



OPENING OF NEW IMPERIAL SERVICE TROOPS LINES AT SANGRAR, JIND.

[His Excellency the Viceroy opened the new lines at Sangrar on 27th Nov. 1906. the morning of the 27th November. On arrival at the lines His Excellency was met by the Raja, the four principal Councillors of the State, and by Colonel Drummond, late Officiating Inspector-General of Imperial Service Troops.

In declaring the new lines open His Excellency spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness,—I am very glad to be present here to-day and to open the new lines which Your Highness has built for your Imperial Service Infantry—a striking testimony to your loyal determination to support the military power of the Empire. I am well acquainted with the military history of your State and of your people. The two guns at the entrance to these lines bear witness to the gallant deeds of the soldiers of Jind whose descendants have in later years shared with British troops in the honours of more than one campaign, in one of which—the Afghan war of 1878 and 1879—I can claim to have been their comrade-in-arms, and though, Your Highness, for the last ten years they have not had the good fortune of being on service—a good fortune for which every soldier longs,—yet I hope that you will tell your officers and men from me that I cannot, indeed, share in their anxiety as to their warlike opportunities for the future, for after seeing for myself the efficiency of Your Highness's troops and the magnificent physique of the men who compose them, I cannot but feel how welcome any offer Your Highness might make of their services would be to any General about to take the field. I am very sorry that General Sir Stuart Beatson has been unavoidably prevented from being present and seeing the fine troops whose welfare and efficiency he has so much at heart. I have very great pleasure in opening the new lines of Your Highness's Imperial Service Infantry, and I am glad to hear that Your Highness proposes to celebrate the anniversary of to-day's ceremony by an annual holiday.



BANQUET AT JIND.

27th Nov 1906.

[On the night of the 27th November His Excellency the Viceroy and party were entertained at a Banquet by His Highness the Raja of Jind. His Excellency made the following speech :—]

Your Highness,—I cannot sufficiently thank Your Highness for the magnificent welcome extended to me on my first visit as Viceroy to your State or for the kind terms in which you have proposed the health of Lady Minto and myself. As Your Highness has pointed out, my visit to Jind is not without some mutual interest to your people and to myself, in that it would seem to renew the connection between the house of Jind and my family which commenced in the administration of my ancestor, Lord Minto, nearly 100 years ago, when he strove so earnestly to preserve the independence of the Phulkian States.

Ever since the early days of the last century, when British power was sorely pressed throughout the world, and when in India Lord Lake was struggling hard to maintain the supremacy of British arms, the State of Jind showed itself a true friend; and in the later campaigns, in the terrible struggle of 1857, in the Afghan war of 1878 and 1879, and in the Tirah Campaign in 1897, the soldiers of Your Highness's State have stood shoulder to shoulder with British troops.

I have already told Your Highness to-day how deeply impressed I am with the splendid soldierly bearing of the force you have so patriotically dedicated to the service of the Empire. I hope that the new lines which I have had the great pleasure of opening will contribute largely to its comfort and happiness. The lines have been planned with every care and forethought, and I congratulate Your Highness on having provided accommodation which it would be hard to rival throughout India.

Lady Minto and I will always remember the magnificence of our reception by Your Highness, the wonderful cam

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a perfect fairy scene, which you have arranged for us, the brilliant illuminations of your city and the hearty welcome of your people. We wish that our stay amongst them could have been longer. And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask you to drink to the health of our distinguished and courteous host, with every good wish for his happiness and the future prosperity of his State. I give you the health of His Highness the Raja of Jind.

BANQUET AT NABHA.

[His Excellency the Viceroy and party were entertained at a Banquet by His Highness the Raja of Nabha on the night of the 28th November. His Highness, accompanied by his son and heir, the Tikka Sahib, came in at the conclusion of dinner, and after the King's health had been drunk, the Tikka Sahib made the following speech :—

“Allow me to offer the heartiest welcome to you all on behalf of my father, who would have with pleasure conveyed it to you himself had he been acquainted with the English language. He is very thankful to Your Excellency for accepting his invitation to visit this State. His joy and pride have much more been increased by the honour the State has received by the visit of Her Excellency Lady Minto and the Ladies Elliot. The Nabha State remembers with great pride the event which connects Your Excellency's family with it. For it was your noble ancestor, the first Earl, the then Governor-General of India, who extended in the year 1809 his helping hand to this and the other Phulkian States, by bringing them under the protection of the British Government. The year 1809, which is so memorable in the history of this State, has now been again made fresh in our memory by Your Excellency's visit. I need not say that the State has never flinched to show its sense of gratitude and loyalty to the British throne under whose protection it fortunately came. The State has served the Government in times of danger and peril, such as the Mutiny of 1857, and other military expeditions. Gentlemen, I now ask you to drink to the health of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto.”

His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Your Highness,—I deeply appreciate the kind terms in which the Tikka Sahib, speaking on Your Highness's behalf,

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has proposed the toast of my health and that of Lady Minto and my family. It is a peculiar gratification to me to come to Nabha and to the other Phulkian States with which I am proud to be connected by ties of heredity, and here may I be permitted to express the pleasure with which I have received the Tikka Sahib's recent acceptance of a seat in my Legislative Council. The presence of a representative of one of the ancient aristocratic Sikh families in the Council will, I am persuaded, be a source of strength to us. (*Applause.*) Your Highness, the happiness with which I am filled to-night at being a guest in Your Highness's State is enhanced by the knowledge that here, in Nabha, I am surrounded by a nation of warriors whose loyal service to the British Crown forms one of the many bright pages in British Indian history. (*Applause.*) It is well known that Your Highness is profoundly inspired by the traditional instincts of the martial Sikh race, and it is due to Your Highness's keen military spirit and to the force of your personal example that the Imperial Service Troops of Nabha are the fine force we know them to be—(*applause*),—but this after all is only what we should all be led to expect from Raja Sir Hira Singh, who organised the famous historical demonstration on the 6th January 1903, during the Delhi Durbar, when, on the anniversary of the birthday of the tenth Guru Govind Singh, all the Sikhs, both military and civil, in Delhi, at the time, marched in solemn procession down the main street of the city to commemorate the martyrdom of the ninth Guru Teg Bahadur who had prophesied the advent of British power. In this connection, I cannot do better than to read to you a short description from a book which, by a happy coincidence, has fallen into my hands only to-day, written by my friend, General Sir John Gordon, with whom I served in the Afghan campaign of 1878-9, in the Kurram Valley.

[The Viceroy then read the following extract:—]

"There was a remarkable demonstration of this sentiment

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at the great Durbar assemblage at Delhi in January 1903, when representatives of all races and castes were gathered together to hear King Edward VII proclaimed Emperor of India. At the suggestion of the venerable Raja of Nabha, a devout and devoted adherent of the Khalsa, the Sikhs decided to hold a memorial service to mark their peculiar sense of the deep significance of the Durbar by a solemn act of worship at the shrine of the martyr Guru Teg Bahadur, who they said 228 years before foretold, in the hour of his death, the coming of the British Empire under which they would enjoy religious freedom and personal, prosperous liberty. It was a spontaneous act of loyalty managed all among themselves. As the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, the son of the martyr, occurred on the 6th January, it was decided to mark the day signally. The story of the martyr's death and prophecy was retold, and how this was the time and place to repledge their loyalty to the British who, under the guidance of God, fulfilled the prophecy. A small temple in the chief street of Delhi marks the site of Teg Bahadur's execution in 1675. A procession in all the panoply and pageantry of old feudal Sikh days proceeded to this spot. It was formed of horsemen, banner-bearers, and the Sikh levies accompanying their chiefs, being followed by a carriage in which under a covering of gold was the sacred Granth, the Holy Book. This was reverently lifted out and conveyed into the shrine, whilst to mark the special importance of the occasion the English National Anthem 'God Save the King' was played by the musicians. All the Sikh Chiefs, Sardars, and Church dignitaries were there. It was a gathering of the nation called together by their own leaders, and all knew what they were there for. Standing by the Holy Book they, on behalf of all the Sikhs, with their martyred Guru present in spirit (they all believe that) renewed in each other's presence their vows of fealty to the King-Emperor. A sacred chant was then sung, in which all joined, closing

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with their invocation to the Supreme Being, which was responded to by the loud shouts of the crowd. On the sacred Granth being replaced in the carriage, 'God Save the King' was again played to emphasise the meaning of the ceremony, which typified their loyal and sacred bond to British rule and the compelling force of the union which, according to their ideas, had been miraculously brought about." (*Loud applause.*)

[In conclusion the Viceroy said :—]

Gentlemen, it only remains for me to propose to you, which I do with very sincere pleasure, the health of our warm-hearted host, His Highness the Raja of Nabha.

REVIEW OF IMPERIAL SERVICE TROOPS AT
PATIALA.

30th Nov. 1906.

[On the morning of the 30th November, His Excellency the Viceroy attended a review of all the troops of the State.

The review was attended by a large number of spectators including Her Excellency the Countess of Minto and the Ladies Elliot. The Maharaja rode at the head of his troops, which consisted of 2,380 of all ranks. After taking the Royal Salute the Viceroy accompanied by the Maharaja rode down the line and inspected the troops. After the march past and charge His Excellency called up His Highness the Maharaja, the Commander-in-Chief and others, and addressed them as follows :—]

Your Highness,—May I say a few words to the Commander-in-Chief and, through him, to the troops on parade to-day. General Pritam Singh, I have often heard of the Patiala troops, and, when I came here, I was prepared beforehand to see a fine body of men on parade. But to-day's review has gone far beyond anything I had expected. His Highness the Maharaja has reason to feel immensely proud of his forces, and you, General Pritam Singh, must also feel immensely proud of having under your command such a fine body of men. It is impossible to make

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distinctions as between the various units, and I certainly shall not attempt to do so. All arms—artillery, lancers and infantry—were extremely good. All went past, and in fact did everything else, perfectly. I know that if ever the Patiala troops should be called upon again, they will stand by the British troops shoulder to shoulder in the field as in old days, and I know what magnificent troops His Majesty the King-Emperor will have at his service. I heartily congratulate the inspecting officers of the Imperial Service Troops, Major John Hill and Captain Craik, on the high efficiency of the forces to whose improvement they have so devotedly given their best work. General Pritam Singh, I am very glad on this occasion to appoint you an honorary Aide-de-Camp on my staff, feeling sure that you thoroughly deserve the honour by the zeal and ability you have shown in command of the splendid troops now on parade before me, and I congratulate you.

[The Viceroy then received a Deputation of the Patiala State Council and addressed them as follows:—]

Sardar Gurmukh Singh, Khalifa Muhammad Hussain, and Lala Baghwan Dass,—I must congratulate you most warmly on the parade we have just seen. The State possesses a body of troops of which any country would be proud. I know well how much the Council of Regency have the welfare and efficiency of the Imperial Service Troops at heart and the consistent efforts you have made to raise them to the high standard they have reached. You must feel the keenest gratification in seeing the result to which you have contributed so much. I congratulate you most heartily.



BANQUET AT PATIALA.

30th Nov. 1906.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Countess of Minto and party were entertained by His Highness the Maharaja at a State Banquet in the Viceregal Camp on the night of the 30th November. At the conclusion of dinner His Highness came to table and after proposing the King-Emperor's health read the following speech :—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before asking you to drink to the health of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto, I wish to thank them for the honour they have done to me and to my State. It gives me the greatest pleasure to welcome Your Excellency to Patiala, and I shall always remember how much my State owes to the support received from Your Excellency's renowned great-grandfather. I must also thank the Countess of Minto and the Ladies Elliot for giving me the pleasure of seeing them here to-night. I wish to assure Your Excellency of the unaltered devotion of myself and my State to the British Throne. Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in wishing long-life and prosperity to His Excellency and Lady Minto.

To which His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I thank Your Highness for the very kind words in which you have proposed the toast of my health. I assure you I shall always remember with pleasure the magnificent reception you have extended to me on behalf of your State and the cordial welcome you have given to Lady Minto and my daughters. I have long wished to visit Patiala. The historical tie which unites the history of my family with the Phulkian States is one of which I cannot but feel very proud. I am proud and pleased to be here amongst you and to hear from yourselves that the name of my ancestor, Lord Minto, has not been forgotten and is still revered amongst you. When Lord Minto signed the well-known treaty of 1809 he threw in his lot with a nation who never forget or neglect a friend, and for that reason I am extremely glad to have had the opportunity of shaking by the hand the descendants of the Sikh warriors of those stressful days. Since the time of Lord Lake, as is well known in history, the soldiers of Patiala have stood by the British Empire in many a hard-fought battle, and I feel perfectly sure that they will be ready and eager to do so again, should the call

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ever come. And here, perhaps, Your Highness will allow me to say also that I cherish that personal feeling for your troops by which every good soldier must always feel inspired for those with whom he has served in the field. I am old enough, I am sorry to say, to remember the arrival in the Kurram Valley during the Afghan War of 1878 and 1879 of the brave soldiers of Patiala, Nabha and Jind under the command of that splendid leader John Watson. And looking around me to-night I am delighted to find that here in Patiala I have still some old comrades-in-arms (among them Lala Baghwan Dass) to share with me in the recollection of those glorious days.

Your Highness, I congratulate you heartily on the prosperity of your State. The Council of Regency which has administered its affairs deserves great praise for the many important improvements it has been able to effect; and when Your Highness comes of age you will be able to recognize with gratitude the able and zealous way in which the various responsibilities of the administration, heavy as they are, have been sustained by a devoted body of men, and you will enter with high hopes upon the great duties that will then await you. And here I may make special mention of the name of Sardar Gurmukh Singh, President of the Council of Regency, whom I was very glad to recommend for the honour of "Companion of the Star of India." He and his colleagues deserve my especial commendation for the care with which they maintained, during a critical financial period, the Imperial Service Troops even at the expense of reducing the strength of the local troops. On this subject I spoke fully at the parade this morning, and I don't think that I gave more praise than the occasion justified. To General Pritam Singh I again offer my warmest congratulations on the very high state of efficiency to which he has brought the splendid troops that he has under his command. My only regret, which I know you all share, is that General Sir Stuart Beatson

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has been prevented by illness from sharing in to-day's proceedings and seeing the dash and efficiency of those troops for whom he has done so much. Of the other members of the Council and of those who have so successfully co-operated with General Pritam Singh, I need not on this occasion speak in detail, but I would congratulate Khalifa Saiad Muhammad Hussain on the comprehensive system of public works which have done so much for the people of this State and for the sanitation of the city, and Lala Bhagwan Dass on all he has effected on behalf of education. I cannot also allow the opportunity to pass without recognising the excellent work done by Mr. Biddulph, who, as Accountant-General, has restored the finances of the State to a condition of stability, and by Major Popham Young, who has revised the land settlement and placed it on a new and satisfactory basis. I do not wish to detain you longer, but I must publicly thank the State for the effective system of transport registration carried through by Colonel Abdul Majid Khan with his usual thoroughness and energy.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the health of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, wishing him in the great career that lies before him every happiness and prosperity.

OPENING OF THE NEW EAST INDIAN RAILWAY
CHORD LINE.

BANQUET AT GOMOH.

6th Dec. 1906. [The Viceroy, with Lady Minto and party, arrived at Gya at 1 P.M. on the 6th December, where they were met by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Lady Fraser, Mr. Douglas, Agent of the East Indian Railway, Mr. Highet, Chief Engineer, and Mr. Cockshott, who accompanied the train as far as Gurpa.

Here His Excellency and Lady Minto, Lady Eileen Elliot, Colonel the Hon'ble L. and Lady Victoria Dawnay, Sir Louis Dane, and the members of the Viceroy's Staff, as well as Sir Andrew and Lady

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Fraser and the railway officers mentioned above, left the train and embarking on board an observation car especially constructed for the purpose, proceeded on it as far as Gujhendí.

The road passes through a hilly country, thick with jungle, up a gradually ascending incline through rocky cuttings, glistening with mica, and through three tunnels. The whole country offers a great relief to the eye after the many miles of flat, featureless plain over which the railway passes most of the way to Bombay. This new line, which will shorten the distance from Bombay and Upper India to Calcutta by 50 miles, will besides, by passing through the Jherriah Coal-fields, effect a saving of a distance of 110 miles for coal proceeding to Cawnpore and Northern India, thus greatly stimulating the coal industry. Besides it passes under the hill of Paresnath, 4,488 feet above the sea, which might therefore perhaps by being served with railway communication become in future the Pachmarhi of Bengal. At about 2-40 the Viceroy on the observation car reached Gujhendí. Here were collected almost all the people either interested in or employed in the railway service, and among them were : the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett, the Hon'ble Mr. McRobert of Cawnpore, and the ladies and gentlemen who, at the invitation of the East Indian Railway, had come up in the two special trains that left Calcutta on Wednesday night.

The Viceroy on alighting from his car was received with a salute from a guard of honour of railway police, and Lady Minto was presented with a bouquet. Mr. Douglas then requested the Viceroy to screw in the last bolt in the line. His Excellency then stepping forward was presented with a silver bolt, which, with a silver spanner he screwed on. Three cheers were then called for the Viceroy, which were most heartily responded to. He then entered his train and proceeded to Gomoh.

At the Gomoh Station, in a magnificent hall, decorated with flags and foliage and a wealth of flowers, a banquet had been prepared, and to this banquet 160 ladies and gentlemen sat down. Mr. Douglas sat at the end of the room with His Excellency on his right and Lady Minto on his left. At the termination of the dinner Mr. Douglas, rising, spoke as follows :—

"Your Excellencies, Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I first desire to heartily thank His Excellency the Viceroy for the honour he has done the East Indian Railway administration in graciously consenting to perform the opening ceremony of the complete Grand Chord Railway and to express our high appreciation of the great compliment thus paid us. To Her Excellency Lady Minto we are also deeply indebted for her gracious presence. Further, I have to thank His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Lady Fraser for

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their kind presence on this occasion—and finally, I thank you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, who have accepted my invitation to what I may perhaps call this outing in the wilderness.

“The pamphlet containing a map and description of the new railway which has been prepared and distributed will already have explained its main general features. Briefly, the entire Chord from Sitarampur to Moghal Serai is 281 miles long; its cost has been 415 lakhs of rupees, and it contains two specially important works of much interest, *viz.*, the Sone bridge at Dehri and the crossing of the Vindhya hills. But it will probably be of further interest if I mention that this line, the completing link of which we have passed over to-day, was a portion of the first alignment proposed for the East Indian Railway between Calcutta and Moghal Serai. One of the first general plans drawn up, which is dated 1846, just sixty years ago, shows the alignment of the railway then proposed as running on the Calcutta side of the river Hooghly up as far as Naihati, crossing the river at Naihati to Hooghly near the site of the present Jubilee bridge and running from there in practically a straight line to Moghal Serai, thus passing from Sitarampur almost along the route of what is now an accomplished fact, the Grand Chord Railway.

“There have been moments when I could have wished that this alignment had then been adopted so far as the Grand Chord portion of it was concerned, since, had it been so, a controversy and discussion which extended over many years and at times became somewhat heated would never have arisen.

“But other counsels had prevailed, and in connection with the alignment it was decided that, after serving the town of Burdwan the line should, in the first instance, be directed towards the river Ganges and follow generally its course, and consequently what we now call the Loop line extended on to Benares was constructed, thus giving first the benefits of railway communication to the large centres of population along the banks of that river and to the fertile districts which it waters; and that this decision was the right one was quickly established by the large and growing traffic which was given to the railway at an early period of its existence by these densely populated areas. I may mention here that the line was opened in 1860 up to Rajmehal on the banks of the Ganges by one of His Excellency the Viceroy's illustrious predecessors—His Excellency Earl Canning, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

“But with the extension of our main line to Delhi arose a rapid increase of traffic between Northern India and Calcutta, and as a consequence it became desirable in the interests of this trade to make a shorter and more direct route through Bengal, and so the smaller

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Chord line came into being. This line, I should say, had at an early period been constructed as far as the Ranigunge Coal-field mainly with the idea of furnishing a supply of coal for the use of the railway, but I may mention that in addition that field now sends away annually some 3½ million tons of coal for purposes of the trade and commerce of India generally.

“Again, in process of time arose a further demand for a still shorter connection between Northern India and the sea-board and more transport facilities, and so the Grand Chord project, giving the shortest practicable route, was taken up and has been pushed, through many difficulties, to completion, and thus we see to-day the proposals of sixty years standing converted into a fact. The line has been built in three separate instalments at different times; the first section was made to serve the great Jherriah Coal-field, the traffic from which has reached a total of over three million tons per annum. The second section started from the other end—Moghal Serai—and ran to Gya, a town of historic and sacred interest; thus the two great sacred places—Benares and Gya—between which large numbers of pilgrims travel, received direct railway connection. On this section is one of the two great engineering features of the line, *vis.*, the Sone bridge which is practically two miles long and is second in length to only one other bridge in the world, the Tay bridge near Dundee. I should like to mention that this bridge was built by an officer who has since left the service of the East Indian Railway, Mr. F. Palmer, now Chief Engineer of the Calcutta Port Trust, and who I am pleased to find present with us to-day. The third and last section which links up the whole of the Chord is that over which you have just travelled.

“This last section contains the other important, indeed the chief engineering feature of interest, *vis.*, the crossing of the Vindhya Range of hills, and it was in accomplishing this crossing that the main difficulties of construction centred.

“The problem of finding the best and the cheapest alignment through the hills was one which necessarily occupied much time and study on the part of our engineers. It is stated in legendary lore that a famous sage of Northern India travelling south on reaching these hills commanded them to bow down before him so as to afford him an easy passage across. Our engineers unfortunately did not possess such powers of overcoming nature, and so were obliged to adopt latter-day prosaic methods of doing this. You will have seen how the crossing has been effected. It has necessitated the construction of three difficult tunnels, many heavy cuttings and high embankments, while the line itself rises to a height of some 1,300 feet above sea level.

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"The credit of discovering the alignment adopted belongs to our present Chief Engineer, Mr. R. S. Highet. The matter had been under consideration for some years by several engineers of high standing, and an alignment had, as a matter of fact, been determined upon before Mr. Highet took charge of the work. He, however, was not satisfied with it and, as the result of further study and examination, he secured the present alignment, which is not only a greatly improved one but has reduced the cost of the section by some 8 lakhs of rupees, an achievement of which Mr. Highet may justly be proud. The actual construction of the line has been in direct charge of Mr. F. E. Cockshott, and to him much credit is due for the successful completion of the many difficult works concerned. Immediately under Mr. Cockshott have been a number of engineers, each of whom in their different capacities contributed largely to the results obtained, and these again were assisted by subordinates, both European and Native, who throughout worked with energy, industry and intelligence.

"But interesting and important as the designing and actual construction of undertakings of this character necessarily are, the chief question after all is their ultimate usefulness as means of transport, thus furthering the development of the country and its trade, and in this I am satisfied the Grand Chord Railway will play a great and important part.

"I have already referred to the large coal traffic which one section of the line has created by giving railway transport to the Jheriah Coal-field; and the opening of the line through will have further important results. First, there will be the shortening of the distance between Calcutta and Moghal Serai and all places beyond by some 50 miles, thus saving time and cost of transport, and the significance of this as regards the latter will be to some extent realised when I mention that the adjustment of rates and fares which will follow will mean a concession to the public on the traffic now carried of approximately Rs. 25 lakhs a year. The traffic from the Jheriah Coal-field to Moghal Serai and beyond will be specially favoured, inasmuch as the detour by Sitampur, now necessary in the case of such traffic, will be avoided, thus reducing the transit distance in this case by some 110 miles. Another important change in this direction associated with the opening of the line is the introduction of the new coal tariff, which of itself means a reduction in charges to the coal trade, taking the coal traffic as it is at present of no less than, say, Rs. 20 lakhs per annum, a reduction which I would point out is in addition to the 25 lakhs just mentioned as arising from the shortening of distances. These are large sacrifices of revenue, but we trust in no long time to recoup

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ourselves. We expect from them important increases in the volume of our business both in passengers and in goods traffic. We look to the reduction in cost of coal transport to so reduce the price of coal at the various industrial centres in Northern India, that, not only will there be a great expansion of the coal traffic itself, but also of trade generally, and especially of manufacturing enterprise which the cheaper coal should encourage and make possible.

"In connection with these matters I think I may claim—without saying more than is, I believe, generally recognized—that it has long been the policy of the East Indian Railway administration, notably since the advent of General Sir R. Strachey to the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors, to give the fullest possible advantages affordable by the railway as a great transporting agency to both the country and its commerce. In passenger fares large reductions have been made from time to time mainly in those of the lower class passengers and with most beneficial results generally, a fact that is evident from the greatly increased numbers who have been thereby enabled to avail themselves of the use of the railway as a means of travelling. Under the head of merchandise, coal, as an article of primary necessity to the expansion of industries and trade generally, has had our special attention in this respect, but we feel that other staples of commerce also need consideration in the same direction, and it is in this view that we have, as is known, recently come forward asking for the removal of the restriction now placed upon us in the matter of rates, for we are satisfied, so far at least as the East Indian Railway is concerned, that lower rates than are now permissible can in the case of export produce carried over long distances be given with great advantage both to the railway and the trade of the country.

"In conclusion, Your Excellencies, Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I would venture to express the hope that in due time, as the Grand Chord line develops and is seen to extend and increase the great blessings of cheap transport to the country's trade and population—especially the poorer section of it,—you will be able to recall with interest and some pleasure the part you have taken to-day in its opening.

"Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I have now to propose to you a toast which I am sure you will all receive with enthusiasm—the health of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto."

The toast of Lord and Lady Minto was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm.

The Viceroy then rose, and spoke as follows :—]

Mr. Douglas, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—In the first place I must thank you, Mr. Douglas, for the kind words you have

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addressed to Lady Minto and myself in proposing the toast of our health. It has been a great pleasure to both of us to be here to-day, and I feel myself particularly fortunate in having had the opportunity of clinching the last bolt in the Grand Chord Railway.

Mr. Douglas has told us this evening how the line has been constructed in separate sections, each of them calling for the exercise of the highest engineering skill. The Sone bridge, between Mogal Serai and Gya, built by my friend, Mr. Palmer, is one of the great bridges of the world, whilst the distinguished abilities of Mr. Highet and the careful construction of Mr. Cockshott have triumphed over the difficulties of the Vindhya Range and have completed the beautiful hill section over which we passed this afternoon. To-day's ceremony marks the forging of another great link in the East Indian Railway system. It is very interesting to note how the necessity for that link has made itself more evident in each succeeding year; how the Loop line in the first place carried prosperity to the populations on the banks of the Ganges, and how still more extensive railway connection with Delhi and the north brought increased traffic, to be met by the building of the smaller Chord line, to be followed by still greater demands for railway development to which the opening of the Grand Chord Railway is to-day's reply.

It is even still more interesting to look back on the early days of the East Indian Railway Company. I believe we owe the introduction to India of railways (and telegraphs too) largely to the foresight of Lord Dalhousie, though John Company was not at all inclined to support him. The Directors told him his proposals were merely wasteful extravagance. All the same, he beat them, and turned the first sod of the East Indian Railway in 1851. The Company itself had been organised in 1845 by Mr. Stephenson, afterwards Sir MacDonalld Stephenson, who was really the pioneer of Indian railways. But much time was spent,

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I may, perhaps, in these days say without disrespect, that much time was wasted, in negotiations with the East India Company. The contract was not signed till 1849, and the first section of the link to Hooghly was not opened till 1854. Many of us must often have thought what that delay meant, for what terrible things it may afterwards have been answerable, what lives might a few hundred miles of railway have saved—for the East Indian Railway has no ordinary history: its early days are tinged with the terrible romance of the Mutiny. If the Railway Company had only been a little older, what might it not have done. In its infancy as it was, the stress of war could only delay its growth, but we will, none of us, ever forget the devotion and the heroic defence of the small house at Arrah by Vickers Boyle. Now I trust this great railway is destined to flourish through long years of peace to play its part in the development of the trade of India, and the furtherance of the happiness of its people. Mr. Douglas has told us that it is the policy of the East Indian Railway administration to give the fullest possible advantage affordable by the Railway as a great transporting agency to both the country and its commerce—a noble and patriotic ambition for which India owes her thanks.

Ladies and Gentlemen, now that Lady Minto and I have arrived so nearly at the end of our tour, and as I see so many railway friends gathered around me, I really cannot say good-night without thanking them for the innumerable courtesies we have received from them throughout the many hundred miles of our journey. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Dring, and very many others whom it would only be invidious to mention, have done much for the comfort of our tour, which I can assure them we shall not forget.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask you to join with me in a toast, which, I am sure, will be drunk with enthusiasm, the health of Mr. Douglas, and I venture to couple with it the healths of the able and energetic staff of

*Opening of the Indian Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition.*

all ranks who have served with him, and success to the Grand Chord Railway!

[At the end of the speech the toast proposed was drunk. Mr. Douglas then replied briefly thanking the Viceroy for his kind remarks, and saying that anything done for so kind and courteous a gentleman as Lord Minto was truly a pleasure. The Viceroy and party then left for Calcutta.]

OPENING OF THE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

21st Dec. 1906 [His Excellency the Viceroy opened the Exhibition on the 21st December 1906.

The grounds presented a brilliant appearance and a vast crowd attended the ceremony. Among those present were Sir A. Fraser, the Chief Justice, the Members of Council and many others. His Excellency accompanied by Her Excellency the Countess of Minto, Colonel Dunlop Smith and an Aide-de-Camp arrived punctually at 4 P.M.

The Sangit Samaj then sang a Benediction song, at the conclusion of which Mr. J. Chowdhury read the Progress Report of the Committee. He pointed out the difficulties that had been experienced in organising the present Exhibition and thanked Government for the help given. The report also pointed out the scope of the Exhibition and what it hoped to accomplish.

At the conclusion the Maharaja of Darbhanga made the following speech :—

“*My Lord*,—It is with a peculiar pleasure that I welcome Your Excellency and this great assembly in this hall. A hall of Industry is a hall of peace. Here the voice of controversy is hushed. I invite you to witness some of the triumphs of peace, which have been pronounced on high authority to be no less glorious than those of war. I heartily wish that the triumphs will multiply as time advances, and that in a temple of concord like this the bonds of union between different races, creeds and classes may be constantly renewed and strengthened. It is a trite saying that the wealth of a country depends upon its commerce and industries. India has been the home of many industries, but they need to be adapted to the requirements of modern times. In consequence of a lack of adaptation, and of many other circumstances, such as the conditions of Indian social life, the



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shyness of capital, the altered tastes and habits of the people, and the opening out of new walks of life, some of the old industries have nearly died out, some others have been dwindling. Handicrafts, remarkable in their way as proofs of manual skill and industry, have had to face an unequal competition with mechanical appliances of ever-increasing power and refinement. Children of artisans, when they have received the elements of a school education, and still more when they have tasted of higher education, which under British rule has been thrown open to all, have shown an unwillingness to pursue the traditional occupation of their families. When the ranks of any class of artisans have been thinned in this way, caste rules have stood in the way of their being recruited from other classes. The tastes of the people have been so altered that they find some of the products of the old industries as either too fine or too coarse. So many new careers have been opened out by Government and by mercantile men that many have deserted the old industries in the hope of making surer and larger gains than what they could expect from the old avocations of their fathers. Government have for many years sought to create a taste for industries among the people, and with that end in view have established schools of science and industry. I am not aware of a truer friend and patron of Indian industry than Your Excellency. We, therefore, felt emboldened to ask Your Excellency to open the Exhibition, and we are deeply thankful that you have consented, in spite of the numerous calls on your time and attention, to discharge the office. We also heartily thank Her Excellency Lady Minto for gracing the occasion with her presence. The Exhibition could not be opened under happier or more august auspices, and it is now my pleasing duty as President of the Exhibition Committee to invite Your Excellency to declare the Exhibition open."

His Excellency the Viceroy in declaring the Exhibition open spoke as follows :—]

Maharaja, Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—
I understand this is the second time the Indian Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition has been held in Calcutta. The first occasion was, I believe, in 1901, the year in which the Exhibition was inaugurated, and I am very glad to be here to-day to offer it a hearty welcome on its return to the capital of India.

I must thank you, Maharaja, for the cordial reception you have extended to me on behalf of your Committee, and

Opening of the Indian Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition.

I would venture at the same time to congratulate you on the wise and thoughtful words of your Address.

You have reminded me of my reference to *Swadeshi* in my speech in Council last March, and I hope that my presence here may be some indication of the fulfilment of the promise of support I then held out to those who are earnestly endeavouring to develop home industries in an open market for the employment and for the supply of the people of India.

I see around me the results of their labours, and I am gladly here to-day to help them. I understand, Maharaja, it was wisely decided at the inauguration of the Exhibition that it was to be dissociated from politics, and I trust we shall all benefit this afternoon by breathing the bracing air of a non-controversial atmosphere. I shall, at any rate, rejoice if my presence should contribute to confirm the dissociation of honest *Swadeshi* from political aspirations. There is no occasion, there is no justification for confusing the two. And this Exhibition will do a great work for India if, whilst recognising the right that every man has to his own political opinions and the right to make them known, it enables us all to meet on a *Swadeshi* platform where, irrespective of our political views, we can work hand in hand for the good of the people. We shall all do well to recognise that though industrial necessities and manufacturing interests must go far to shape the policy of India, that is a very different thing from attempting to direct and control those industries and interests for political purposes.

I am looking forward, Maharaja, to the opportunity you have afforded me of seeing for myself the many articles of interest the energy of your Committee has collected here. I cannot tell you how heartily I sympathise not only in their endeavours to develop industrial resources, but in all they are doing to preserve those characteristic native arts for which India has for centuries been celebrated and skilled, handicrafts which the modern world can never hope to rival.

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Whilst in the larger sense of production for purposes of every-day utility and consumption they have recognised the necessity for the adoption of machinery which modern science has made available to the manufacturer. In these days of competition and of ever-advancing mechanical discovery India cannot lag behind. We cannot expect the Indian public for sentimental reasons to buy what is inferior and behind the times. Sad as it is to see ancient industries give way to novel methods, we should be prepared to welcome all that is good in the inevitable, to adapt our populations to the demands of modern requirements, and to educate them in the knowledge of modern inventions. This Exhibition has already done much to indicate to the Indian manufacturer the paths that lead to success. I hope, too, that the Department of Commerce and Industry, over which the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett has so ably presided, has shed an influence over Indian commercial life which may have great results in the future.

I congratulate the Committee of the Exhibition on the support they have received from Indian Princes and Chiefs. They have, I can assure them, the warm sympathy of the Government of India, and I know that they have no truer friend in Bengal than Sir Andrew Fraser.

Maharaja, I have to thank you for your kind references to Her Excellency and myself. I shall watch the efforts of your Exhibition with the deepest interest, and I have now great pleasure in declaring it open.



ADDRESS FROM THE RAJPUT MAHASABHA.

10th Jan. 1907 [During the Viceroy's visit to Agra in connection with the visit of His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan to India, His Excellency received a Deputation from the Rajput Mahasabha which presented an address headed by His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir and His Highness the Maharaja of Idar.

His Excellency replied to the address in the following terms :—]

Your Highnesses and Gentlemen,—I am grateful for the opportunity afforded me to-day of meeting the members of your Deputation—a Deputation so representative of the Chiefs, Nobles, Talukdars and Jagirdars of the great Rajput community, headed by my friend, His Highness the Maharaja of Bikanir. I thank you for your welcome to the head-quarters of your Sabha, to this city, which the memories of the valorous deeds of your ancestors has endeared to you, a city, as you say, full of stirring associations, and, putting aside for an instant the objects of your Deputation, I hope that we, as a part of the great assemblage gathered here, may share in contributing another brilliant page to the history of Agra. Your Highness, the address with which you have presented me impresses upon me the efforts your Association is making for social reform and the diffusion of knowledge. It is very true that Western sciences and culture and, perhaps more important still, Western ways of thought, are making themselves felt throughout India, and I hope that British rule may assist the people of India to direct into the most profitable channels the many influences which must so momentarily affect their future. Old days of ignorance and slavery to custom have gone for ever. A new life has, I hope, come into being. But it will assuredly bring with it fresh difficulties and problems unknown to the old life; problems affecting the material and political welfare of the people which altered social conditions can alone satisfactorily solve. Your Princes and Chiefs have, I know, done much by the encouragement of education and social reforms to fit the

*Address from the Rajput Mahasabha.*

community for that share in the public life of their country which should be the highest ambition of any man. No leaders of a great movement have ever had finer human material to work with than you have. You may well be proud of your Rajput history. You rightly claim to be a soldier race,—a race that has had no great share of the luxuries of life in a country which is, perhaps, all the dearer to you because you have known that your existence and your success have depended upon the courage and hardihood of your people. It was Napoleon who said "poverty, privations and misery are the school of a good soldier." But I hope that your community has for ever left the old rough days behind them, and that you will now contribute the sterling qualities of your race to the national life of your country. You, Your Highness, and you, Your Highness General Sir Pertab Singh, have earned distinction in India and beyond the seas in the service of the King-Emperor, and Rajputana has given many good soldiers to the Empire, and I can assure you that as regards the Cadet Corps and the openings to a professional future which I sincerely hope it will supply, you may rely upon me for my support, fullest sympathy, and assistance. The King has no more loyal subjects than his faithful Rajputs, and, Gentlemen, no one can look forward with greater pleasure than I do to any opportunity which may be afforded to me of furthering your endeavours to encourage the just aspirations of your people to share in the public life of India.



STATE BANQUET AT AGRA.

11th Jan. 1907. [His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan had been invited by the Government of India to visit India. His Majesty accepted the invitation, and having crossed the frontier, on January the 3rd entered British territory for the first time in his life. On his way to Agra, where His Excellency the Viceroy was to meet him, the Amir passed through Peshawar, where he received a splendid reception. His Majesty arrived at Agra on the morning of the 9th January. On the night of the 11th a State dinner was given in His Majesty's honour, at which a large and distinguished gathering was present.

At the conclusion of dinner His Excellency the Viceroy rose and made the following speech:—]

We are honoured to-night by the distinguished presence of the able ruler of a neighbouring State, the country of a friend to whom the King-Emperor, whose representative I am proud to be at this memorable gathering at Agra, has expressed a hearty welcome on the occasion of his first visit to the Indian Empire. It is many years since an Amir of Afghanistan has been the guest of a Viceroy, and I rejoice that it has been possible for His Majesty to leave for a time the cares of State and to accept the best we can offer of Indian hospitality. I trust that during his sojourn with us he will see much that will prove of interest to him, that the efforts we have made to ensure his comfort may prove successful, and, above all, that when he leaves us to return to Afghanistan he will rest assured that he has gained many personal friends in India and that he carries with him their sincerest good wishes for the future welfare and prosperity of himself and of his people. I ask you, Gentlemen, to join with me in welcoming our friend and guest, and to drink to the good health of His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan.

[To this the Amir replied :—" I am very glad that the first occasion on which I have left my home has been to come to my friend's house, and I hope and I sincerely trust from my heart that I have found a personal friend for myself and for my Government, and I am very highly pleased. It is an extreme gratification, too, that I have been treated so well by His Excellency my friend, and all the other kind



Dinner given by Members of the Geological and Mining Association.

friends I have met in this my journey. I will be gratified if you all, Nobles, Lords, Maharajahs, and all here present, will drink to the health of His Excellency the Viceroy. I hope you will all follow me in this toast."

The Viceroy responded as follows :—]

Your Excellencies, Your Honours, My Lords, and Gentlemen,—I rise to acknowledge the gracious terms in which my health has been proposed by the Amir of Afghanistan, which will, I hope, fix a stamp to the friendship which we all trust will exist for ever between our respective countries.

DINNER GIVEN BY MEMBERS OF THE GEOLOGICAL
AND MINING ASSOCIATION.

[His Excellency the Viceroy was the principal guest at a dinner 25th Jan. 1907 given by the members of the Geological and Mining Association in celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Association.

The dinner was held at the Volunteer Head-quarters. Mr. Holland, the President of the Association, proposed His Excellency's health. The Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I am indeed very glad to be here to-night in the early days of your Institute and on the first occasion I believe on which its members have gathered together round the festive board to celebrate its birthday. I hope that this evening's banquet will be the precursor of many others at which you may in future celebrate the progress and the success of the Institute, the objects of which you are doing so much to encourage. It is quite new to me to be told that my ancestor, Lord Minto, discovered gold (*loud laughter*), I mean coal in India, although I am thankful to say that he discovered a certain amount in the kingdom of Fife—for if it had not been for that, well! I don't know where I should have been.

I am afraid, Mr. President, that I cannot pretend to be a surveying or mining expert in any sense of the word. But as it happens, I have seen something of geological survey



Dinner given by members of the Geological and Mining Association.

and mining projecting in days gone by, in Canada under the tutelage of Sir William Dawson and his distinguished son, Dr. George Dawson, President of the Geological Survey of the Dominion, and my experience taught me that the surveyor and the miner do wisely to walk hand in hand, and that the Geological Survey should really represent an Intelligence Department furnishing the information upon which the miner bases his plan of campaign.

You are now, I know, endeavouring to unite these two branches of science, and nobody will more anxiously watch the results of your labours than I shall. I can only speak as a layman in the presence of experts, but I have seen the great gold mines of British Columbia and their extensive gold-crushing machinery and stamps. I have been down to the bottomest depth of Vancouver Island after coal. I have followed in the wake of a mad rush after gold to Alaska, wandered up the coast of British Columbia and down the waters of the Yukon to Dawson City. I have lived amongst the miners of the Klondyke and have many friends still I hope amongst the adventurous spirits of the creeks. I have myself handled a sieve and have watched with delight the wet mud making way for its rich sediment of gold, where little machinery is wanted except the machinery of a good constitution, pluck and a share of luck, with an iron determination not to squander one's winnings at the nearest saloon. But wherever I have been I have realised that the discovery of mineral wealth means not only riches for those who keep what they find, but that it is followed also by development of every sort. It is followed by settlement of fresh populations, by the encouragement of industries and the growth of prosperity in all directions. The miner brings with him his demand for labour, the population that always follows his discoveries bring with it the necessity for further industries, and wealth is disseminated. You in India have a great field before you—a field that has hitherto not been so very

*Minto Fancy Fête.*

much explored, the miner has needed the science of the geologist to tell him of the treasure that is hidden in the bowels of the earth, it rests with the miner to bring that treasure to light, and to furnish the machinery to place it in the market. The forces, which your Institute has united, will, I hope, prove invincible. I earnestly hope you will meet with support not only from people at home but from the people of India. You are helping to develop not only one great industry but many others which must follow in its footsteps. No one will watch your work more carefully and with greater interest than I shall, and I thank you sincerely for the assistance the skilled knowledge of the members of your Institution is giving to the Government in their endeavours to develop the resources of this country.

MINTO FANCY FÊTE.

[This Fête was opened in Calcutta by His Excellency the Viceroy 28th Jan. 1907. on the 28th January 1907, and its object is set forth in the speech made by Her Excellency on the occasion.]

The grounds presented a charming and effective appearance, and the bright weather, though hot, added to the gaiety of the scene.

There was a large and distinguished gathering present at the ceremony. When all were in their seats, Her Excellency Lady Minto drove up in State, and was received by the members of the Reception Committee, and conducted to her seat. The Ladies Eileen, Ruby and Violet Elliot arrived a few minutes later, and were provided with seats behind Lady Minto. At 4-15 P.M. His Excellency the Viceroy drove up in State, and was received by Lady Minto and the members of the Reception Committee, and conducted to a seat on Her Excellency's right. Lady Minto then rose, and in a clear voice, which was heard by all, spoke as follows :—

"*Your Excellency*,—Before asking Your Excellency to declare this Fancy Fête open I would like to make a few remarks concerning the objects for which it has been organised, and to thank those who have so nobly come to my assistance in this great undertaking.

"It is well known that many of the most deserving institutions are hampered by want of means. The generous help of the public,

*Minto Fancy Fête.*

which is everywhere given so freely to hospitals, nursing homes, and institutions for the alleviation of suffering, is unable to meet the ever-increasing demands, and it is only by large public entertainments, such as we are assembled to inaugurate to-day, that adequate sums of money can be raised to help these deserving objects.

"My hope is that the amount realized by this Fête may be sufficiently large to add many comforts to those lying ill in the various European and Indian hospitals in Calcutta, and also to substantially assist the Calcutta and Indian Nursing Association in their efforts to provide well-trained Nurses both for hospital and private cases.

"The attempt to thank those who have assisted me in my task is a difficult one. Virtually all Calcutta has to be thanked. From the largest mercantile firms to the smallest, and members of all trades, each in their way, have generously subscribed either in money or in kind—the bazaar stalls have been splendidly stocked, local ladies and gentlemen have come forward to assist by every means in their power, while the monster Lucky Bag has been so skilfully handled that over 30,000 tickets have already been disposed of.

"The lighting of the ground, which I am sure those who will see it to-night will agree is superbly done, has been accomplished by that hard-working body, the Lighting Committee.

"The grounds and garden testify to the work of the Committee in their charge, whilst the Shannon River, the Galloping Horses, and the Skating Rink are most generously put at our disposal by the proprietor of the Skating Rink, who in every way has given the greatest possible assistance to the Fête.

"The Military Tournament, organised by a most efficient Military Committee, has an extremely interesting programme of varied events, which cannot fail to be immensely popular. Its work has been very heavy, as the amount of training and rehearsal necessary for the production of so splendid a spectacle has of necessity extended over a prolonged period. My sincere thanks, therefore, are due to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have so generously given us their time and assistance. But to go into further detail would detain you too long and keep you away from the many pleasures already alluded to, so I will now briefly record my most grateful thanks to those who have organised the many remaining entertainments, such as the Highland Gathering, the Flower Show, the Photographic Exhibition, the Dog Show, the Boxing Tournament, the Café Chantant, the Great Telescope, the Doll Show, the first Motor Show, held under the auspices of the Bengal Automobile Association, and Prince's Restaurant, which had been arranged by the Dining

*Minto Fancy Fête.*

Committee with the generous assistance of Messrs. Kellner & Co. I must also mention the massed bands who will produce a splendid selection of music, the rehearsal of which has lasted over a considerable time, and the services of the various other bands, who are so kindly taking part in the Fête, must also be acknowledged.

"Although it would be impossible to enumerate by name every one who has come forward to give us their active help and support, I cannot close these few remarks without expressing my deep indebtedness to the Joint Honorary Secretaries, Colonel Crooke-Lawless and Mr. Palmer, who for months past have so freely given their best energies and the whole of their leisure in working out every detail of this great undertaking.

"Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, Ladies, and Gentlemen, this Fête is in the cause of Charity. I ask you to unite with me in making it an unqualified success.

"I will now ask Your Excellency to declare the Fête Ground open."

His Excellency, in declaring the Fête open, made the following reply :—]

Your Excellency,—I am very pleased to be here to-day to receive the address with which you have presented me on behalf of the Committee of the Minto Fête.

I have listened with the greatest interest to all you have told me of its objects and its organisation, and I hope that what you have said will quite dispel any belief, which possibly may have at one time existed, that the profits you hope to earn were to be devoted exclusively to the Indian Nursing Association. For much as I sympathise with the objects of that Association and deeply impressed as I am by the urgent need for available nursing throughout India, yet I hope that the Hospitals and Nursing Associations of Calcutta will largely benefit by the efforts of Your Excellency and those who have so energetically assisted you.

I hope that His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan may be able to visit the Fête, and that he may carry away with him pleasant recollections of the entertainments you have provided for the people of Calcutta.

I am delighted to see that the blue-jackets of H.M.S.

*Unveiling of Sir John Woodburn's Statue.*

Perseus are here to share with the Army in assisting towards the success of the tournament, and I am much looking forward to visiting the grounds and numerous shows upon which so much thought and labour have been expended.

It is a great pleasure to me to be able to participate in to-day's ceremonies, as it gives me an opportunity of associating myself with Lady Minto in expressing our gratitude to all who have devoted so much time and trouble to this great undertaking. It only remains now for the public to show by their patronage that they appreciate the unwearied and self-denying efforts of the organisers of the Fête and of a large band of workers who have carried out their ideas, and that they are in full sympathy with its objects.

May I congratulate Your Excellency very heartily on the successful issue of your exertions and upon the auspicious inauguration of the Fête, which I now declare to be open.

UNVEILING OF SIR JOHN WOODBURN'S STATUE.

22nd Mar. 1907.

[This ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Viceroy on Friday afternoon, the 22nd March. A large gathering was present on the occasion, but the proceedings were marred by inclement weather.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. A. Apcar, on behalf of the Executive Committee, in asking the Viceroy to unveil the statue, said that this commemoration of the late Sir John was the outcome of the respect and admiration felt by all classes of the community for one who had not only won the hearts of all, but had shown himself an able and efficient administrator of the great province over which he ruled. Mr. Apcar also referred to the death of Sir John at his post in circumstances that were most tragic.

His Excellency having unveiled the statue made the following reply:—]

Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I feel that the ceremony in which I have been invited to take part must

*Unveiling of Sir John Woodburn's Statue.*

be full of sad recollections for the many friends of Sir John Woodburn who are to-day gathered together around his statue, and I am grateful for the opportunity of sharing with them in doing honour to the memory of one who throughout an arduous public life had by his sympathetic personality and sacrifice to duty so universally gained the affection and admiration of all with whom he came in contact. I never knew Sir John Woodburn, but I came to India to find the love for him very fresh in the hearts of the people of Calcutta, and yet till his later days he had not belonged to Bengal. Much of his earlier service had been given to what are now the United Provinces, and especially to the Province of Oudh, where he possessed a host of friends and where his name is still a household word. He came here as Lieutenant-Governor in 1898. If he ever felt a secret regret that it had not fallen to his lot to rule over the provinces of his first love, he never betrayed it by word or outward sign, and within a year of assuming charge of his great office he had won the confidence of all his officers, the esteem of the public, and the affection of all who enjoyed his personal friendship. Long before he died he had earned the reputation of being the best beloved Lieutenant-Governor Bengal had ever had. Sympathy, loyalty, courage and courtliness were the key-notes of his character, and worked their unfailing magic on all who came within their spell. He possessed the great gift of drawing forth all that was best in those with whom he came in contact; of seeing with their eyes and leading them to see with his; of inspiring them with some portion of his own of hopefulness of duty and of zeal. His love of India was deep-rooted and sincere. Speaking once in the Bengal Council he said that for four generations his house had eaten the salt of India, and it was an abiding sorrow to him that he was the last of his name and that he had no son to give to India in return for all that India had given to him. Nowhere was his insight into the feelings and

*Unveiling of Sir John Woodburn's Statue.*

prejudices of the people of India more wisely displayed than in his treatment of the plague. Within a few days of Sir John Woodburn's assuming charge as Lieutenant-Governor the first cases of plague occurred in Calcutta, and for a short time something resembling a panic prevailed. At that time the policy favoured by the sanitary authorities in Europe involved very stringent measures of segregation of the sick, the evacuation and even destruction of infected buildings, and the isolation of travellers from suspected areas. Sir John Woodburn was the first among the provincial Governors to realise how profoundly repugnant this policy was to Indian sentiment, and how we were defeating our own ends by attempting to force on the people measures which had no hope of success unless assisted by their willing co-operation. It was in a large degree owing to his representations and example that wiser counsels ultimately prevailed, with the result that where plague still unhappily endures our task is confined to combating the encroachments of the disease, and we have not to face the added labour of overcoming the hostility and opposition of the sufferers themselves. And he took special interest in all that pertained to the administration of Calcutta itself. Probably no Lieutenant-Governor before him had ever done so much in the way of constantly watching all important schemes which were in progress. He used to ride round the city a great deal both for this purpose and also to encourage and popularise the measures for plague prevention. It was this that led to the adoption of an equestrian statue, as it was thus that the people knew him best. Among the lessons which Sir John Woodburn learned from his long association with the Talukdars of Oudh was the importance of securing the goodwill and attachment of the landed aristocracy of India, the natural leaders of the people. He realised the greatness of their influence for good or for evil, and the unwisdom as well as injustice of giving them any reason to believe that their

*Unveiling of Sir John Woodburn's Statue*

interests were less regarded by Government than those of their tenantry. He spared no pains to eradicate this feeling and to show that it was unfounded, and it was largely due to his advocacy that the Settled Estates Act eventually became law; by this measure he sought to secure to the great hereditary families of Bengal the permanent possession of their estates, confident in the assurance that with every house thus established there would be added fresh strength to the just and wise administration of the Empire.

In the lighter duties attaching to his office, in social intercourse with every class, Indian or European, Sir John Woodburn was at his best. There have been few Lieutenant-Governors who have enjoyed a wider circle of friends amongst the non-official community. His hospitality was lavish and dignified; his private generosity was catholic and far-reaching, but wholly without ostentation; in every relation of life he worthily upheld the finest traditions of his service; and when he died, a few bare months before he might have hoped to pass into an honoured retirement, the concourse that gathered round his grave and the thousands who crowded to the memorial meeting at the Town Hall were a living testimony to the regard and affection which he inspired throughout the province which for nearly five years had been subject to his rule. Your Honour, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I am indeed proud to unveil the statue of such a man.

[His Highness the Maharaja of Darbhanga would have read his speech in the course of which he was to have moved a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy for consenting to perform the unveiling ceremony, but as the rain came down heavily this was taken as read.]



DEBATE ON THE BUDGET, 1907-8.

27th Mar. 1907 [On the 20th March the Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker introduced the Financial Statement. The discussion upon it took place on the 27th idem. The chief items were reductions in the salt tax and postal rates, the announcement of which was received with much satisfaction. Most of the Hon'ble Members spoke on the occasion and many interesting speeches were heard. His Excellency the Viceroy closed the Debate with the following speech :—]

I rejoice that the continued prosperity of India enables me to renew my congratulations of last year to my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Baker on the pursuance of a well-considered financial policy, the details of which he has placed before us with so much clearness and which has again enabled him to announce a substantial remission of taxation in the coming year.

But in the midst of these good times—these times of comparative plenty before which the spectre of famine is falling back—we must not shut our eyes to the misery that is still amongst us—the perennial harvest of the plague. I confess to some surprise at hearing so little mention of its ravages in to-day's speeches. Recent reports are most depressing. The marked decline in the mortality which occurred in 1906 has not been maintained in the present year. Taking the months of January and February, the figures for the last five years show a progressive increase during those months up to the year 1905 when 252,567 deaths were recorded. In 1906 the mortality for these two months fell to 47,505. It has now suddenly risen to 157,640, more than three times the number of deaths recorded last year. The disease is at its worst in the Punjab and the United Provinces, whence no fewer than 102,529 deaths have been reported during January and February. A similar rise of mortality has occurred in the Bombay Presidency. Excluding Bombay city, where there has been no increase, there have been 19,841 deaths during the last two months against 6,071 in January and February



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1906. In Burma, which escaped plague entirely until two years ago, the deaths in January and February reached a total of 3,574 compared with 1,370 in the same months of 1906.

In the United Provinces the city of Lucknow is suffering severely from the disease. During the week ending the 16th March 521 deaths occurred, while in the previous weeks 513 and 266 deaths were recorded. The Government of India have done their best to combat it. In a Resolution published on the 17th January 1906, they stated the results of the practical experience which had been acquired in the previous five years of actual plague administration. They indicated the preventive measures the utility of which appeared to have been established, and they pointed out that their application must depend upon the circumstances of the locality, the character of the people, the stage which the disease has reached and the agency available for dealing with it. In view of the great variety of conditions in different provinces they declined to lay down a uniform scheme of plague administration, and they left it to the Local Governments to determine which of the various measures admissible are practicable or expedient at particular times and places, and finally they observed that in the last resort all preventive action depends for its success upon the hearty co-operation of the people themselves. It is needless to go now into the efforts Government have made and are making to trace the origin of the disease. Much admirable work has been done, and we can only hope that scientific investigations may at last help us to check it. I only tell you the sad story of to-day.

Yet there is much to be thankful for. The monsoon showered the breath of life almost impartially throughout India, and the land has brought forth in plenty. Mr. Baker tells us that the area under the cotton crop is more than a million of acres in excess of that of last year, whilst the estimated yield exceeds that of any previous year by over a

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million bales ; that the cultivation of jute has grown in area by 200,000 acres and in outturn by 600,000 bales as compared with any former return, whilst it is estimated that the jute crop of last year realized 40 crores of rupees. Our Land Revenue tells a tale of increasing wealth—of wealth to great proprietors, but still more, I hope, of abundance of the necessities of life to the small tiller of the soil. He is the man we must strive to help. He is to a great extent the backbone of the population of India. On his welfare depends much of the happiness and the contentment of the people. And we have been able to do something for him. The reduction of the salt tax to Re. 1 a maund throughout the whole of India means very palpable relief. Certainly the tax cannot be termed a heavy one, and it is really the only obligatory tax which falls on the great mass of the population. As I understand my Hon'ble Colleague the incidence of the duty will now work out to less than 2½ annas per head of the population, and yet in a poor household the amount is very appreciable. It means a loss of £1,266,700 in our revenue for 1907-08, but in addition to the boon we are conferring on the people our experience of former reductions fully justifies us in assuming that the consumption of salt will more than respond to the reduction in duty.

But we have undertaken this reduction in the salt duty in the face of another loss to our revenue—a very serious loss. My Hon'ble Colleague tells us that "proposals have been submitted by the Chinese Government for the gradual reduction of the imports of Indian opium into China *pari passu* with the gradual contraction of the production of opium in that country, the object in view being the eventual extinction of the opium habit among the Chinese," and in recognition of China's proposals we have already notified a reduction in the number of chests of Bengal opium for sale in 1907-08 to 49,200 as compared with 52,800 last year. We are also reducing the area of opium cultivation.

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The intention of the Chinese Government, as I understand it, is that the reduction of imports of Indian opium into China should be spread over ten years, at the end of which period they should cease. At first sight, I grant that China's proposals are very alarming as to their possible effects on Indian revenues. But I am afraid I am unable to follow the Hon'ble the Nawab of Dacca in his sweeping assumption that India is about to be sacrificed for the pleasure of a few faddists. Neither do I think we are entitled to doubt the good faith of the Chinese Government as to the objects of their proposals. Papers which I have had recently before me indicate every intention on the part of China to reduce with a strong hand the consumption of opium and the growth of the poppy in her own territory. I am no opium faddist. I quite admit the hardship a proscription of opium would entail on those who use it in moderation as many in this country do, and I am well aware of the difficulties surrounding any attempt to reduce its production. But there is no doubt throughout the civilized world a feeling of disgust at the demoralizing effect of the opium habit in excess. It is a feeling in which we cannot but share. We could not with any self-respect refuse to assist China on the grounds of loss of revenue to India.

I notice that the Hon'ble Tikka Sahib recognises the harm that intoxicating drugs are already doing amongst the manly race from which he springs and welcomes the orders to reduce cultivation of opium as beneficial to his people.

I admit that the task China has set herself may be greater than she can accomplish, and that we have a perfect right to require that in agreeing to the reduction of imports from India we should be satisfied of the results of China's efforts to reduce her own internal opium production. But notwithstanding the prospect of a heavy loss in revenue, I hope we may accept what I believe to be my Hon'ble Colleague's view, that provided the transition state through

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which we must pass is spread over a sufficient number of years, we need apprehend no financial disaster, and may reasonably believe that the expansion of our sources of revenue will continue to guarantee our future prosperity. For the coming year at any rate we are, I think, entitled to look with satisfaction on much that it has been possible to provide for—a reduction in postal rates, a largely increased expenditure on education, and assistance to Provincial expenditure on Famine Relief, are all measures which should prove of far-reaching public benefit.

In respect to Railways, the Hon'ble Mr. Finlay has explained the reasons which have made it necessary "to omit from next year's estimate any provision for starting the construction of new lines, to retard slightly the progress of lines under construction and to reduce to a small extent the expenditure on special works of open lines." It has been necessary to provide for a very large expenditure upon rolling stock, and I am glad to see that the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar, speaking on behalf of the trading interests of Calcutta, welcomes the provisions which have been made to meet a deficiency which have naturally elicited much bitter criticism from the commercial world. However, we may do well to remember that a shortage in rolling stock has often before now been the evidence of a sudden prosperity which it has been momentarily impossible to meet. I am inclined to ask with my Hon'ble Colleague, if, judging from the custom of great trading companies elsewhere, it would not be possible for Indian Companies to relieve the pressure which exists by supplying their own wagons to a certain extent? I am afraid I cannot find it so easy to follow him in his view that Government guarantees are detrimental to private enterprise. I have seen not a little of rapid railway development by private enterprise, but I have never suspected that such development was likely to be delayed by a Government guarantee. My experience has rather been that Government guarantees have very largely

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encouraged private enterprise. Indeed, with my short acquaintance with India I am rather inclined to suspect that private enterprise may have suffered from want of Government support.

In respect to Military expenditure, I congratulate His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in the very clear statement he has given to us. His explanation of the manner in which the Army in India is being redistributed will, I trust, assist to disabuse the public mind of many misconceptions. I doubt whether the value of Lord Kitchener's attempt to create a self-contained Divisional organization has ever been sufficiently appreciated, whilst all that he has done and is still doing to improve the position of the sepoy cannot be too widely known. He has also told us that conditions affecting the pay of British officers of the Indian Army is under consideration.

I am convinced that though the initial outlay of Lord Kitchener's scheme is necessarily heavy, its completion will tend not only to increased efficiency in many directions but will save much of the waste of past years, and ensure what I know the Commander-in-Chief has warmly at heart, a sound system of economical administration in the Army.

The Hon'ble Sir Steyning Edgerley in his very interesting speech dealt with many topics requiring much more detailed consideration than it would be possible to devote to them to-day, but I can assure him of my full agreement with the views he has expressed of the sympathetic treatment we owe to the Bombay Chiefs, whilst in all he said as to the evils of centralized administration he will find himself in entire accord with many an overworked public servant in this country. Perhaps I speak feelingly as one who is called upon to overrule a Local Government on such a weighty matter as the extravagant purchase of a horse valued at Rs. 70, or to check the heavy expenditure entailed by the unpardonable demand of some distant Collector for

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the erection of a bath-room, and simultaneously to guard the interests of India in connection with the administration of a world-wide Empire. I do not think we can go on as we are. We can, I hope, do something to shake off the unnecessary chains that bind us. Perhaps we are on the eve of new possibilities.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale tempts me to foreshadow the future. I am afraid at present I can only do so faintly. I recognise with him that politically India is in a transition state, that new and just aspirations are springing up amongst its people, which the ruling power must be prepared not only to meet but to assist. A change is rapidly passing over the land, and we cannot afford to dally. And to my mind nothing would be more unfortunate for India than that the Government of India should fail to recognise the signs of the times. I have deemed it all important that the initiative of possible reforms should emanate from us. I have felt that nothing would be more mischievous to British administration in India in the future than a belief that its Government had acted on no conviction of their own, but simply in submission to agitation in this country and in accordance with instructions conveyed to them from home. If there has been misconception as to this I hope I may be allowed this opportunity of correcting it. The story as far as I can tell it at present is simply this. That last autumn I appointed a Committee of my Council to consider the possibility of a development of administrative machinery in accordance with the new conditions we were called upon to face. The Committee's report was considered by my Council, and a Despatch expressing the views of my Colleagues and myself has been forwarded to the Secretary of State. What I would impress upon you is that this move in advance has emanated entirely from the Government of India, and that we are justly entitled to deny any accusation of "an inadequate appreciation of the realities of the present situation."

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We have now to await the reply of the Secretary of State, and there is no intention that any legislation should be undertaken before the public in India and at home have had ample opportunity for an expression of opinion on the proposals we have placed before him. I can assure all those who are interested in this great question that the Despatch we have recently addressed to Mr. Morley is fraught with great possibilities, and I earnestly trust that the suggestions it contains may go far towards satisfying the pressing requirements of the Indian Empire.

ARMY TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION MEETING.

[The Annual Meeting of the Association was held in the afternoon 5th July 1907. of the 5th July. The meeting was well attended, among those present being the Commander-in-Chief, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and the Bishop of Lahore. His Excellency the Viceroy presided and opened the proceedings with the following speech :—]

Your Honour, Your Excellency, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—The Revd. Mr. Bateson has asked me to be present this afternoon at the Annual Meeting of the Royal Army Temperance Association, and I assure you it gives me real pleasure to be here to share in the public recognition of the great work the Association has done and is doing to further the efficiency, the welfare, and the happiness, too, of the British Army in India. No one could be more delighted than I am to see the place that your Association has so deservedly won for itself, not only in the Army, but in public esteem, and I congratulate you on His Majesty the King-Emperor having become your Patron. The increase in your strength, of which your General Secretary tells me, is ample evidence of your prosperity. Your average membership for 1906-07 was, I understand, 24,731, an increase in the year of 920.

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I hope recruits will continue to pour into your ranks, for you are doing a great Imperial work, you are helping to raise the moral standard of the Army of which we are so proud—and what does that mean? It means that you are pointing out to every individual soldier the inestimable value of that self-restraint which will enable him to rule himself, to keep his body fit and his wits clear for the day of trouble and the moment of emergency. You are teaching him self-respect—and not only that, you are showing him how by his demeanour he can make himself, his regiment, and his country respected in whatever part of the world he is called upon to serve.

I know well the temptations a young soldier has to face when he comes to India—the utter change from home life and home associations, a climate trying to many men's constitutions, the debilitating *ennui* of barrack life in the hot weather, and the longing for some excitement to help to pass away weary hours. Your Association has done much to help the men to withstand the evils that surround them, but we must remember too that the good-will and the sterling stuff of which the men themselves are made has done much to help the Association. Your Association and its members working hand in hand are changing the whole tone of the Army for the better. In respect to temperance it has indeed changed greatly in my recollection. The sobriety which is gaining ground in other ranks of life, too, is making its influence felt upon the Army. In the Duke of Wellington's armies and much later than that, hard drinking was characteristic of both officers and men. No one admires the old soldier of those days more than I do. He was a splendid fighter, carried his pack, was ready to march any distance, and to get drunk on the first opportunity—but he was invincible. I suppose the debauchery of the British Army after the storming of Badajoz has scarcely ever been equalled, and if my recollection of history is correct—I am only speaking from memory—the Duke of

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Wellington after the victory of Vittoria had 12,000 men absent—chiefly looting. But they were as hard as iron and they had few of the comforts of these days—they fought till long after the Peninsular War, buttoned up in old-fashioned uniforms and choked at the neck by a stiff stock. I have pictures at home of battles in India in the early days of 1800, depicting Generals in cocked hats and high collars and their men in shakos under a burning sun—even as late as the Mutiny stocks were still in existence, and the sun helmet of to-day was not invented. How officers and men did what they did in that scorching heat it is hard to understand.

We certainly live in more luxurious days than the old soldiers of the Peninsular, of the Crimea, or of the Mutiny—and much as I believe in the comforts and care for our men of the present day, we must not forget that it is endurance and the power to sustain the hardships of war that will win our battles for us as they did of old. To these great qualities your Association is adding the high moral standard and sense of duty which will lead our men to victory, even more certainly than the mere dare-devil courage of our forefathers. But remember it is the manly qualities which go to make the soldier—and your Association can call no better allies to its aid than manly sports and games.

I have seldom enjoyed myself more than during the few hours I was in this hall at a somewhat different gathering not so many nights ago, and saw many hard knocks given and taken by the well trained representatives of many regiments fighting for the credit of their corps—splendid examples of sober temperate lives. Your Associations with its moral teaching and the manly training it encourages may well be proud of its success. To me it has been a peculiar pleasure to come here this evening to see so many soldiers around me, for I began my life in the Army and have served, I think I may say, in a certain number of campaigns, and to me all soldiers are still comrades. So

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that it has been very welcome to me if by being present this evening I have been in any way able to further the prospects of the Association which is doing so much for the Army.

SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS BILL.

2nd Nov. 1907. [For some months past the state of things in India had been such as to warn the Government that there was a feeling of unrest in the country generally. In Eastern Bengal there had been trouble with the population, which was led more or less by the student class. Efforts to suppress the growing agitation were made, but at the time without effect. The holding of public meetings by agitators fanned the flame of unrest. In April riots broke out in Lahore, which were followed by riots at Rawalpindi. Attempts had also been made to tamper with the Native Army, reports from various provinces told a tale of violent meetings and disorder, and generally the situation was serious. On May 3rd, Sir Denzil Ibbetson, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, asked that, in order to prevent seditious teaching in his province, warrants should be issued for the arrest and deportation, under Regulation III of 1818, of two of the principal agitators, *viz.*, Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh. The warrants were issued, and the two men deported in May and June. Subsequently, under section 23 of the Act of 1861, to regulate public meetings, an Ordinance was issued, and was applied to certain areas in Eastern Bengal and the Punjab.

This Ordinance was to have effect up to 10th November 1907. Meanwhile having regard to the state of feeling, and in order to regulate public meetings, a draft Bill, called the Seditious Meetings Bill, was prepared and discussed in Legislative Council. Much opposition was made to the proposed Bill: several telegrams and letters opposing it were received, and the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale and the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehari Ghose attacked the Bill violently in Council, which, however, was carried by a majority of 9 to 3. The Bill thus became Law, and His Excellency, in closing the proceedings of the meeting, spoke as follows :—]

Before I in any way attempt to discuss the merits of the measure we have had before us, I feel that I shall very fully express the views of my Hon'ble Colleagues in saying

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that they have only asked for the powers it confers and accepted the policy it embodies with the gravest feelings of responsibility and after much thoughtful deliberation, and that though we have considered legislation to be a matter of urgent necessity, we have been most anxious, notwithstanding the remarks which have fallen from the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, to afford the Indian public ample time for an expression of opinion upon the line of action we have decided to adopt. On the 18th October Sir Harvey Adamson introduced the Bill, and in doing so told us that the Government of India had been unwillingly forced to the conclusion that, when the Ordinance expired, it was necessary, not only to continue the powers it gave, but to define more clearly certain of the provisions it contained. He has to-day entered still more fully into the history of the Bill, and has very ably explained to us its various clauses and the amendments suggested in the Select Committee's Report. There is therefore no reason for me to attempt to further elucidate its technicalities, and I would only venture to recapitulate to Council the course of events and influences which have led up to our present position. That position the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale and the Hon'ble Dr. R. Ghose have fully dealt with, and I can assure them I gladly recognise their honesty of purpose and the sincerity of their endeavours to advance the political claims of their fellow-countrymen, but I am afraid my Hon'ble Colleagues have allowed their enthusiasm for the cause of political reform to blind them to the necessities of the moment, and that they have failed to recognise that the first duty of any Government is the maintenance of law and order and the protection of the people entrusted to its charge. They would lead us to believe that we have been frightened by a phantom, that we have accepted the vapourings of a few agitators as evidence of dangerous sedition, and that by the Act which we have passed we are imputing disloyalty to the masses of the people of

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India,—that I emphatically deny,—but at the same time I refuse altogether to minimize the meaning of the warnings and anxieties of the last few months.

We cannot afford to forget the events of the early spring—the riots at Lahore and gratuitous insults to Europeans, the Pindi riots, the serious view of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab on the state of his Province, the consequent arrest of Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh, and the promulgation of the Ordinance, and, contemporaneously with all this, a daily story from Eastern Bengal of assault, of looting, of boycotting, and general lawlessness, encouraged by agitators, who, with an utter disregard for consequences no matter how terrible, have by public addresses, by seditious newspapers, by seditious leaflets and itinerant secret agents, lost no opportunity of inflaming the worst passions of racial feeling, and have not hesitated to attempt to tamper with the loyalty of our magnificent Indian Army. I hope that Your Excellency as Commander-in-Chief will, on my behalf as Viceroy and as representative of the King-Emperor, convey to His Majesty's Indian troops my thanks for the contempt with which they have received the disgraceful overtures which I know have been made to them. The seeds of sedition have been unscrupulously scattered throughout India, even amongst the hills of the frontier tribes. We are grateful that it has fallen on much barren ground, and can no longer allow the dissemination of unlimited poison.

That is the position the Government of India have had to face—that is why we have had to tighten the curb and shorten the reins. That is why we have felt compelled to provide ourselves with a weapon against insidious attacks.

The Bill is aimed at the inaugurators of dangerous sedition, not at political reform, not at the freedom of speech of the people of India.

But there is another side to all this. I am well aware of the growing strength of political hopes and ambitions in this country, and I welcome them as the natural results of the

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education British administrators have done so much to introduce and to encourage. I have said so over and over again, and I deny the accusation of a disregard of the growing influence of the educated classes of India. Far from wishing to check the growth of political thought, I have hoped that, with proper guidance, Indian capacity and Indian patriotism might earn for its people a greater share in the government of their country. They have proposals before them now which I trust may greatly contribute towards that end. The Government of India would be blind indeed to shut its eyes to the awakening wave which is sweeping over the Eastern world, overwhelming old traditions, and bearing on its crest a flood of new ideas. We cannot check its flow, we can but endeavour to direct it into such channels as may benefit the generations that are to come.

We may repress sedition—we will repress it with a strong hand, but the restlessness of new-born and advancing thought we cannot repress. We must be prepared to meet it with help and guidance. We must seek for its causes.

In the first speech I made on my arrival in this country I said that I looked "for assistance in furthering that sense of security and rest throughout the length and breadth of India so indispensable for the development of her internal resources, and her over-sea trade, for the careful consideration of her vital necessities and the general happiness of her people." Is it too much to hope that the leaders of Indian political thought will give that assistance to the Government of India? I can assure my Hon'ble Colleagues, the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale and the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehari Ghose, that a heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of Indian reformers, for it is upon their support and upon their influence with their fellow-countrymen that British administrators should largely be able to rely.

I will not believe that the great bulk of the educated community are opposed to law and order, and I do believe that the masses of the Indian people render loyal homage to