops have been employed under



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very severe climatic conditions in these operations, and have carried out their duties with the cheerfulness and efficiency that is always characteristic of the Army in India.

The situation created by the Afridi incursions compelled my Government, in the interest of the public safety, to impose Martial Law in the Peshawar District. The Chief Commissioner was appointed Chief Administrator of Martial Law, and made every effort to ensure that there should be as little interference as possible with the ordinary administration. In this he was successful, and, now that provision has been made otherwise for the continuance of certain emergency powers under a public Safety Regulation, the Martial Law Ordinance is being withdrawn.

With the approval of my Government, the Chief Commissioner in July last gave an undertaking that the administration of the five districts of the Province would be scrutinised, and if, on comparison with the adjoining districts of the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province administration appeared to be in any way deficient, especially in its beneficent activities, steps would be taken, as funds admitted, to remedy the defects. The Chief Commissioner's proposals in fulfilment of this undertaking are now under consideration. Among other measures, the reassessment which was recently made of the Peshawar District has been revised to bring it into accord with the Punjab Land Revenue Amendment Act, with the result that the total assessment was reduced by some Rs. 60,000.

Questions affecting Indians overseas have as always claimed the special attention of my Government. When I last addressed this House, I referred briefly to the Land Tenure Bill introduced in the Assembly of the Union of South Africa, which had caused considerable alarm among



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Indians in the Transvaal. My Government sought counsel from the Standing Committee on Emigration on the far-reaching provisions of this measure, and received from them valuable advice to guide them in their line of approach to this difficult and delicate problem. We fully recognise the serious implications of the Bill, and in particular the effect it must have on the trading and business interests of the Indian community in the Transvaal. We are aware too of the feelings of deep concern which the Bill has aroused amongst those whose interests are threatened, and of the sympathy which is felt for them by their compatriots in South Africa and in this country. I have given this question much anxious thought and personal attention. Every opportunity has been taken of representing the Indian point of view, and, as our Agent—Sir Kurma Reddi—announced at the recent conference of the South African Indian Congress, our views will be communicated to the Union Government. It is unnecessary to assure the House that we are making every endeavour, in co-operation with the Union Government, to secure an equitable solution, and I earnestly hope that the negotiations to be conducted by our representative will result, after full and frank discussion, in an agreement satisfactory to both sides.

Turning to East Africa, Hon'ble Members will remember that the conclusions of His Majesty's Government have now been referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. My Government are not ignorant of how widespread is the anxiety on the several questions that are involved, and they have submitted their views to this Committee through His Majesty's Secretary of State for India. We have further requested permission to present our case through a representative from India. I am glad



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to inform the House that, in the event of that request being accepted, it is hoped that our spokesman will be the Right Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri, whose readiness to undertake any duty in the service of his country has ever been so conspicuous a characteristic of his public career, and who is shortly returning from the Conference to resume his seat on the Royal Commission on Labour under the Chairmanship of the Right Hon'ble Mr. Whitley. That Commission, after sparing no pains to see for themselves the labour conditions of India and to hear all shades of opinion, are now engaged in drafting their report, and Hon'ble Members, who will be grateful to them for the manner in which they have prosecuted their enquiry, will also be glad to hear that they expect to be able to complete their work next March.

I turn now to the main items of the business which will claim the attention of Hon'ble Members. It will be part of your task to consider the measures for maintaining the financial position of India, which will be placed before you in due course by my Government, and I venture to say that there can have been no period in the history of the country when financial problems have needed not only so much earnest consideration but also the co-operation of all the forces in India, which have power to help the situation. In using these words I have in mind not merely the needs created by the present economic crisis, but the task of finding adequate financial resources to give the new constitution now under discussion a favourable start.

India, like the rest of the world, has suffered seriously from an almost universal trade depression, and in the nature of things has felt the full weight of the collapse in world prices of agricultural products. The troubles, arising from this state of affairs, as I recently had cause



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to point out, are being seriously aggravated by the disturbances resulting from the civil disobedience movement. I do not wish to dwell at length on this aspect of that movement today, nor indeed is it profitable to indulge in recriminations about the past. What concerns us is the present and the future, and I would ask all Hon'ble Members to ponder deeply on the injury which the present dissensions are causing to the economic life of the country.

If only distrust and attempts to paralyse Government could be replaced by a spirit of mutual confidence and co-operation, then even in spite of the world crisis we might see the dawn of a new optimism in India, and the opening of new ways for the recuperation and development of her economic strength.

There are in particular two aspects of the civil disobedience movement to which I must invite the attention of Hon'ble Members.

A little less than a month ago, I felt it my duty to have recourse again to the special powers, which I took last year, for the better control of the Press and of unauthorised news-sheets and newspapers, and for dealing with persons who may instigate others to refuse the fulfilment of certain lawful obligations. In doing so I expressed my regret that the urgent nature of the emergency, which necessitated the promulgation of these Ordinances, had not allowed me to await the meeting of the Central Legislature, but I indicated the intention of my Government to bring these matters before this House at the earliest opportunity. That intention we now propose to carry into effect by introducing legislation on these two subjects forthwith, and I must therefore briefly review the main factors which have led us to this decision.



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A political movement must be judged and dealt with, not according to the professions of those who initiate it or carry it into effect, but in the light of practical results. Whatever may be, or have been, the true object underlying the present civil disobedience movement, Government still sees in many parts of India determined efforts to substitute another authority for its own and to interfere with the maintenance of law and order, of which Government is the constituted guardian. I need not at this stage detail the several forms which such activities have taken. But none I think is more pernicious, or more cruel to those whom it endeavours to mislead, than the pressure put upon payers of land revenue and other liabilities, to withhold payments that they are legally bound to make. In certain parts of the country those responsible for this movement have successfully instigated the withholding of such payments, and in other parts vigorous efforts are being made to this end. It is very easy to see how such a programme can be put forward in attractive guise, especially at a time when the low prices of agricultural products have unhappily created a situation of great gravity. I would once more make it very plain that the special powers taken by Government are in no way intended to modify the usual policy, followed by Local Governments, of granting suspension or remission of land revenue, when economic circumstances demand it. Indeed, while the necessity of combating these insidious and dangerous attempts to cripple the administration constrained me to take these powers, I attach great importance to them as a means by which the small agriculturists may be saved from the effects of such propaganda by people, who themselves have little to lose, but who are callously ready to involve the small landholder in the risks of legal processes and even forfeiture of his land.



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Legislation on this subject will accordingly be laid before you.

We also propose to ask this House to give legislative sanction for a limited period to the provisions contained in the Press Ordinance issued a few weeks ago. Apart from the activities of the kind to which I have just referred, and which in themselves constitute so grave a menace to the public tranquility, we have lately witnessed a disturbing increase in those crimes of violence, which have deeply stained the fair name of India and which, I know, are as abhorrent to the members of this House as they are to all other reasonable persons.

The experience of the past few months leaves no doubt as to the existence of an organisation, whose insane objective it is to promote the overthrow of established Government by the deliberate creation of a state of terrorism. I know that the vast majority of Indians deplore the growth of a movement wholly foreign to their traditions and instincts, and I see in the wide condemnation of outrages, and in particular in the indignation evoked by the attack on His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab, a growing recognition of the urgent and paramount need of removing this malignant cancer in the life of India. I desire to express my deep sympathy with the relatives of all who have fallen victims at the hands of assassins, and I gladly pay a high tribute to the skill and courage of those, who at the constant risk of their lives are engaged in the detection and prevention of terrorist plans. The devotion to duty of the officers, high and low, of every department of Government, in difficult and often dangerous circumstances, has been a feature of the past year of which all branches of the service may well feel proud. I and my Government in our sphere shall spare no effort to protect our officers and the public; but,



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whatever action Government may take in this matter, it cannot achieve complete success, unless it is assisted by the whole-hearted determination of every citizen to stamp out so evil a thing from their society. I earnestly appeal to all, who have at heart India's good name, to show by action and words, which will admit of no doubt or reservation, that they regard the terrorist movement with repugnance, and those who are actively engaged in it, or extend to it their sympathy or support, as the worst enemies of India.

Among other influences which have undoubtedly tended to the encouragement of such revolutionary methods and violent crime, are certain sections of the Press, whose reiterated laudation of false sentiment and of distorted patriotism lead all too often to the injection of deadly poison into a certain type of mind. Fair criticism of the administration or of our constitutional proposals I do not fear; I rather welcome it. But, when the great power of the Press is diverted from its true functions to dangerous and destructive doctrine, Government can no longer stand aside.

I am very well aware that the two projects of legislation to which I have referred must excite keen discussion and perhaps controversy, and I would gladly have avoided controversy at this time had I felt it to be possible. Profoundly hoping as I do that the outcome of the Round Table Conference may be to assist the speedy restoration of normal conditions, I should have preferred, if I could, to suspend action, and await the advent of a situation in which special powers would no longer be required. But, so far as the terrorist movement is concerned, there is little ground for supposing that those who direct it are likely to be deterred from their course by constitutional agreements that may be reached, and, for the rest, it is not



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possible for Government to play the rôle of benevolent spectators, so long as those, who have been endeavouring to destroy its foundations at every point, show no sign of abating their activities. It therefore seemed clear to my Government that, in the face of these facts, it would be a dereliction of our duty to refrain from taking the necessary protective action, and it also seemed clear to them that on such vital issues the Members of this House had both the right and the duty to express their views. I am confident that, when they examine our proposals, they will do so with a deep sense of the responsibility, which they share with Government, for preserving the peace and stability of the country.

I have never concealed my view that action of this kind, necessary as it is, will not of itself give us the remedy that we seek for present discontents. And, during the past two months, the thoughts of all, who have believed that honourable agreement is not beyond our grasp, have been focussed upon the proceedings of the Conference in London. There were those, both in India and Great Britain, who openly scorned its meeting, and, both before and since it met, have made scant concealment of their hope that it would fail, little mindful of the gravity of the times, and of the need for their redemption on both sides by practical and courageous statesmanship. From the outset, there were many among the delegates from India who must have been conscious of the fact that their own faith in the efficiency of constitutional methods was not shared by many of their compatriots. In these circumstances, it demanded from them no small degree of political courage to disregard the powerful pressure to which they were exposed, and men of every opinion can well afford to recognise the sense of public duty, which impelled them to do what they deemed right in the face



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of much bitter contumely. Of those who went to England, there is one, to whom I must make a special reference, for I feel assured that we should all wish to join in an expression of deep sorrow that one of the most notable personalities of the Conference should not have been permitted to witness the outcome of the labours, to which, as it proved, he gave his last days of life.

The Conference, graciously opened by His Majesty the King-Emperor, is now about to conclude its labours, and we await with eager interest the announcement to be made by the Prime Minister in the next few days. Pending that announcement I content myself with pointing to certain things, which already stand out in sharp relief.

The first undoubtedly is the recognition by the Indian States of the essential unity of all India, and their readiness to take their full share in designing the instruments of Government, through which that conception of unity may gain concrete expression and effect. I do not under-rate the difficulties that still have to be surmounted before these aspirations can be realised in their entirety. But those need not blind us to the far-reaching and deep significance of the step taken by the States' representatives in London. I scarcely think I exaggerate when I say that the historian a hundred years hence, commenting on these times, will find in it the turning point of the constitutional history of India.

The Conference has had two further results that seem to me of incalculable value. At the time of its convention the atmosphere was clouded with misunderstandings on both sides. Opinion in Great Britain was ill-informed of the realities of thought in India ; opinion in India, even in circles where so-called moderate views prevailed, was suspicious and sceptical of the purpose of Great Britain.



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If ignorance and suspicion still linger, they represent the rear-guard and no longer the main body of opinion in the two countries. Great Britain has realised, as she has heard it at first-hand from all sections of the Indian delegation, something of the new forces that are animating the political thought of India, while India, feeling no longer that she is misunderstood, is better prepared to recognise that British statesmen have approached the problem, not indeed ignoring real difficulties, but with a single will to find means by which they may be speedily and securely resolved.

And thus it might appear that all, who have longed to see the Conference bear fruit for the true healing of the nations, may take new hope. The London discussions have revealed a genuine desire on all sides to find practical means, by which speedy and substantial recognition may be given to the natural claims of Indian political thought. There is no one who will not deplore the fact that the work of the Conference should have been so gravely impeded by that problem, which continues to occupy so pre-eminent and unfortunate a place in the domestic life of India. Any constitution that is to work smoothly must obviously command the confidence of all communities, and in this matter India can help herself more than anybody else can help her. I would most earnestly trust that leaders of all communities would once more come together, resolved no longer to allow the constitutional progress of India to be impeded by this cause, or India herself to lie under this reproach of internal discord and mistrust. Apart from this, it is evident that, to many of those participating in the Conference, the influence of personal contact with men of differing views, along with the inspiration of the new and wider vision of a United India that the Conference has unfolded, has had



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the effect of presenting an old problem in new guise, and of leading them to revise some of their earlier views upon it. That way lies the best possibility for both countries of return to the conditions of peace and harmony that we all desire.

Many times during the last twelve months thoughtful men and women must have pondered deeply over what has been one of their most poignant and perplexing features. However mistaken any man may think him to be, and however deplorable may appear the results of the policy associated with his name, no one can fail to recognise the spiritual force, which impels Mr. Gandhi to count no sacrifice too great in the cause, as he believes, of the India that he loves. And I fancy that, though he on his side too thinks those who differ from him to be the victims of a false philosophy, Mr. Gandhi would not be unwilling to say that men of my race, who are today responsible for Government in India, were sincere in their attempt to serve her. It has been one of the tragedies of this time that where ultimate purposes have perhaps differed little, if at all, the methods employed by some should have been, as I conceive, far more calculated to impede than to assist the accomplishment of that largely common end. And, deeply as I crave to see the dawn of a happier day in India, I am bound, so long as a movement designed to undermine and sap the foundations of Government holds the front place in the programme of the great Congress organisation, to resist it to the uttermost of my strength. Is it not now possible, I would ask, for those responsible for this policy to try another course that, in the light on the one hand of sinister events in India, and on the other of the encouragement offered to India by the progress of the Conference in England, would seem to be the more excellent way? A great deal remains to be

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done, for it has long been generally recognised that, if and when the broad lines of constitutional revision could be drawn, much subsequent detailed thought would be required for its adjustment to the particular circumstances of India. Quite evidently it would be for the good of India that all the best elements both here and in Great Britain should join hands in the work of elaborating and bringing to fruition the undertaking so well begun in London, and thus place the seal of friendship once again upon the relations of two peoples, whom unhappy circumstances have latterly estranged. On the wide basis of friendship and mutual respect alone can we confidently build the structure of a strong and self-reliant India, one within herself and one with the other partners in the British Commonwealth. I feel confident that I can count on every member of this House to lend at all times such assistance as may be in his power to the furtherance of a work, so fraught with consequence to the welfare of India, of Great Britain, and of that Empire, in which I very earnestly pray India may for all time be proud to take her place.

OPENING OF THE ALL-INDIA POLICE CONFERENCE.

19th January
1931.

His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the All-India Police Conference on Monday, the 19th January 1931, said :—

Gentlemen,—It has given me the greatest pleasure to come here today and open the third All-India Police Conference and to meet so many representatives of the Police service from all parts of India. It is not my intention to say much in detail about the agenda of your meeting. Those are matters in which you are expert, and I am not, and I wish only to make a few observations of a general kind.

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I think that all will agree that the results of the two previous conferences have been valuable enough to justify the Government of India and the Local Governments in calling a further meeting this year, and I hope that this conference may in future become a standing biennial engagement. For there must clearly be great value in examining and reviewing from time to time our methods of dealing with Police problems of an all-India nature. And, to do this effectively, it is essential to pool all our knowledge and experience of these matters, and it is indeed only in this way that we can expect to effect progressive improvement. In a country so vast as India, with a total Police force in the neighbourhood of 200,000 officers and men, it would be more than surprising if we found no inequalities, not only in all-round efficiency, but even in the handling of particular branches of work. It is just as true, I imagine, of the Police service as of other walks of life, that different branches of work make a different appeal to different minds, and it is largely to the enthusiast and the pioneer that real progress in any particular direction is due. So, when an officer, and through him a Province, attains marked efficiency in any direction, it is of the highest importance that the results of the special knowledge and experience so acquired should be made available to the rest of the Police forces throughout the country. In practice, and largely for this kind of reason, I have no doubt that it will be found that each of the Provinces has a distinct contribution to make to the common stock.

These biennial Police Conferences too show that we in India have seen the need of keeping pace with world opinion in the matter of Police work. To anyone who in recent years has been concerned with Police administration in its wider aspects, and even to a layman like myself, one feature that arrests attention has been the general and growing recognition of the fact that the policeman's calling is coming more and more to be regarded as a highly skilled



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profession. Developments of modern civilisation offer to astute brains great possibilities in the development of the skilled methods of crime, and recent years have seen a gradual widening of such activities and an increasing intricacy in their technique. Here neither provincial nor international limits are sacrosanct, and, as in matters of law and order it is the criminal who sets the pace, so it is the duty of the protective forces of the State to see that they keep abreast his sinister activities.

If perhaps we have not advanced as far on the road as some other countries, we are at least moving in the right direction. In India, of all countries, this is peculiarly necessary, for I suppose in no other part of the world are the Police confronted with so great a range and variety of crime, varying from the bomb-maker with his up-to-date knowledge of modern high explosives, to the aboriginal jungle-dweller who commits a murder in deference to age-long and revolting superstitions.

As I have said, however, my chief object in coming here this morning is not to speak to experts about the intricacies of their own job. My chief purpose is to have an opportunity of thanking you, and through you all the ranks of the Indian Police Service, for the splendid work that you have done during my five years of office. None of these five years have been years of ease and leisure so far as the Police have been concerned, but above all the last twelve months have been a period of difficulty and anxiety, and I cannot speak too highly of the way in which the Police all over India have during that time met and dealt with a situation of great delicacy and gravity. I am in this respect in the happy position of being able to speak without distinction of province or rank. During a period of unprecedented stress the Police have stood shoulder to shoulder through the length and breadth of India in the unrelenting task of preserving the King's peace, and in its fulfilment they have raised the high

*Opening of the All-India Police Conference.*

traditions of their service to a level never previously attained. They have displayed those qualities which are found only in a disciplined force of the first order—loyalty and courage, endurance and restraint. If I dwell on two features of their record, it is not that I am unmindful of their other achievements. What has made particular appeal to me has been the staunchness of the police and their moral and physical courage. They have shown a fine determination to see the thing through, and the attempts to turn them from their duty have only made them more steadfast in its performance. They have had the moral courage to stand firm against every form of social intimidation, affecting them and their families, that perverted ingenuity could invent, and they have found their reward in the recognition, even of those who have spared no efforts to coerce or seduce them, that their ranks are not to be broken. Nor have they flinched before the physical dangers to which they have been exposed. The record of the past year contains many deeds of gallantry performed by the highest and the humblest members of the force. We remember that one who might have been with us today gave his life to save that of a brother officer, and we call to mind the long roll of those of all ranks who have not been afraid to face and to meet death. The record is one in which the Indian Police may take just pride, and I thank you and, through you, all members of the force for services well and faithfully rendered.

And this suggests one other thought. We are on the eve of changes when the primary control of the Police and of law and order will probably pass into other hands. I know and understand the apprehensions which many feel and the desire that the discipline and internal administration of the force should be preserved against disruptive influences. I do not underestimate the reality of the fears which are often expressed, or the necessity



Opening of the Red Cross Society Headquarters, New Delhi.

of doing everything that is possible to meet them under the new conditions likely soon to be in operation. At the same time I cannot help feeling that the most secure safeguard lies in the high standard of achievement of the force itself. I find it difficult to believe that any Government, charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order, will be so foolish as lightly to prejudice the efficiency of the Police, or that the governments of the future will, with equal cause, be any less appreciative than is mine of the services of those, whose position it will be both their duty and interest to protect.

Gentlemen, I have not much time left before me in India and this is likely to be the last opportunity I shall have of talking intimately to the representative members of a force to which I have many reasons, public and personal, to be grateful. May I conclude, before leaving you to your deliberations, by assuring you once more that anyone and anything connected with the Police in India—from constable to Inspector-General—will always have my very warm interest and sympathy, and that if I can in any way or at any time render them any service or assistance I shall deem it a pleasure and a privilege to do so.

OPENING OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY HEAD-
QUARTERS, NEW DELHI.

6th February
1931.

In opening the Red Cross Society Headquarters on 6th February 1931, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

When, a little less than a year ago, I had the privilege of laying the foundation-stone of this fine building, I hardly hoped to see the work of construction completed in so short a time. But enthusiasm and skill have worked wonders, and I warmly congratulate all those concerned upon the despatch with which they have achieved such



Opening of the Red Cross Society Headquarters, New Delhi.

excellent results. Nor do we forget—as Sir Henry has just said—that we owe it all to the princely generosity of His Highness the Nawab of Junagadh, who has always been such a very good friend of the Red Cross in all its activities. His name will ever remain associated with this building and will be remembered with gratitude by all those who have the interests of this great organisation at heart.

The last occasion on which I had the opportunity of addressing members of the Red Cross Society was at the Annual General Meeting in Simla last July, when I tried to summarise the great progress which had been made during the preceding five years. The months which have elapsed since then have seen another stride forward, and I am glad that I have been able, before my time in India comes to an end, to see the consummation of a scheme which, I am sure, will add materially to the efficiency of certain branches of Red Cross work. The formation of a Child Welfare Bureau, to which Sir Henry has just referred, will mean economy in power, and increase in efficiency, and I am glad to know that the management of the Bureau is now placed in the capable hands of Dr. Ruth Young, to whom we all wish a speedy recovery from her present illness. In the welfare of the child of today is bound up the well-being of the State in the years that lie before us, and there can be no question that in seriously tackling this problem the Red Cross Society is doing a work of the greatest national importance.

My business today is formally to open this central building, and I do not propose to touch on the work which the Provincial branches are doing. But, as they are the real workers in the Red Cross hive of activity, I should like to take this opportunity of sending them a last message of farewell, and a renewed assurance of the constant sympathy with which Lady Irwin and I shall always watch the progress and extension of their labours.



Unveiling of the Dominion Columns.

There is one omission in Sir Henry's speech which I feel it my duty to fill. I am not going to follow him in a critical examination of how he spends his working hours, but I have no hesitation in saying that few people could have laboured in the cause of the Red Cross Society with greater energy and devotion than has Sir Henry. In carrying through the amalgamation of the various organisations, which are now combined in the Child Welfare Bureau, his legal knowledge and his organising capacity have been invaluable. I am confident that all who are present this afternoon would wish me to place on record a public acknowledgment of the debt which the Society owes to him.

I will now ask your permission to open this new building. In doing so let me once more express my gratitude to the benefactor to whom this building owes its existence, and to all those who have co-operated in bringing the scheme to completion. I am confident that it has a career of great and increasing usefulness before it, and I earnestly trust that every success may attend the efforts of those who will work within its walls.

UNVEILING OF THE DOMINION COLUMNS.

10th February 1931. His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech at the Unveiling of the Dominion Columns on 10th February 1931 :—

Nineteen years ago His Majesty the King-Emperor proclaimed the decision to build a new Imperial capital in Delhi. Today we meet to mark the formal completion of that work. In laying the first stones of the new capital His Majesty expressed the desire that the plan of the buildings to be erected should be considered with deliberation and care, so that the new creation might be in every way worthy of the historic character of its surroundings. Standing here we can surely say that His



Unveiling of the Dominion Columns.

Majesty's commands have been well and faithfully observed.

Those who first conceived the general design, that has now taken concrete form, aspired to make something that for dignity and beauty might stand alongside the architectural triumphs of centuries ago. Those who under skilled guidance have brought to completion a great idea have adorned it with the highest skill of Indian art and craftsmanship. To them, as to all who have shared in the fulfilment of the Royal purpose, is due the lasting gratitude of India.

The considerations, which led to the change of capital, have now moved beyond the sphere of practical debate. But after the passage of twenty years, and in the light of present-day experience, it is not without interest to recall that, when this project first took shape, Lord Hardinge and his colleagues foresaw a future when, with the growth of Provincial self-Government, it would become the more necessary to give the Central Government a separate and independent setting. To such courage and foresight we owe the birth of this new city, on ground from times immemorial the centre of dynasties and Empires, of whose past greatness many monuments are still silent spokesmen. A great responsibility will rest upon those who follow us to keep close watch over the development of this place. A few years hence, unless public opinion is forewarned, much may have happened which the men of that time will find it difficult, if not impossible, to correct, and it would be nothing short of tragedy if, through any lack of timely thought, the expanding city of New Delhi were to be disfigured by evils, which have elsewhere accompanied city growth.

The four columns which are the immediate purpose of our meeting are tokens of something wider than anything which the past cities of Delhi represent. They



Ceremony at the Indian War Memorial Arch.

are the gift of the four great Dominions of the Empire, from three of whom we are happy to welcome distinguished visitors today, and to whose Governments I would offer on behalf of India an expression of deep gratitude for their generosity, as for the good-will of which that generosity is evidence. For some they will commemorate the days when the Dominions fought shoulder to shoulder with India in the Great War; to others they will tell of the long history of devotion and self-sacrifice, which is our proud Imperial heritage; to all of us they enshrine a tradition of affection and loyalty to the Person of the King-Emperor, which is the strongest tie between the several members of our Imperial Society. Other Empires there have been whose ideal has been that of uniformity, shaping their constituent elements to a common mould. Our aim has rather been that of unity, which might join in a single whole wide differences of race and clime, and of which the bonds are those of freedom. Devoutly then let us pray that these four pillars of Fellowship, now given to India, may for ever symbolise such an association, large in thought, undaunted in faith, and powerful under Providence to work for the service of mankind.

I now have the honour to ask the representatives of Dominions to unveil the Columns.

CEREMONY AT THE INDIAN WAR MEMORIAL ARCH.

12th February
1931.

In opening the Indian War Memorial Arch, on 12th February 1931, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

The memorial before us is the seal of India's homage to her sons who, in the ranks of a brave company from all four quarters of the Empire, gave their lives during the Great War. We, who today meet to do them honour, know how then the manhood of India, from plains and hills, from rich homes and poor, went forth unquestion-



Opening Ceremony of the New Water Works, Jaipur.

ing, when the King-Emperor called on it for aid. Duty led these men to diverse battle-fields, some to strange countries across strange seas, some to the frontiers of their own home-land. East and West, they quitted themselves like men, adding a noble chapter to the epic of Indian chivalry. They fought, as often before, side by side with British comrades and with their brother-soldiers from Nepal, who are also here commemorated. And so together, before their time, they met death, which is for every man the only certain fact in life's long uncertainty.

All that we remember and shall not forget. It is not therefore for ourselves that we have made this visible remembrance of great deeds, but rather that those, who after us shall look upon this monument, may learn, in pondering its purpose, something of that spirit of sacrifice and service, which the names upon its walls record.

Those who have lost friends, or dearer than friends, in war, ask that a memorial should speak of honourable pride and sadness ; and here the maker's hand has given us a praise and a lament in lasting stone. The sorrow of the world passes like the shadow of a cloud, and passing leaves more clear the remembrance of a time when men thanked God for courage, and were ready, as the summons came, to consecrate their lives to the cause of justice. We, who can judge the worth of that which these men did, may be content if others yet unborn may say of them, as was said of the Athenian dead, " They gave their lives for the common weal, and in so doing won for themselves the praise which grows not old ".

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW WATER
WORKS, JAIPUR.

H. E. the Viceroy in opening the New Water Works at 13th March
Jaipur on 13th March said :— 1931.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It gives me the greatest pleasure to take part in this ceremony. I



Investiture of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur.

think that all, who have had the opportunity of visiting Your Highness' historic capital, must have marvelled at the feat performed in earlier times by Jai Singh in founding a great town on Jaipur's present site. For the lack of any lake or running stream, and the sandy soil and barren hills all round, may well make us wonder how the necessary supplies of water were found. I have, therefore, listened with much interest to Your Highness' account of the expedients adopted in the past to provide water for this City, and of the reasons that led to the inception of the scheme which I am privileged to inaugurate to-day.

To have had the courage and foresight to take in hand and bring to successful fruition an enterprise of this magnitude reflects much credit on the Minority Administration, and I join Your Highness in congratulating all concerned on their achievement, in particular the Engineers to whose technical skill and experience the construction work is due. Although the cost in money has been large, it is difficult to imagine a purpose on which it could better have been spent, and I know well that Your Highness' subjects will appreciate in full the immense boon of having a constant supply of fresh water available in their houses or at their doors.

I now declare the Water Works open, and trust they will be of lasting benefit to the people of this City.

INVESTITURE OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF JAIPUR.

14th March
1931.

H. E. the Viceroy made the following speech at the Investiture of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur on 14th March 1931 :—

Your Highness,—Among the most pleasant features of the busy life of a Viceroy are the personal relations

*Investiture of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur.*

established between himself and the Ruling Princes of India, and I think I may say, both on behalf of myself and my predecessors in office, that with no Ruling House have these relations been more intimate and friendly than with that to which Your Highness has the honour to belong. When on the death of your illustrious father, Maharaja Sir Madho Singh, the Government of India became the trustees of the administration of the Jaipur State and the guardians of its young Ruler, it was natural that the Viceroy should regard the discharge of these responsibilities as an object of his especial care, and should watch with almost a father's pride and solicitude over Your Highness' training and education. It gives me therefore the greatest satisfaction to-day to have the privilege of investing Your Highness with ruling powers. My pleasure is all the greater in that this is the only occasion, on which I have been able to take part in a ceremony of this picturesque and historic kind.

The Council administration has now lasted for eight years and more, and, now that the trustees are resigning their charge, it is fitting that I should give some account of this time of stewardship. At the outset, the problems which faced them were of more than ordinary difficulty. Methods of administration, which had worked successfully when the late Ruler was in the fulness of his vigour, began to fail in later years when the strong hand, which had ruled the destinies of Jaipur for forty years, was forced by advancing years and serious illness to relax its hold. The virtue had gone out of the old system, and the time for change had come. The call was becoming insistent for a Government more in keeping with the spirit of the times and more responsive to the people's needs. A period of transition and change is seldom without its difficulties and dangers, and the task of reorganisation demands of the administrator, as it demands of the



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architect who modernises an ancient structure, a large measure both of political wisdom and of caution in deciding what to remove and what to leave. New institutions and new ideas have to be grafted on to the old without destroying tradition and the spirit of the past, and with due regard to local sentiment. The scheme, when complete, must be harmonious and suited to the purpose for which it is required. I hope and believe that the minority administration has been successful in its attempts to achieve this end, and I earnestly trust that the system, which has been established, will under Your Highness' guidance secure to the people of this State a just, beneficent and progressive Government, which will repose upon a real unity of interest between the Ruler and the ruled.

I have had many opportunities of studying the reports of work done during the minority period, and I can therefore say with confidence that substantial progress has been made in the reform of all departments of the administration. The finances of the State have been placed on a thoroughly sound footing, and a regular Audit and Accounts Department has been organised. The normal revenue of the State has increased from about eighty lakhs to one hundred and thirty lakhs, and investments have increased nearly four times. A system of annual Budgets has been introduced, and a complete revision and re-organisation has been carried out in the Judicial and Revenue, and the Customs and Excise Departments. There is now also for the first time a regular Court of Wards with duly qualified Managers for the supervision of estates under the direct control of the Darbar.

I should detain you too long if I attempted to enumerate in detail the various works of public utility which



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have been executed, but the construction of considerable lengths of road and railway, new schemes for irrigation, and the provision of electric light and a new water-supply, are among the many sound and valuable projects for which the administration is entitled to the highest credit.

The educational needs of the people have not been overlooked. The annual expenditure incurred under this head has increased from a little over a lakh to well over five lakhs of rupees, and there has been a large increase in the number of schools and colleges, and the pupils in attendance at them. The expenditure on medical relief moreover has doubled in the last few years, and a well-equipped Zenana Hospital has just been completed. Finally, there has been a thorough re-organisation of the Military, Police, and Jail Departments. Irregular military units have been reduced, and two new first line regiments, the Jaipur Lancers and the Jaipur Infantry, have been created. These units have made striking progress, and with the Transport Corps they constitute a force of which the State may well be proud, and in which I know Your Highness takes and will take close personal interest. All three units have been provided with ample space for training grounds and with admirable buildings.

The Police have been converted into an organised force, properly trained, well-armed and well-equipped, and, perhaps most important of all, excellent lines and living conditions are being steadily substituted for the old inadequate quarters.

The facts which I have recited are a very satisfactory assurance that, on assuming the duties of your high office, Your Highness will find a State well-dowered with public works, a full treasury and a contented people. All that was of value in the old customs and traditions of the

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State has been, wherever possible, preserved, and the minimum of change, compatible with the needs of modern progress, has been made. I believe Your Highness already has found abundant evidence in your tours through the State that the old ties of loyalty and affection, that bind your people to the Ruler, persist as strongly as of yore. Those who have contributed to these striking results may well feel proud of their achievement, and, if I cannot mention by name all those who have assisted in the task, I would at least wish to make reference to a singular and appropriate coincidence. The foundations of the reforms were laid in the first and most difficult year of the minority by that capable officer, the tried friend of so many of Your Highness' brother Princes, Sir Reginald Glancy. To-day his brother, Mr. B. J. Glancy, relinquishes charge of the office of President, after setting the coping stone upon the work of the minority administration. To these and others, as to Mr. Reynolds, who as President of the Council and as Agent to the Governor-General has been closely connected with Jaipur for seven years, Your Highness' State owes a debt of gratitude which, I believe, it will not find it easy to repay.

Your Highness is well aware of the anxious consideration which I and my officers have given to the question of your training. There are indeed few subjects to which successive Viceroys have devoted more earnest attention, and no which opinions have varied so much, as that of the best method of educating and training young Princes. There is the risk on the one hand that an Indian Prince, if educated in Europe, may thereby become alienated from his own people. On the other hand, it is clearly desirable for a future Ruler to include in his education some knowledge and experience of the great world outside India. In Your Highness' case full weight has, I think, been given to these varying considerations,

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and under the guidance firstly of your old friend and tutor Mr. Mayne, and later of Lieutenant-Colonel Twiss, who is with you still, you have profited to the full from your six years at the Mayo College and your year as a Cadet, I believe the first Indian Cadet, at the Royal Military Academy of Woolwich. I know from many sources how high was the commendation Your Highness' work won from the authorities at Woolwich, and how great was the regret, among Instructors and fellow Cadets alike, when they had to bid Your Highness good-bye. For the last six months you have been receiving administrative training in your own State under the personal supervision of Mr. Glancy. In that time short though it is you have had the opportunity of studying the working of all the principal State Departments, have regularly attended meetings of the Council, and have made several tours of inspection in the more distant portions of the State. It is a great pleasure to have received from Mr. Glancy such favourable reports of the quick understanding displayed by Your Highness of State affairs, and of your appreciation of the duties of your high position.

Year by year with the general advancement of education and with the growth of new ideas, stimulated by the Great War, the art of Government becomes more difficult. A fierce and searching light now beats on all who wield authority. The old unquestioning acceptance of autocratic rule is gradually disappearing, even in those quarters where conservatism seemed to have the strongest hold. Rulers are being more and more called on to justify their authority to the ruled, and abuse of power attracts to itself criticism of growing strength. Nor can it be expected that developments in British India should fail to have their effect upon the people of Your Highness' and other States. There is abundant evidence that ere long a similar standard of administration will be demanded, which it will be impolitic and dangerous to deny.

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Precedent will not in all cases supply an adequate guide, and I trust therefore you will forgive me if I conclude with a few words of advice to Your Highness on this memorable occasion, when you start upon your career as Ruler of Jaipur.

Among the many factors on which the happiness of your subjects depends, I would judge the most important these :—

Promptness in the despatch of business, impartial justice as between man and man, selection of competent officials, ungrudging support of them so long as they prove worthy of your trust, and moderation in personal expenditure. It will also be your duty to watch over the development of all agencies for the public benefit such as schools, hospitals, roads, and irrigation works, to maintain close contact between yourself and your people, and to set an example, in your private and public life, to those who serve you and to those over whom you rule. From my personal knowledge of Your Highness, and from all that I have seen and heard, I feel confident that Your Highness will rise to the height of your great responsibilities. My Agent in Rajputana and the Resident in Jaipur will always be ready to help you with advice, and I know you will regard them not merely as the representatives of a Government who wish you well, but as friends, whose desire is to help you to preserve the great trust that you have received from a distinguished line of ancestors. I greatly regret that in a brief month after your accession to power I shall have laid down my present office, and have said good-bye to India and to many Indian friends, but you may be confident that my successor will evince a personal interest in your career and welfare not less warm than mine, and that I myself shall ever watch with close concern the fortunes of Jaipur and of its Ruler. Your burden will be heavy, but no Maharaja has I think entered on his responsibilities with greater advantages than you.

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and I earnestly hope and believe that under Providence your rule will redound to your lasting honour and to the benefit and contentment of your subjects.

I declare Your Highness to be vested with full ruling powers.

BANQUET AT JAIPUR.

H. E. the Viceroy made the following speech at the State Banquet at Jaipur on 14th March 1931 :—

14th March
1931.

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have already had the opportunity this afternoon of expressing the great pleasure it has given me to visit Jaipur on this occasion of historic interest, and I am glad to be able once more to tell Your Highness how sincerely I appreciate the privilege that has been mine to-day, and how warmly I wish you all fortune and success in the responsible task upon which you are now entering. I desire too to express on behalf of Lady Irwin and myself our great gratitude to Your Highness both for the very kind terms in which you have just been good enough to propose our health, and for all the hospitality you have shown us during our visit to your State. I was fortunate enough to spend a few days in Jaipur two and a half years ago, and have never forgotten the impression then made on my mind by the picturesque romance of its setting, the blend of mediæval and of modern in its streets, and the colour of the life that moves among them. It has been delightful to renew that first acquaintance, and Lady Irwin and I shall both take with us to England very pleasant memories of our visit, of Your Highness' kindly welcome, and of the brilliant spectacles we have to-day been privileged to witness.

During the five years that I have spent in India Your Highness has grown from boyhood to man's estate.

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Throughout that period I have watched with constant solicitude each stage in your upbringing, from the time when I first met you as a student at the Mayo College, later as a cadet at Woolwich, and now, after an interval of administrative training, on the threshold of your career as Ruler of an Indian State. In all you have distinguished yourself, in the class room, on the playing fields and on the polo ground, and in the wide circle of your friends, and you have never failed to earn the personal regard and affection of those with whom you have come in contact. All has been of the brightest promise, and I am confident that to-day will be memorable in the annals of this State as the commencement of a long and beneficent period of rule.

The years that lie before Your Highness, and especially the years immediately ahead, will bring no light responsibilities in their train. As a result of the statesmanship shown by the delegates from India at the Round Table Conference in London, the Indian States have now the prospect of taking part with British India in framing a federal constitution for the whole of this great country. The labour yet to be performed in the completion of that task will be immense. The loom is set, but skill and patience of a high order will be needed on the part of all to weave the threads aright, and to work into a pattern of wise and durable design the many intricacies of texture in the fabric. In that portion of the joint task, which will fall upon the Princes of India, Your Highness as Ruler of one of the great Rajput States will take an important share, and I can assure you that all my good wishes will follow you and all members of your Order throughout the further stages of the work to which your hands are set. It had seemed, not many weeks ago, that that work would have to be pursued in an atmosphere over-charged with uncertainty and mistrust. I am happy to think that those mists have been to a great extent dispelled, and that all parties and all interests in India will

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jointly now be prepared to lend their assistance in finding solutions for the vast problems which are before us. I am under no temptation to underestimate their difficulty, or to suppose that their solution is assured, because we have happily been able to create conditions in which all may be willing to take part in their consideration. But I do believe that, if the spirit, which inspired my recent conversations with Mr. Gandhi and enabled them with the assistance of many friends to reach the result they did, can be maintained throughout the future constitutional discussions, it ought not to be impossible to set the seal upon a secure and durable understanding between India and Great Britain. We met with the single purpose, if it might be honourably accomplished, of re-establishing peace in India. That purpose, I think, I may say, we followed with a single determination to win success, facing everything, concealing nothing, and making no attempt on either side to do other than frankly meet and strive to overcome the obstacles that might stand between us and the peace we sought to win.

Throughout my conversations with Mr. Gandhi, I felt complete assurance that I could implicitly trust his word, and I am confident that he will do everything in his power to give effect to those undertakings, which are recorded in the published statement. For my own part I have never doubted that no effort within my power was too great, when the prize of success was a large step forward towards the restoration of honourable understanding between the peoples of two great countries, and I rejoice to think that the result, which my conversations with Mr. Gandhi were able to effect, has been hailed with satisfaction and approbation by those of every class and race and creed in India.

Your Highness has announced this evening the munificent donation which you have placed at Lady Irwin's disposal for any charitable purpose to which she may

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wish that it should be devoted. I need hardly say that both she and I are deeply grateful to Your Highness for your most generous gift. Your Highness could indeed have thought of no way in which you could have added more to the pleasure of our visit to Jaipur than by this warm-hearted action, meaning so much to the happiness of many who deserve the charity of those more favoured than themselves with the good things of life. It is in true keeping with the tradition set by your father Sir Madho Singh, through whose magnificent contribution of 20 lakhs it will be remembered that the Indian People's Famine Trust was brought into existence.

It remains for me to thank Your Highness once more for the great reception which you and your people have given us to Jaipur. Lady Irwin and I only wish that we could have taken further advantage of Your Highness' kindness in making a longer stay in these hospitable surroundings, and we shall regret that we have not on this occasion had an opportunity of seeing something of the State outside its capital. There are, I know, many places of interest to which, had it been possible, we would have greatly desired to pay a visit, whether to the jungles of Sawai Madhopur or the ancient fortress of Ranthambhor, a name almost as illustrious as Chitor in the annals of Rajputana. But five years are too short a time in which to see even a little of all the sights that India offers to those, who wish to acquire knowledge of her ancient glories. I doubt though whether anything that even India holds could have surpassed our wonderful experiences of the last two days, and Your Highness need not fear that passing time will dull these vivid memories, or diminish the warm friendship that we shall always entertain towards the Ruler and the people of Jaipur.

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



OPENING OF THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES.

His Excellency the Viceroy, in opening the Chamber of Princes on the 16th March, 1931, said :—

Your Highnesses,—Today, for the fifth time, I have the pleasure and privilege of welcoming Your Highnesses to this Chamber, which now enters upon its tenth session. The completion of a decade in the history of an institution such as this is an occasion which naturally tempts us to look back along the road we have travelled, to count up the achievements that mark the miles behind us, and to take new thought and new hope for the journey that is still to come. For myself it means, I grieve to say, the end of what I shall always look back upon as a very happy partnership, a five years' partnership which I believe—as I think Your Highnesses believe—has been a period as critical and important as five years well could be. When the history of our time comes to be written, the last few years may indeed seem pregnant with great issues to the States, and the Round Table Conference, in which members of this Chamber played so notable a part, may prove to have been as vital to your interests as even the conclusion of your Treaties or the Proclamation of Queen Victoria. In addressing you therefore this morning, I am deeply conscious of the momentous issues which at present occupy our minds.

Before, however, I pass to other matters, it is my melancholy duty to recall that death has been busy since our last meeting, and has taken heavy toll among the Members of your Order. In two brief months last summer five great Princes passed to their rest, and since then two more have been added to that number. His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur, the senior Rajput Prince, had for many years been a famous and historic figure. Revered for his blameless life and high conception of his duty, a model of Rajput chivalry and a great and



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courteous gentleman, he stood upon ancient ways and cared not greatly for the modern world around him. Age and infirmity prevented his joining the Chamber; it was the poorer by his absence. In him the British Government has lost a faithful ally whose loyalty and friendship never wavered.

His Highness the Nawab of Tonk was another Prince who did not attend the sessions of this Chamber. When he died he had ruled for over 60 years, thus linking us with the time, that now seems so remote, when John Lawrence was still Viceroy of India. It was perhaps not to be expected that he would move rapidly on the lines of modern progress, but his keenness of mind, sense of humour and vitality of body at a great age will long be remembered by those who knew him. The Maharaja of Orchha too was of a generation that has now almost passed. The *doyen* of the Bundelkhand Princes, he had been prevented latterly by weight of years from regularly attending the Chamber, but those who knew him will not forget the stately figure, the keen intelligence and the dominating will. His Highness the Nawab of Rampur was the personal friend and valued adviser of many of Your Highnesses. He was a Nestor among your Order, the sage of ripe experience and the most friendly of peace-makers, and, though he never disguised his hesitancy in attending this Chamber, there were few who at the Council table were wiser or more shrewd. Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal is another whose loss will be widely felt. She had for many years been in the forefront not only of the Princes of India but of its great women, and Indian womanhood, by her death, is bereft of one of its most devoted champions. She took a prominent part in the earlier sessions of this Chamber, and after she retired in favour of her son her interest in its deliberations continued unabated. We have also to mourn the deaths of Their late Highnesses the Rana



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of Barwani and the Nawab of Sachin. Your Highnesses will, I know, wish to express your sorrow at these great and grievous losses and to convey your sympathy to the bereaved families. You will also wish to join with me in welcoming cordially to your deliberations those on whose shoulders have fallen their duties and responsibilities. In that welcome I would desire to include those other young Princes who are now joining this Chamber for the first time.

Let me now briefly claim Your Highnesses' attention to certain items of business which have recently come within the purview of Members of this Chamber. Your Highnesses will remember that last year you passed a Resolution recommending that an Indian Ruling Prince should lead the Indian Delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations at least once in a cycle of three years. It fell to His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner to be the leader of the Delegation at the meeting of the League Assembly last September, and I am sure that the statement which he will present to the Chamber will be as instructive as any of those made by his distinguished predecessors. His Highness will also give you an account of his work as the Representative of India at the Imperial Conference. We need no assurance that His Highness discharged these high responsibilities with dignity and judgment, and he deserves the deep gratitude of this Chamber for undertaking this onerous duty at a time when so many other pressing matters demanded his attention.

There are also certain questions which have recently been under examination by the Standing Committee, and to which I would wish to make reference. For, though changing conditions may involve a fresh examination of some of these problems, the valuable work which the

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Committee has done stands as a foundation for further constructive effort which has yet to be undertaken.

The important subject of Air Navigation in Indian States has now reached a compromise, thanks to friendly concessions by all the parties concerned, and I understand that His Highness the Chancellor will lay a summary of this case before you.

The question of the future of the Chiefs' Colleges has also been decided, and the scheme which has recently received the approval of the Secretary of State will be brought into effect as early as possible. I trust that it will help to infuse fresh life into these institutions, and in increasing measure to enlist, among Your Highnesses and your nobles, the sympathy upon which their future well-being must largely depend.

Another matter of no small concern to the States is the step which my Government have recently taken, following the recommendation of the Road Development Committee, in imposing an additional duty on motor spirit, and allotting the proceeds for expenditure on roads. A share of the income will be devoted to the Indian States, and to assure co-ordination of policy periodic "Road Conferences" will be held, at which the States will be represented. The amounts available for distribution may be limited for some years to come, but they are likely to grow with the gradual improvement of communications, and I feel sure that Your Highnesses will co-operate with my Government in this highly important work, which means so much to the development of India's agriculture, industry and commerce, and to the general prosperity of the people.

The brunt of the work which it is the duty of this Chamber to perform naturally falls upon the Members of the Standing Committee. Your Highnesses would no doubt wish me to offer our sincere thanks to His Highness



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the Chancellor and the Members of the Standing Committee for the devoted labours undertaken by them on behalf of the Chamber during the past year. For reasons, of which you are well aware, the year has been a peculiarly exacting one, but Their Highnesses have given freely and ungrudgingly of their time and effort in the interests of your Order. His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has held the post of Chancellor throughout the five years of my Viceroyalty, and during this critical and important period—a period in which he has personally had to meet, and has successfully exposed, much undeserved calumny—he has spared neither time nor money in performing the duties and upholding the dignity of his high office. Your Highnesses are, I know, deeply conscious of the services he has rendered on your behalf, and for my own part I would wish to acknowledge personally and warmly the whole-hearted assistance he has given to me in all matters affecting the affairs of Your Highnesses and Government. I desire also to pay tribute, as I feel certain will Your Highnesses, to the work done by His Highness the Maharao of Cutch during the time he carried on the duties of the Chancellor while His Highness of Patiala was absent in Europe. His Highness at no small inconvenience to himself remained for a considerable time in Delhi in order to maintain touch with myself and the States representation in London.

If time and Your Highnesses' patience permitted, I might have been tempted to survey in more complete manner the achievements of the Chamber since its birth ten years ago. But I may perhaps sum up briefly some of the useful purposes it has served. It has given us, for one thing, an arena for mutual and friendly discussions, which have clarified our ideas on either side and assisted towards the settlement of many questions at issue between you and the Government of India, and of