

*Seditious Meetings Bill.*

their King-Emperor. Moreover, I repudiate once for all the insinuation that has sometimes reached me, that the Government of India has, for political reasons, favoured the interests of one community against those of another. It has been the pride of the British Raj to balance without prejudice the claims of nationalities, of religions, and of castes; it will continue to do so, and I am grateful for the numerous expressions of loyalty I have received from Ruling Chiefs, and from the leaders of influential Associations of every denomination throughout India.

I have merely sketched the conditions which appear to me to surround us, and I come now to the business of to-day, to the question of the utilisation, so to speak, of the Act which we have just passed. It seems to have been very generally assumed that, because it is applicable to the whole of India, it is to be universally enforced. That has never been the intention of the Government of India. The Bill, as the Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson has explained, was framed to meet the peculiar circumstances of certain localities and to take the place of the Ordinance when it lapsed automatically on the 10th November. The Ordinance has been in force for six months in the Punjab and in Eastern Bengal, and it has been our duty to consider, in consultation with the Lieutenant-Governors of those Provinces, to what extent we need now rely upon the Act. Sir Denzil Ibbetson has replied that quiet is restored in the Punjab, and that he has no need for extra powers, and Sir Lancelot Hare has asked for them only in the district of Bakarganj. With the exception of that district therefore there will be now in India no legislation in force that did not exist before the promulgation of the Ordinance. I earnestly trust that there will be no further need for an appeal to the powers of the Act, but should the necessity unfortunately arise, the Government of India will not hesitate instantly to support the demands of its Lieutenant-Governors.

I am very far from saying that our anxieties have passed



*State Banquet at Hyderabad.*

away,—there is much cause for watchful thought as to the state of affairs in many parts of India, and especially in Eastern Bengal—the future happiness of that Province rests with her people and their leaders. We cordially extend to them a helping hand, and I hope they will not hesitate to take it.

## STATE BANQUET AT HYDERABAD.

[His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by Her Excellency the Countess of Minto, Lady Violet Elliot and Staff, left Simla on the morning of the 6th November on His Excellency's Autumn Tour. After a visit to the Ellora Caves and a halt at Ahmednagar, where His Excellency presented colours to the 2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment, and inspected the Remount Depot, Hyderabad was reached on the 12th idem. On the night of the 13th idem His Highness the Nizam gave a State Banquet, at which His Excellency spoke as follows:—]

*Your Highness*,—It has been a great pleasure to me to be able to accept the invitation you so cordially extended to me, and I have long looked forward to the realisation of this visit. I very fully recognise, as does Your Highness, the immense value of personal relations between the ruler of your State and the representative of the King-Emperor. Those relations I thank you for enabling me to continue, and I hope that in the present case they may constitute the foundation of a lasting personal friendship. The ceremony of Your Highness's installation took place, I believe, in the very room in which we are this evening assembled, in the presence of Lord Ripon, and since then you have received as your guest every successive Viceroy of India, and I can assure Your Highness that Lady Minto and I will never forget the brilliancy and magnificence of the welcome you have extended to us, and the cordiality of the vast crowd of your subjects who thronged our route through the streets of the historical capital of your State. Much has happened



*State Banquet at Hyderabad.*

since Your Highness assumed the reins of Government in 1884. The condition of affairs to which you succeeded was not free from difficulty, and I hope I may venture to congratulate Your Highness on the administrative development which you have done so much to perfect, and on the establishment of a financial equilibrium of which you may be justly proud. Your Highness's State, I know, owes much to the ability of your financial adviser, Mr. Casson Walker. He looks back, I have no doubt, to a great deal of weary and uphill work. All financial reformers, I am afraid, must do so, but he can feel, owing to the encouraging and consistent support which Your Highness has always extended to him, that his task has been well completed. But it is not only in the internal administration of your State that Your Highness has been so deeply interested, for it was as long ago as 1885, when war on the North-West Frontier seemed imminent, that you came forward with a generous offer of substantial aid from which sprang the idea of those Imperial Service Troops which took practical shape three years later, the gradual development of which has been a special pride to the Princes whose servants they are, and has furnished such a splendid addition to the Military forces of the Empire. I am sure Your Highness will allow me to congratulate that distinguished soldier, Colonel Afzul-ul-Mulk, on the two fine regiments of Imperial Lancers he raised and has so long commanded.

Hyderabad has done much to support the Imperial Cadet Corps. Your Highness has sent some very fine recruits to the corps and may, I hope, yet give us some more of the same sort. I am very anxious for the success of the Cadet Corps. It affords a good education and an excellent manly training for the trials and responsibilities of every-day life, but I am quite aware that in respect to the openings it offers for a military career a further development is required, and that is one of those very points in which I trust that the advice of an Imperial Advisory Council may be of much



*State Banquet at Hyderabad.*

assistance to the Viceroy. There are many questions, apart from the mere administration of British India, with which the great feudatory States are daily becoming more directly connected as matters of Imperial concern. For many years the only welding influence which bound them together was their allegiance to the Crown, but lately, owing to a variety of causes, a recognition of common interests has been gradually forming, and enlightened and farseeing Chiefs are naturally no longer content to play a passive part in the midst of a world of movement and advance. I hope that they will not hesitate to come into a closer partnership with the Government of India; that they will welcome the advantage of a more personal touch with the Government, and that they will be ready to offer to the Viceroy the benefit of their experience and knowledge, which must always be of much value to him. Like Your Highness, I also believe in the immeasurable value of a sympathetic rule. I believe in a knowledge of, and a careful regard for, the sentiments of the people and of their great hereditary rulers, and I trust that as years roll on they and the British Raj will work together in ever-increasing unison of thought and aspiration for the glory and happiness of the Indian Empire. May I venture to congratulate Your Highness on possessing in the Hon'ble Mr. Bayley a Resident so able and ready to further the interests of your State and its relations with the Government of India. I thank you again, Your Highness, for the kind words you have addressed to Lady Minto and myself, and I ask you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to join with me in drinking to the health and happiness of His Highness the Nizam.

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## ADDRESS FROM RECEPTION COMMITTEE, RANGOON.

20th Nov. 1907. [His Excellency the Viceroy and party arrived at Rangoon on the 20th November 1907, having sailed from Madras instead of from Cocanada as originally intended, owing to stormy weather at the latter place. On landing from the R.I.M.S. *Dufferin* His Excellency was met by His Honour Sir H. T. White, Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, and all the principal officers of the province, and an address of welcome on behalf of the inhabitants of Rangoon was then presented, to which His Excellency made the following reply :—]

*Gentlemen*,—I thank you sincerely for the cordiality of the welcome you have extended to Lady Minto and myself on behalf of all nationalities of the inhabitants of Rangoon.

I have heard from many independent sources of the splendid and lavish preparations your Reception Committee has made for our arrival here, and I assure you we have looked forward to our visit to Burma with the keenest pleasure. And, *Gentlemen*, I cannot tell you how very much we regret the unfortunate delay in our voyage, for I am well aware of the serious inconvenience it must have caused, and I only hope that you will be able to explain that stress of weather rendered our departure from Cocanada, as we had intended, quite impracticable, whilst the difficulty of landing must have sorely tried the patience of those assembled here.

Now that we have at last come into port, I trust that with your indulgence our unpunctuality may be forgiven and that during our stay amongst you we may become personally acquainted with your leading citizens and may have some opportunity of gaining an insight into the many questions in which the various classes of the community are interested.

Lady Minto and I will always remember the hearty greeting we have received on our first arrival in your beautiful province.





## OPENING OF NEW PORT WORKS AT RANGOON.

[On the morning of the 22nd November the Viceroy and Lady <sup>22nd Nov. 1907.</sup> Minto, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady White, left Government House at 7-45 A.M. and drove to the Keighley Street Jetty, where His Excellency was met by the Chairman and Port Commissioners, also by General Fenton, Commanding at Rangoon, and Mr. Shearme, Secretary to Government. A guard-of-honour of the 90th Punjabis was drawn up on the Jetty, and His Excellency inspected them and congratulated the Native officer in command on the smart appearance of his men. The Lieutenant-Governor presented the Chief Engineer, Mr. Buchanan, to His Excellency, and the party then embarked on a steam launch and were taken over the proposed line of the new wall which is to be built to confine the river to its old channel and prevent the encroachments on the banks which are daily taking place and rendering navigation difficult and dangerous. The launch then steamed to the new Shule Pagoda Wharf, where a reception pandal was erected and where a large number of people had assembled to hear the address, which was read to His Excellency by Mr. Buchanan, regarding the state of the Rangoon shipping trade and thanking His Excellency for the grant of 50 lakhs which had been made by Government towards the expenses of the new works. His Excellency was presented by Mr. Buchanan with a beautifully worked silver model of a Burmese boat, and Mr. Buchanan, on behalf of the Commissioners, presented Lady Minto with a ruby bracelet as a memento of the occasion.

His Excellency spoke as follows :—]

*Gentlemen*,—It has been very gratifying to Lady Minto and myself to listen to the kind words of your address on our arrival in Burma, and it is a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of being present at this celebration to-day, which you justly say must mark an epoch in the history of the Port of Rangoon—an epoch, too, in the ever-advancing trade and prosperity of the province.

Every Viceroy who has visited Burma has spoken with enthusiasm of its continued progress. Its potentialities are perhaps greater than those of any other province—it is a land of immense natural resources with its teak forests, its enormous area under rice, and its minerals, the scientific



*Opening of New Port Works at Rangoon.*

development of which is only now beginning. It is therefore all-important that the Port of Rangoon, situated on a mighty river navigable for many hundreds of miles, should be so equipped as to enable it to deal not only with the huge volume of exports and imports now passing through it, but with the vast development of trade which the experience of the past tells us so triumphantly must continue to increase for many years to come. You tell me very truly that "the work of constructing a port is one that is never finished"—the estuaries of great rivers are, I know, always wayward things to control. I have seen something of them in the New World, where the great enemy the engineer has to combat is the overwhelming power of ice—a difficulty I cannot think is likely to be met with here.

The works which the Commissioners have in hand are, I understand, four in number—increase of quayage and of shed accommodation, dredging, and the great undertaking of training the river. The permanent stability of safe approaches to a port is, we all know, a matter of the utmost concern in the interests of trade, and rivers in the East have a notorious tendency to despise all efforts to bring them under control and an aptitude for sweeping away lakhs of rupees that in the shape of dams and piers have been poured into their beds. But, Gentlemen, I hope and believe that the training of the waters which you are so courageously undertaking will prove to be one of the engineering triumphs of the world, against which this mighty river may strive in vain.

I am afraid figures appeal little to the imagination. There is no attractive romance about them. But the statistics you have given in your address as to the increased trade of the port since Lord Curzon's visit in 1901 are full of interest. The registered tonnage now entering the port has nearly doubled since then. The total value of the seaborne trade has increased by about 25 per cent., and your



*Opening of New Port Works at Rangoon.*

revenue has risen by about 60 per cent. in the same time whilst in the same period you have been able to carry out extensive works. I congratulate you on their success and on the judgment with which they have been financed as well as on your far-seeing recognition of the necessity for maintaining the arrangements of the port on a level with the industrial and commercial requirements of the country. Very possibly, Gentlemen, you are acquainted with a book which was lately placed in my hands, entitled "Oriental Commerce." It was compiled by an officer of the East India Company, Mr. Milburn, in 1813, during the Viceroyalty of my ancestor Lord Minto. I will not weary you with the statistics it contains, but I am sure you would find it full of interest as a comparison between the trade of Rangoon at that time and of the present day. Mr. Milburn states that the trade of the port is "very inconsiderable," though the "forests produce inexhaustible quantities of teak timber"; whilst his ideas of wharfage were evidently primitive, for he goes on to say that "the banks of the river are so soft and flat that there is little need of labour for the formation of docks," and that "Rangoon, having long been the asylum of insolvent debtors from the different settlements in India, is crowded with foreigners of desperate fortunes who find from the Burmans a friendly reception and, for the most part, support themselves by carrying on a petty trade." Again may I congratulate you, Gentlemen, on the change in the times.

I have had a statement prepared by the Commerce and Industry Department showing the aggregate sea-borne trade of Rangoon, exclusive of Government transactions, for the last five years. The figures do not quite tally with those given in your address, owing, I think, to the Department having excluded Government transactions, which are included in the figures you give. The average annual value of the imports in the period dealt with excluding coasting trade was 814½ lakhs (£5,430,000) and of the exports 1,248 lakhs



*Durbar at Lashio.*

(£8,320,000). Including the coast trade the average annual value of the trade of the port between 1902 and 1907 would appear to have been 3,400 lakhs (£22,666,666). You may indeed be well satisfied with your prospects, and I am heartily glad that the Secretary of State has approved of the Government of India sharing with the Provincial Government and with the Port Trust in the expenditure on the great schemes which you have now in hand. I should have been much disappointed if any difficulty had occurred in respect to the contribution of the Government of India.

Gentlemen, I cannot but feel that this is a great day in the history of the Port of Rangoon, and I share with you very fully in your hopes for a brilliant future, and I now declare this wharf open.

I cannot thank you sufficiently, Gentlemen, for the magnificent casket containing the address and the beautiful gift you have presented to Her Excellency, and I can assure you they will remain as heirlooms in my family in memory of this eventful day.

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**DURBAR AT LASHIO.**

27th Nov, 1907. [In the afternoon of the 27th November His Excellency the Viceroy held a Durbar at Lashio. His Excellency arrived at the Durbar Hall escorted by mounted police, and a guard-of-honour of the military police was drawn up at the entrance. Her Excellency Lady Minto, accompanied by Colonel Dunlop Smith, Private Secretary, and Captain Mackenzie, A.-D.-C., arrived shortly before the Viceroy, and was escorted by a troupe of dancers, who in fantastic disguises of dragons and peacocks preceded Her Excellency from the Residency to the Durbar Hall. When His Excellency had taken his seat in the Durbar, accompanied by the members of his Staff, Sir Louis Dane asked permission to declare the Durbar open. Mr. Thornton then presented the following Chiefs and officials to His Excellency :—The Sawbwas of Hsipaw, Townpeng, North and South Hsenwi, and Monglun; Hkun Hmon, K.S.M., Extra-Assistant Commissioner;



*Durbar at Lashio.*

Hkun Haw Yawt, T.D.M., Myosa of Monglong; Mounng Kaing, T.D.M., Public Works Minister of Hsipaw State; Lu Kwun, A.T.M., of Kokaung; U. Hkmtt Hsoi, A.T.M., Chief Minister of South Hsenwi State. When these Chiefs and officials had each made their obeisance to the Viceroy in their own peculiar manner, Captain Percy Smith, Commanding the North Shan States, presented the Native officers of his battalion. His Excellency then gave an address (a translation of which was afterwards read) as follows:—]

*Chiefs of the Northern Shan States*,—I am very glad to have this opportunity of meeting you in your own territories, and I thank you for the enthusiastic and loyal reception you have given to me.

I am glad to hear that there is a general advance in the material comfort and welfare of your people. You have contributed liberally to the construction of roads and bridges, and I trust that the recent appointment of a Government Engineer will be of great service to you and will help to improve the means of communication which are so important for the development of your States. I know that much has been done, too, to put down lawlessness and violent crime by the registration of fire-arms, but a good deal more is still required in that direction. I hope, too, that you will do all in your power to further the education of your people, for without knowledge they cannot expect to increase the resources of their country.

I am glad to hear that there is at present no more plague amongst them, but you must remember that it may very likely come back again and that the suppression of this horrible disease depends very largely on your own determination to take precautions against it. The Sawbwa of Hsipaw I know did all in his power to follow the advice of the Superintendent and Civil Surgeon upon the occasion of the recent outbreak, and deserves great praise for the valuable help he gave them.

I congratulate you on the steady improvement that has taken place in your administrations and the increasing interest you are taking in public affairs; but I must remind



*Address from the Mandalay Municipal Committee.*

you that that improvement has been slow, and I would impress upon you the great necessity for energy in the duties of your life. If you are slow and have no energy, you will find that people will come from outside and will begin to collect for themselves the wealth of the States which should belong to you. You have now a railway from Mandalay. It has already done much to stimulate your trade, but you should take care that by your own hard work the benefits of that trade should remain in your own hands. Unless you do your best that trade may leave you. It ought very largely to increase, and should, if you are wise, add greatly to the riches of your States. For this purpose you require to spend more money at present on improvements which will afterwards increase your wealth, and you should do your best to make such money available by a reduction in your own personal expenditure, by encouraging careful habits among your people and forbidding, as far as possible, the unfortunate habit of gambling which so often adds to their poverty. You must always remember to seek for the help and advice of your Superintendent and his Assistants. They are your best friends and have your interests thoroughly at heart, and if you work with them you are sure to succeed.

I congratulate you again on what you have already done, and I hope that each succeeding year will bring increasing happiness and prosperity to yourselves and to your people.

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ADDRESS FROM THE MANDALAY MUNICIPAL  
COMMITTEE.

28th Nov. 1907.

[The Viceregal party left Lashio at 11 P.M. on the night of the 27th November. They were escorted from the Residency to the station by mounted infantry, and the road was lined by hundreds of Shans, each bearing lighted torches, which produced a weird and picturesque effect as the procession passed between them. The special train arrived at Mandalay at 4-15 P.M. on the 28th. Their Excellencies were received at the station by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Lady





*Address from the Mandalay Municipal Committee.*

White and His Honour's Staff; also by Mr. Shaw, Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma; Mr. Rice, Chief Secretary to Government; Mr. Twomey, Commissioner, Mandalay Division; General Hastings, Commanding Mandalay Brigade; and Major Macnabb, Deputy Commissioner and President of the Municipal Committee.

On His Excellency alighting on the platform a Royal salute was fired, and the guards-of-honour of the Essex Regiment and Upper Burma Volunteers presented arms. His Excellency inspected these guards-of-honour, and then proceeded to the reception pandal, where an address of welcome was read by Major Macnabb, to which His Excellency replied as follows:—]

*Gentlemen*,—It is a great pleasure to Lady Minto and myself to visit the capital of Upper Burma, and I thank you sincerely for your welcome and for the very kind words of your address. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught were, I know, delighted with the beauties and interests of Mandalay and with your many expressions of loyalty to the King-Emperor, and we look forward much to our stay amongst you.

You remind me that you do not possess a seaport like Rangoon, with the ever-increasing wealth of its sea-borne trade, but I venture to congratulate you on riches of another sort of which you may well be proud—on the possession of an ancient history and on the many triumphs of Burmese art and architecture which your ancestors have handed down to their posterity. Your beautiful relics of the past may perhaps be fragile—if so, they are all the more precious—and you need have no anxiety as to the sympathetic assistance of the Government of India in helping you to preserve them.

We look forward to seeing the Palace and the Fort, the monasteries and the many religious edifices for which your province is so celebrated.

Your Municipality is not old, but it is a great thing to be able to rejoice in the strength of youth, to feel that a few years of life have already been well spent and that the future before you is full of promise.



*Address from the Mandalay Municipal Committee.*

In Canada—to my administration of which you so kindly allude—I have seen much of new cities, springing up as if by magic from the prairie, and I can tell you that there is nothing which adds so much to the interests of a rising people as the romance and charm of a past history. The new world of the great dominion of Canada is full of that charm, and here I am meeting it again in all the picturesque traditions of your country.

I feel sure that in your Lieutenant-Governor you will find a friend always ready to assist you to develop your resources and to encourage the mercantile enterprise of your modern capital.

I rejoice to hear that you are so deeply interested in the sanitation of your city and that you owe so much to the munificence of an Indian gentleman, for my experience has led me to believe that, however well-intentioned any Government may be, the success of undertakings for the public good will always depend largely upon the energy and liberality of individual citizens.

I cannot tell you how deeply I regret the trials imposed upon you by the recent outbreak of plague. But the public has done much to assist your efforts to combat its ravages, and I hope that Mandalay may succeed in becoming the first city in the Indian Empire to finally eradicate this terrible pestilence.

I hope that during my short stay amongst you it may be possible for me to make myself acquainted with the requirements of Mandalay and Upper Burma and to interest myself in your future welfare. I can assure you it will be a sincere pleasure to me to do so, and Lady Minto and I will always have very pleasant memories of the warmth of the reception you have given us to-day.

[Both the address of welcome and His Excellency's reply had been translated into Burmese, and these translations were read out for the benefit of the large Burmese community assembled to welcome Their Excellencies.]





## DURBAR AT MANDALAY.

[In the afternoon of the 29th November His Excellency held a 29th Nov. 1907. Durbar in the Audience Hall of the Palace. His Excellency arrived in State, preceded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and General Hastings, Commanding the Mandalay Division. The streets were lined with troops, the Essex Regiment furnishing a guard-of-honour with band and colours in front of the Durbar Hall. On Sir Louis Dane declaring, with His Excellency's permission, that the Durbar was open, Sir George Scott, Superintendent, Southern Shan States, presented the Chiefs of these States to His Excellency. After the presentations His Excellency bestowed the following titles on the Chiefs and officials hereafter mentioned:—The rank and title of Sawbwa on Sao Seng Hpu T.D.M., Myoza of Samka, for the importance of his State, and in view of his personal merits and loyalty to the Government. This Chief met the first column of occupation at Yawngnhe and supplied much valuable information on that occasion. The title of the Gold Chain on Hkun Hsok, Sawbwa of Lawksawk, for the admirable way in which he has administered his State. The title of the Gold Medal on U Long Kiao, who was a subordinate to the Lengtung Sawbwa, under whom he administered the sub-State of Mong Ping. He has by tact and energy restored order in a somewhat turbulent State, and has for years rendered the best assistance to the Public Works Department. The title of the Gold Chain on Maung Shwe Tha, District Superintendent of Police, who has rendered good service in the police for over 25 years and had previously rendered good service against dacoits in the Akyab district. The title of the Silver Sword on Maung Taung Ghi, Inspector of Police, for good work in tracking dacoit gangs; also on Saw Yet, Inspector of Police, for courage and detective ability displayed on several occasions. The title of the Gold Medal on Maung Ba O, Judicial Extra-Assistant Commissioner, and on Maung Tha, Trustee of the Arakan Pagoda and Honorary Magistrate in Mandalay. The title of Rai Sahib on M. Trichinopoly Maduranayagans Ponnosawmy Pillay, for good service for 34 years under Government.

After these presentations, His Excellency made the following speech:—]

*Shan Chiefs and Notables of Upper Burma.*—I met the Chiefs of the Northern Shan States at Lashio. Conditions of time and distance made it impossible for me to visit the Southern Shan States, and I am very glad that



*Durbar at Mandalay.*

the Lieutenant-Governor has given me the opportunity of meeting you here. I hope that it may not be long before a railway makes the head-quarters of your States as accessible as those of the North. I appreciate the trouble you have taken in coming so many miles in order to attend this Durbar, and thank you for your presence here.

Communications in Upper Burma have enabled representatives from all parts of the Upper Province to come to meet me here in the old Royal Audience Hall. I have still much to see, and look forward to the rest of my tour with an interest which has, if possible, been increased by my visit to the historical city of Mandalay.

I gladly welcome also this opportunity of meeting the Ministers of the late Government, as well as so many representative officials who have done and are doing such good service under the British Raj. I have already during my visit seen many striking indications of the great advance made by both Upper and Lower Burma under their present conditions of peace and security—an advance which, with the spread of railways and canals, holds out such high promise for the future. I cannot but feel that the progress made is largely due to the ready assistance obtained from other parts of India in expert advice and actual physical support, and that the old connection between Burma and the rest of India has thus been happily revived to the advantage of both countries. Still it would be well that the Burmans should realise that they must exert themselves if they wish to enjoy to the full the advantages which Providence has conferred upon them. The expansion and development of their old-established educational system ought to enable them to grasp the opportunities of betterment now within their reach, and should ensure the attainment of a higher degree of civilisation and prosperity than their country has ever enjoyed before, and which it is the earnest desire of the Government of India that it should attain.

[A translation of this speech was then read in Burmese.]





## ADDRESS AT BHAMO.

[Their Excellencies and Staff arrived at Bhamo on the afternoon 9th Dec. 1907. of the 9th December. On the landing stage were Mr. Twomey, Commissioner of Mandalay, the Deputy Commissioner of Bhamo, and the Officer Commanding the Station.]

Their Excellencies on arrival were conducted to a *mandap* or temporary pavilion, gaily decorated with flags and silk, erected on the bank, a few yards away, where were collected the civil and military officers present in Bhamo and the leading inhabitants of the town and district. A guard-of-honour of 100 Native troops was drawn up on the river bank. At the *mandap* the address of welcome to His Excellency from the inhabitants of Bhamo was read, to which the Viceroy replied as follows :—]

I thank you for the address which you have presented to me as the representative of the King-Emperor, and I would request you to convey to the inhabitants of Bhamo my appreciation of the sincerity and loyalty of their welcome.

I am glad to have this opportunity of meeting the leading representatives of your district and of visiting this interesting town, the gathering place of traders of so many different races, the frontier post through which the old trade route from the Chinese Empire has for centuries passed into Burma.

I rejoice to hear your recognition of the benefits conferred by British rule, I congratulate you on the establishment of law and order and on the encouraging hopes of an advancing civilization, and I trust that in each succeeding year you may be better able, with the help of improved communications, to develop the resources of your country, and to further the possibilities of your trading interests. Your great river and the railway to Mandalay have already done much for you in that direction, and I share in your hopes for a time when the railway system of Burma may be linked up with that of China. A survey has, as you know, already been carried out as far as Tengyueh, whilst a railway reconnaissance has been made to Talifu. It would be a costly undertaking to reach that point, but it is not



*Address at Bhamo.*

impracticable, and I hope I am not too ambitious in looking forward to a future when, with the goodwill and co-operation of the Chinese Imperial Government, the line may connect not only Bhamo to Tengyueh, but eventually with Talifu and Yunanfu, to the immense advantage of the commercial interests and friendly relations of the populations on both sides of the frontier.

You have my hearty sympathy in the precautions you are taking against plague, and in your efforts to encourage sanitation, by which the general health of the community must so largely benefit, but I much regret to hear of the constant recurrence of the cattle disease which has been so disastrous in its effects; the matter is under the careful consideration of the Local Government, and no effort will be spared to devise some means of successfully combating it.

As to the educational difficulties you mention, it is of course open to the members of the Buddhist community in any district to establish a school in which their religion may be taught, and if that school conforms to the regulations of the Education Department it will receive financial aid from Government in accordance with the Grant-in-aid rules. In this respect such a school would be on a precisely similar footing to the American Baptist Mission School, to which you refer in your address. The suggestion that this school should be raised to the status of a High School is a matter for the consideration of the authorities of the American Baptist Mission Union by whom the school is maintained, but I have no doubt that any proposals to that effect which the managers of the school might find themselves in a position to put forward would be sympathetically considered by the Director of Public Instruction. I am informed that at present there is not sufficient demand for higher education in the Bhamo district to justify the Local Government in establishing a Government High School, but the Government of India will, I need not say, be anxious to recognize as far as possible all the local considerations involved.



*Victoria Memorial Hall.*

I thank you again for the warmth of the reception extended to me by the people of Bhamo, and for your very kind expressions towards my family and the members of my Staff.

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## VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL.

[At the 18th meeting of the Trustees the questions of what was to be done as regards the erection of the Hall on the site at present selected and of the proper housing of the exhibits loaned or presented to the Hall were discussed. His Excellency the Viceroy, in opening the proceedings, said :—]

I desire to offer a few remarks before dealing with the various items in the Agenda paper.

It will be observed that items Nos. 1—5 are of a more or less formal nature, and that items Nos. 6 and 7, which deal with Sir William Emerson's report and accompanying papers, and the question of the proper housing of the exhibits, are the crucial questions to be considered by the Trustees. On reaching these items I propose to ask Sir Herbert Risley to explain the position. Owing to the doubt which has arisen regarding the strength of the foundations, and the result of the investigations made to test this question, the Trustees find themselves in a very difficult position, and we shall have to carefully consider how to go on, and whether indeed we can go on, on the present site.

I for my own part sincerely hope that it will be found possible to carry out the design in which Lord Curzon has been so deeply interested, and the foundation-stone of which has been laid by the Prince of Wales, but I only received half an hour before this meeting the second report of the special Expert Committee, who had been asked to favour the Trustees with their views on Sir William Emerson's last report. This report is highly technical, and I think it will be impossible to consider it at this meeting but that another meeting should be held within a week,



*Victoria Memorial Hall.*

when the Trustees will have had time to consider it fully. The first report of the Expert Committee does not seem to me to be very decided in the views expressed therein, and I consider Lord Curzon to be perfectly justified in describing it as on the whole favourable to the present site.

Another question of great importance is that of the proper housing of the exhibits, and I believe that all the Trustees will agree with me in fully sympathizing with Lord Curzon in the disappointment expressed by him at the partial dispersal of the collection.

The Trustees have been put into a very difficult position by the action of the Museum Trustees, who demand that a large portion of the exhibition space should be given back to them at an early date. This action on their part has made it necessary to return at once some of the loan collections, and to find suitable housing space for other exhibits in buildings where they will be properly looked after.

I consider that the Museum is the only suitable place for the exhibition of the collection, and I trust that a way will now be found to provide sufficient space there, and to collect together again under one roof all those valuable and interesting objects which have necessarily but unfortunately been removed.

I have only one more matter to mention, and that is the great necessity of communicating to the Press the proceedings of the Trustees. The extremely difficult position resulting from the question of the strength of the foundations has rendered unavoidable great delay in continuing the actual building, and the public are entitled to know what steps the Trustees are taking to fulfil their duties. I know that no charge of dilatoriness or supineness can lie against the Trustees, and that everything possible had been done to deal with the difficulties which at once arose when it was known that the foundations showed signs of unequal



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subsidence. The public, however, are not aware of the steps that have been taken, and the reports that have been received; and it is not unnatural in these circumstances if the Trustees should be accused of unnecessary delay. I trust that further publicity will obviate any such feeling in the future.

[It was resolved at the subsequent meeting that, as Sir William Emerson had stated that he had succeeded in reducing the weight of the building as designed by him, within the limits of safety agreed to by the Engineers, the original design be adhered to, and the building be constructed on the existing foundations, with the modifications in these, proposed by the Engineers,—provided that on receipt of the drawings and the quantities showing the gross weights to be imposed per square foot on the different parts of the foundations which Sir William Emerson be invited to supply, the weights are found not to exceed the limits of safety.

The Museum authorities intimated that they had been able to find space for housing the collection.]

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**COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN FUND.**

[A largely attended special general meeting of the Countess of 14th Feb. 1908. Dufferin's Fund was held at Government House on 14th February in the Throne Room, His Excellency the Viceroy presiding. Lady Minto, Sir Andrew and Lady Fraser, and the speakers sat on the platform with His Excellency, and among the audience were Sir Louis Dane, Sir Harvey Adamson, General Scott, the Maharani of Kuch Behar, the Maharaj and Maharani of Burdwan, Mrs. Miller, Sir Herbert Risley, Mr. Butler, Surgeon-General Bomford, the Hon'ble Mr. Justices Harington, Fletcher and Geidt, Sir Charles Allen, Sir Ernest Cable, Rev. Canon Luckman, Sir Guru Dass Bannerjee, the Tikka Sahib of Nabha, Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee, Sir Chandra Madhab Ghose, Rai Bahadur Sita Nath Roy, and many other leading native gentlemen.

The Viceroy's band played a suitable selection of music, and the meeting, which was excellently arranged, was over in about an hour.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. E. J. Buck, Joint Secretary of the Association, who read the report. Among those who spoke were the Hon'ble Mr. J. O. Miller, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Fraser and the Hon'ble Mr. G. M. Chitnavis.



*Countess of Dufferin Fund.*

His Excellency concluded the meeting with the following speech :—]

*Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—It is a great pleasure to me to be present to-day at the Annual Meeting of the Association which has laboured so devotedly in the interests of the women of India.

The Dufferin Fund is now approaching its 25th year of existence, and Lady Dufferin, its sympathetic foundress, may indeed be proud of the progress which has been made by the well-known Association which she founded in August 1885. Since that year Lady Dufferin, Lady Lansdowne, Lady Elgin, Lady Curzon (during whose seven years of office remarkable progress was attained), Lady Ampthill for a brief period and Lady Minto have all in turn held the office of Lady President of the Central Committee which has conducted the policy of the Association, and endeavoured to assist with the means in its possession the development of the work carried on by the Provincial and District Branches. Since Lady Minto has been in India, Her Excellency has, as you have heard from the Honorary Secretary, had the opportunity of visiting a very considerable number of the large centres engaged in furthering the objects of the Association. She is, I can assure you, very keenly interested in the good administration of hospitals, in which she has had no small experience, and I hope that when the summary is written of the progress which has been achieved during her term of office, it may be found to compare favourably with that of her predecessors.

I should like to take this opportunity of alluding to the loss which the Dufferin Fund and, indeed, the Province of Bengal, has sustained by the death of the late Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore. He was one of the original members of the Central Committee, and besides signing the Memorandum of Association whereby the Dufferin Fund was registered in 1885 under the Act XXI of 1860, he held at the time of his death the important office of a co-trustee of the Association's Fund. He was a valuable member of





*Countess of Dufferin Fund.*

the Committee, and he more than once contributed liberally to its hospital and other schemes.

There are many men who have risen to high offices who have been connected with the welfare of the Dufferin Fund. Among those who took a keen interest in its affairs as members of the Central Committee, in the early days of its existence, were Sir Andrew Scoble, Sir Charles Aitchison, Sir Antony MacDonnell, Sir Philip Hutchins, Sir Charles Lyall, the late Sir John Woodburn, the late Sir Syed Ahmad Khan of Aligarh, and the late Sir Dinshaw Maneckjee Petit. A valuable member of Committee, too, for many years and who for a short time acted as President of the Association, was the brilliant administrator who has just been obliged by ill-health to retire from the Punjab—Sir Denzil Ibbetson.

The Central Committee has certainly been fortunate in its Honorary Secretaries, for among the names of those who have rendered valuable assistance in this capacity, I find those of Colonel Harry Cooper, the first Secretary, Sir Walter Lawrence, Sir John Hewett, and Surgeon-General Sir Benjamin Franklin. To-day the Fund is most fortunate in possessing such an energetic Secretary as Colonel Crooke-Lawless, whilst Mr. Buck has ably filled the post of permanent Secretary to the Committee for nearly twenty years, and has spared no pains to promote its objects throughout India. The Provinces will easily recall the names of those whose labours on behalf of the women of India have been labours of love, and perhaps none more readily than those of Sir Auckland Colvin in the old North-West Provinces, Sir Charles and Lady Elliott in Bengal, Lady Harris and Lady Northcote in Bombay, and Lady Wenlock and Lady Ampthill in Madras. I find, too, when mentioning supporters of the Fund that the Ruling Chiefs of India have set aside buildings to the value of about thirteen lakhs of rupees for female hospitals, besides contributing large sums to the various schemes which have been started from time to time. I am extremely glad to see from the last map, tracing the



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progress of the Association, that there is now scarcely a State in India where the usefulness of the Dufferin Fund is not fully recognised and supported.

Including the value of all the buildings, either constructed by or presented to the Fund, about 40 lakhs of rupees may, I find, be taken as a fair valuation of the institutions now engaged in connection with its work.

I think the Association can fairly claim the cordial support of the public of this country, and of wealthy Indian Princes, Noblemen, and gentlemen in particular, if one takes a glance at the record of the work which has been accomplished up to the present. The main objects of this great charity as set forth in the Articles of Association are threefold—(1) medical tuition, (2) medical relief, and (3) the supply of trained female nurses and midwives.

Now the progress which has been made in these directions has been annually set forth in the reports which have been issued by the Central Committee, but I imagine that the fact which is most interesting to the public is the table showing the number of patients who have been relieved during the year.

Looking back to 1888, the first year for which any reliable return could be given, I find that 100,000 patients were treated during the year, and this total has gradually increased till it has practically reached two millions a year.

When the figures for 1907 are received and are included in the grand total of women and children that will have been assisted by the Dufferin Fund since its inception, that total may safely be taken at just under 25 millions.

So, following the example of my predecessors in office, I have no hesitation in urging all sections of the community of India to continue to support a scheme originated for the benefit of the wives and daughters of her people.

The Dufferin Fund has not existed for all these years without a certain amount of criticism, and as its sphere of operations has steadily extended so has the work increased



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which falls upon the Lady President and her advisers. I think that on the whole the public will admit that those duties have been conscientiously performed. The Honorary Solicitor to the Association, Mr. Kesteven, has recently advised the Committee that a revision was necessary in the original Articles of Association in order that the Branches of the Fund be legally given a somewhat wider discretion with reference to the investment of their funds, and the amendments which have been proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Justice Mitter, and accepted by this meeting, will, I hope, prove the means of safely increasing in some small measure the present income of the Association and its Branches. Including the investments of the Central, Provincial, and District Branches, about thirty-five lakhs are now invested in various securities and trusts. Satisfactory as this sum may seem to be, it is by no means a large one when we consider that the income derived from it has to be devoted to the relief of well over a million women in this country.

I am glad to have had this opportunity not only of publicly expressing on behalf of Lady Minto and myself our keen sympathy in this great charitable organisation, but also of informing you that both Her Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, who are respectively Patron and Vice-Patron of the Association, take the warmest interest in the welfare of the Fund. The Princess of Wales when in India visited a number of hospitals, and on several occasions discussed with Lady Minto plans and schemes for extending the relief now afforded by the Association.

Finally I must not forget that Her Excellency has particularly charged me to tender on behalf of herself and the Central Committee their warmest acknowledgments to all those who are so actively engaged in this great work. The Lady Presidents of the Provincial Branches, the Political and Medical Officers, the Honorary Secretaries of the various



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Branches, all render year by year invaluable aid which owing to the large number of those engaged in the work can only be acknowledged through the somewhat cold medium of the annual report. And last, though by no means least, comes the body of lady doctors and assistant surgeons and nurses on whom lies the main responsibility for success. Many of them of necessity lead isolated and laborious lives, and their work through the trying months of the hot weather often proves a heavy tax upon their health.

In conclusion, I should like to quote from an interesting article contributed by His Highness the Aga Khan to the "National Review" last year, in which, while discussing Indian conditions of to-day, he wrote :—" Of all the reforms carried out by successive Viceroys since 1877 probably none will appear to the historian of such real benefit to the people as the medical aid offered by what is known as the Lady Dufferin Fund."

## ORTHODOX HINDU DEPUTATION AND ADDRESS.

10th Mar. 1908.

[A large and influential gathering of orthodox Hindu gentry, representing the Sri-Bharata-Dharma-Mahamandala, assembled in the Throne Room of Government House last evening, and were received in Deputation by His Excellency the Viceroy.

The deputation formed themselves into rows, two on each side, leaving a passage in the centre, up which His Excellency on arrival passed, preceded by his A.D.-Cs. The Maharaja of Darbhanga, as leader of the Deputation, then presented each member of the assembly to His Excellency.

When His Excellency had taken his seat, the Maharaja read the following address to His Excellency, illustrating the object of the deputation :—

" *May it please Your Excellency,—*We the undersigned representatives of the Sri-Bharata-Dharma-Mahamandala beg leave most respectfully to submit to you this humble address on behalf of the Association, and to express the hope that Your Excellency will take it into your favourable consideration.



*Orthodox Hindu Deputation and Address.*

Our institution, as Your Excellency is aware, is an entirely non-political organisation, and has for its object the deepening of the religious life of all orthodox Hindus throughout the whole of India, knowing full well that the true religious spirit is the spring from which all other good things will flow for the advancement and upbuilding of national character. The orthodox Hindus throughout India are loyal by nature. Loyalty to the Throne and to social order is ordained in our Shastras and forms a part of the mental and spiritual outfit we receive in youth. And we take this opportunity of emphasising our loyalty to the British Government and to express our thankfulness for the entire religious liberty we enjoy under its beneficent rule. We are profoundly thankful for the great interest the Government are taking in the education of the people, but it is our conviction that unless all education is permeated with the religious spirit it will fall short of the ideal which is the goal we aim at in all our work. It may interest Your Excellency to know that our institution and its different branches in the country are establishing schools for imparting religious along with secular education, send forth qualified religious preachers to all parts of India to teach and instruct the people in the principles of our faith and to distribute amongst them our religious literature. More than one hundred and fifty such preachers are at work, doing splendid service, and wherever they go they establish branches which, in turn, become local centres for living work. The restoration of the ancient seats of Sanskrit learning, the preservation, control and better management of existing Hindu religious endowments, charitable institutions, sacred places shrines, etc., also form part of the work of our Association, and we are prepared, according to our means, to provide inspectors for these institutions and also to publish books and pamphlets on the subject. Our work also embraces the collection and preservation of old manuscripts and Sanskrit books, and of preparing a complete and systematic bibliography of Sanskrit literature, as well as the printing and publishing of monthly journals, religious tracts, and authoritative books on Hindu Science and Philosophy. Our membership embraces within its sweep all orders of Orthodox Hindus, Ruling Chiefs, heads of different religious schools, prominent members of the aristocracy, the leaders of our communities, and distinguished Sanskrit scholars. We have also special members who help in the work, and the ordinary membership consists of Hindus of both sexes who sign a declaration promising support to the Hindu religion and making small contributions towards the Mahamandala. Your Excellency will see from the general tenor of the foregoing representation



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that all our purposes, as our name implies, are of the purely religious order. Our aim is a high one, being nothing less than the uplifting of the whole people into a compact and homogeneous nation by systematic education along right lines, the whole being infused and penetrated by a truly living religious spirit, leading to that exaltation of national character without which all our efforts will be in vain. Amidst numerous diversities of outward expression we recognise that the spirit of religion is the one great unifying power which makes a people one in heart in loyalty to God and to the Government ordained by God; one in human brotherhood and love, the strong helping the weak, and all working together in the paths of peace and for the continuous development of national life and prosperity. We have excluded from our purview on this occasion all references to anything of a political order as affecting our community, as we have the most perfect confidence in the well-known purpose of Your Excellency, to hold the balance even in regard to all the various sections and creeds in India, and we are firmly convinced that in any of the reforms which are now or hereafter to be brought about in the general administration of the Indian Empire, the Hindu people of India will receive their due share, warranted by their number, their intellectual culture, business ability, loyalty, and by their power on the side of peace and order in the land. We come before Your Excellency to-day simply as representing a purely religious organisation whose objects we have briefly put before you. And we have done so in the confident hope that we have won the sympathy of Your Excellency with our purposes and aims and that nothing will be wanting within your power to help us in our efforts to guide the awakening life of the Hindus throughout India, by means of a spiritual religious education until they form a truly compact and noble religious nation—a loyal and peaceful and prosperous people."

We have the honour to be, and to subscribe ourselves, Your Excellency's Most Obedient and Humble Servants.

[Here followed the signatures of the members of the deputation as under, most of them being present:—

Maharaja Sir Rameshwara Sing Bahadur of Darbhanga, General President, Sri Bharat Dharma Mahamandala, Representative of Jagat-Guru Sri Sankaracharya of Sringeri Math (Madras), Representative of Jagat-Guru Sri Sankaracharya of Govardhan Math (Puri), Representative of Sri Goswamija Maharaj Tikait of Nathdwara, Representative of the Mahant of Gaya, Representative of Kishangarh State (Maharaj Raghunath Singh, uncle of His Highness), Representative of Sailana State (Maharaja Chhatra Singh, brother of His



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Highness), Representative of Rewah State (Thakur Jutan Singh), Representative of Jammu and Kashmir State, Representative of Orchha State, Representative of Alwar State, Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Chitra Dhar Misra of Mithila, Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Shiva Kumar Shastri of Benares, Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Raja-Krishna Tarkapanchanana, Nuddea, Rao Sahib Gopal Singh, Thakur Sahib of Kharwa (Rajputana), Raja Balwant Singh, C.I.E., of Avagarh (United Provinces), President, Kshattri Mahasabha, the Maharaja of Cossimbazar, Pandit Shearam Sarvabhum of Bhatpara, Pandit Ramcharan Kavaya Smrititirtha, Thakor Dhyani Pal Singh, Babu Sashi Bhusan Bhattacharjee, Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee, C.S.I., Uttarpara (Bengal), Raja Baikunta Nath De Bahadur, of Balasore, the Hon'ble Munshi Madho Lal, of Benares, the Hon'ble Mr. G. N. Chitnavis, of Nagpur, Babu Lakshman Prashad, of Madhuban, Rai Ramsarandas, of Lahore, Rai Bahadur Radha Kishen, Rais, Patna, Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand of Multan, Rai Bahadur Sirdar Buta Singh of Rawalpindi, Mr. P. Ry. Nagalingam Moodaliar of Madras, Babu Ram Parshad Chaudhuri, of Benares, Sri Ramchandra Naik Kaliaji, of Benares, Munshi Prag Narain, proprietor, "Nawal Kishore Press," Lucknow, Pandit Govind Sahaya, proprietor, "Akhbar-i-Am," Lahore, Rai Hari Ram Goenka, Bahadur (Calcutta), Rai Rai Shivparshad Jhoonjoonwala Bahadur (Calcutta), Seth Gulab Rai Poddar (Calcutta), Kumar Kshitendra Deb Rai Mahasaya, of Bansberia Raj, Chaudhuri Ram Gopal Singh (Chief, Bhumi-har Brahman Sabha), and Rai Bahadur Pandit Maharaj Narain Shrivastava, General Secretary.

His Excellency replied as follows :—

*Maharaja and Gentlemen*,—I thank you for the address which you have presented to me on behalf of your Association, and I am glad to have this opportunity of welcoming to Government House so distinguished a Deputation empowered to speak for your great Hindu rulers and territorial magnates and for your leaders in religious learning. I appreciate the earnestness of purpose which has united in a common cause the representatives of orthodox Hindu thought throughout India.

I am aware that your institution is a non-political organisation—that its aims are religious—and you maintain, and I fully agree with you, that it is from religious foundations that the national character of a people derives its strength and its power of further development. You seek



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to deepen and to nourish the springs of religious life, and your object is a noble one.

The words in which you explain to me that in your loyalty to the British Government you are fulfilling the tenets of your faith have deeply impressed me. We have passed through troubloustimes. It is no use disguising the fact. Yet in the face of many difficulties and complicated surroundings the British Government has had good reason to recognise the loyal support of the orthodox Hindu community whom you represent. Loyalty is, I know, the teaching of your Shastras. In a little Hindu text-book which was lately shown to me I find it laid down that "Reverence to the Sovereign, the head of the State, comes naturally after reverence to God, the representative of whose power, justice and protection he is on earth, if he be a true King, intent on the welfare of his subjects"—and here our respective religions meet on common ground, for the Christian scriptures tell us, too, to "Fear God" and "Honour the King."

Loyalty to the Throne and respect for social order are, I understand, the basis of the work your Association has undertaken. It has already done much for the instruction of the people by spreading its branches throughout the country, by supplying teachers, by the publication of Sanskrit literature, and by the preservation of old manuscripts and venerable books—and the mainspring of its energy is religion.

I am in entire accord with you in recognising that it is to the early inculcation of a loyal, honest, and self-sacrificing religious spirit that we must look for the successful upbringing of coming generations.

Education is the greatest problem we have to face in India to-day. Upon its solution the future of this country largely depends. The dangers of educational maladministration, and of the misappropriation of educational advantages, stare us in the face. It would seem that, as in





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many other things in India, we have reached the parting of the ways. Is the intellectual current to flow for good or for evil? It is an enormous and ever-increasing power. For the sake of India, for the sake of your sons and daughters, we must strive to direct it. We see around us a burning thirst for knowledge. How can we most wholesomely minister to it? I think, if I may say so, the answer to the problem rests largely with yourselves and with Associations such as yours.

You must remember, and it is all-important that you should do so, that as far as the Government of India is concerned all State-aided education in this country must be secular. That is an axiom we must accept. In the Indian Empire there are many religious creeds, and no British Government can too scrupulously observe its religious neutrality—but what I say to you I say to all creeds and to all sects—that it has been and ever will be the pride of the British Raj to hold the balance evenly between them, to recognise the honesty of individual beliefs, to respect their sanctity, and to safeguard the representation of their interests in the administration of the Empire.

But though I maintain that neutrality in religious questions must always remain an axiom of British administration, I hope I have said enough to you to indicate my hearty sympathy in the efforts of your Association, and that, without transgressing the principle I have enunciated, I may perhaps venture to draw your attention to the evident and rapid growth during the last twenty years of new factor in educational life possessing, it seems to me, great possibilities in the direction you have so earnestly advocated in your address—I mean the hostel system.

You are no doubt acquainted with the report of Sir W. Hunter's Education Commission in 1883. You will find there that the residence of students in college buildings was little known, and that, though boarding houses were attached to some institutions and were on the increase,



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difficulties were foreseen as to any general adoption of a residential system. Nevertheless its success has since become assured, and a Home Department Resolution of 1904 tells us that the returns from the year 1901-1902 showed that there were 1,415 hostels with 47,302 boarders, connected with colleges and schools which were very largely supported from sources independent of Government, 10 lakhs being derived from subscriptions and endowments as against Rs. 2,63,000 from public funds, whilst the subject is further discussed in connection with religious teaching in a Home Department letter of August 10, 1906, to the Government of Bengal. I commend these papers to the consideration of your Association. They seem to me to suggest future facilities for special religious instruction, and accepting as I do the principles of your address, I say frankly that I see immeasurable good to be gained by giving the people of India opportunities for an early grounding in the teaching of their own religious faiths. Personally, I see no impossibility in denominational hostels—provided always that the Government of India is in no way implicated in their religious control or administration. If any difficulty exists on that point, I cannot think it is insuperable.

But, Gentlemen, heartily sharing as I do in your hopes of uplifting the religious spirit of your fellow countrymen, may I ask of you something more? Might it not be possible for your Association to exert its influence somewhat outside the confines of educational machinery? It is in the child's home that the first seeds of education are sown. Can you do something to assist parental authority? I believe that, with the sympathetic feeling which marks the whole tone of your address, you may have it in your power to do much to obtain a hold over parents in their homes, and to insist on their instilling into their children those principles of religion and loyalty to Government which your Association has at heart. Remember the effect



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of example upon young minds, not only the example of parents, but of those religious teachers in whose selection you must have so much to say and upon whose purity of life and honesty of purpose the character of their pupils should be so largely moulded.

Maharaja and Gentlemen, I assure you of my complete sympathy with the aims of your Association, and I would gladly welcome any opportunity of furthering them.

## CONVOCATION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

[The Jubilee Convocation of the University of Calcutta for confer- 14th Mar. 1908.  
ring degrees was held on Saturday afternoon at the Senate House, College Square, which was very tastefully decorated for the occasion. Long before the appointed hour, the seats were occupied by both European and Indian ladies and gentlemen, every one anxiously expecting the arrival of His Excellency the Chancellor, which was timed at 2-45 P.M. His Excellency, however, was a little late and arrived at the Senate House at 3-10 P.M. The proceedings commenced with the reading of the three congratulatory addresses from other Universities, one of which was in Sanskrit. The Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor in reply accorded them a hearty vote of thanks. The bestowal of the honorary degrees then took place, every one of the recipients of the degree being present, except Sir S. S. Aiyar and Shams-ul-Ulama S. A. Bilgrami. Much excitement was caused when Sir G. D. Banerjee, Dr. P. C. Roy and Rev. Father E. Lafont were presented to the Chancellor by the Hon'ble Dr. Mookerjee, and for nearly five minutes, on each occasion, there were continuous shouts of cheering. When, however, Sir H. H. Risley received the diploma from the Chancellor, loud hissing was heard from the eastern side of the hall, but the fellows of the University clapped loudly and immediately the hissing melted away. Ordinary degrees were then granted. There were 97 M.As.; 427 B.As.; 9 B.Sc.s.; 244 B.L.s.; 1 M.D.; 4 M.B.s.; 62 L.M.S.s.; 11 B.E.s.; 1 Prem Chand Roy Chand student; 2 Tagore Medalists and 2 Ph.D.s. There were three lady graduates, two of whom were presented to His Excellency amidst loud and continuous cheers.

His Excellency the Viceroy made the following speech:—]

*Mr. Vice-Chancellor and Members of this Convocation*,—This is the third Convocation over which I have



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had the honour to preside since I succeeded to the office of Chancellor. But to-day's assemblage is exceptional in that this year the University has attained to its 50th anniversary—and I must congratulate you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, and the University authorities and graduates on their first Jubilee.

It is a memorable day in the history of the University. I only wish that your Chancellor could have discovered a few leisure hours to better qualify himself to address the Convocation on this auspicious occasion, for the past 50 years have been very full of incident—full of material for study of the growth and the results of education, and for careful consideration of its future problems.

It is curious to look back, from our present educational standpoint, to the early days of the East India Company. For many years after they had taken over the administration of the territories they had acquired, no attempt was made to inaugurate any regular system of education. Their policy was to leave the scattered and widely different indigenous systems such as they were to themselves, undisturbed and unsupported by grants from Government, and together with this disregard for the teaching of the people over whom they had commenced to rule, there would appear to have been a marked decline, amongst the Indian population itself, in the cultivation of literature and science.

My ancestor, Lord Minto, refers to this decline in a very interesting educational Minute of March 6th, 1811. He says—"It is a common remark that science and literature are in a progressive state of decay among the natives of India. \* \* \* The number of the learned is not only diminished, but the circle of learning, even amongst those who still devote themselves to it, appears to be considerably contracted. \* \* \* The immediate consequence of this state of things is the disuse, and even actual loss, of many valuable books; and it is to be



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apprehended that, unless Government interposes with a fostering hand, the revival of letters may become hopeless, from a want of books or of persons capable of explaining them. The principal cause of the present neglected state of literature in India is to be traced to the want of that encouragement which was formerly afforded to it by Princes, Chieftains, and opulent individuals under the Native Governments," and he goes on to tell how a liberal patronage "was formerly bestowed, not only by Princes and others in power and authority, but also by the zemindars, on persons who had distinguished themselves by the successful cultivation of letters."

But, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, we have with us to-day a distinguished Indian gentleman who has nobly followed the example of the great men of 100 years ago. The munificent gift of the Maharaja of Darbhanga to the University Library will earn for him the lasting gratitude of the Indian literary world, and I feel sure that I shall meet with warm approval in exercising my power as Chancellor and nominating him an Honorary Fellow for life, as an eminent benefactor of the University.

But to return to early days. Perhaps it was only natural that during the hard-fought wars of the Company there should have been little time to spare for the care of the arts and sciences, whilst the great Eastern potentates who had done so much to patronise them were themselves struggling for existence. However that may be, it was for Warren Hastings first to recognise the responsibility of the Government, and in 1782 he founded the Calcutta Madrassa for Mahomedans. Nine years later came the Hindu College at Benares, and it was not till the Charter Act of 1813—one of the results of Lord Minto's Minute which I have quoted—that powers were granted to provide systematically from public funds for the furtherance of education, and such annual grants were at first confined to the encouragement of Oriental methods of



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nstruction, till in 1835 Lord Macaulay wrote that historical minute which went far to introduce Western education into India. Then followed a period of somewhat ill-defined attempts to extend English education, in which self-denying missionary effort played its full part till we reach the next important landmark, the despatch of 1854, from the Court of Directors, which prescribed, among other measures necessary for a more extended and systematic promotion of general education in India, the foundation of Universities at the three Presidency towns. The Calcutta University was incorporated in 1857, and commenced operations with about 50 schools for the Entrance Examination and 13 affiliated institutions for the B.A. Examination. It was modelled on the University of London. Except that, inasmuch as that institution was then a purely examining body, the Calcutta University has always included a far greater sphere of influence in the control of the colleges and schools affiliated to it, and Lord Canning, in the midst of the tremendous responsibilities which everywhere surrounded him, became its first Chancellor. Fifty years have passed by since then, and to-day an Indian gentleman, a distinguished scholar and jurist, brings to bear on the conduct of its affairs a patriotic zeal for the promotion of higher education among his fellow-countrymen which is only equalled by his experience and administrative ability. I congratulate the University on its possession of Dr. Mookerjee as its Vice-Chancellor—a worthy successor of other eminent Judges of the High Court who have before him filled the Vice-Chancellor's Chair. But I would impress upon you that he has assumed the reins of office at a turning point in the history of the University, for with its Jubilee the University enters not only on a new chronological era, but on a new régime under new administrative conditions, the Incorporation Act of 1857 having, as you know, been amended by the University Act of 1904. There may have





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been doubts as to the character of the new régime and the suitability of the new conditions to the wants of the country and of the educated community, but I know of no pilot more capable of steering the ship of learning through educational shoals and quicksands than Dr. Mookerjee, and I have no need to prophesy as to the future. Yet of this we may rest assured, we have embarked upon what has been very aptly called "The New Ideal" in University education in India—possibilities are in the air which have not yet been moulded into shape—early conceptions of the aims of University education are giving way to the hopes of educational influence over social life—a thirst for practical knowledge, and for the wholesome enjoyment of the advantages offered by residential colleges, is beginning to dim the momentary glories of successful examinations. I believe that on the proper development of affiliated residential institutions the power of this University to confer lasting benefits upon the people of India will largely depend. How that development can be furthered is one of the problems with which we have to deal, but in one direction it would appear to me to afford exceptional opportunities,—for the encouragement of religious training,—for though the Government of India must, as I have recently said, hold the balance evenly between all religions and sects, I cannot but feel that a system of education which aims at the training of youth with no regard for religious truths ignores the very foundation upon which all that is noble in a people should be built.

The entire absence of religious teaching is a defect in our system of education—and yet it is a defect with which the absolutely necessary religious neutrality of British administration renders it impossible for the Government of India to deal. Before the advent of Western learning secular and religious instruction went hand in hand. The teacher was also the spiritual guide, and we cannot disguise from ourselves that a system for which we are answerable has



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to a large extent deprived the student of instruction in his own faith. It would be useless now to speculate as to what proportion of the causes for any untoward results may be allotted to the system, or to the want of religious teachers, or to the students themselves, but I would ask the latter to assist as far as is in their power to neutralize the evil. They and the University authorities can justly look to the religious associations throughout India for assistance. I have been a University student myself, and I know full well how the surroundings of university life go to form a young man's character and to assist in his future career. One is apt to think of such things perhaps too late, after we have bid farewell to our Alma Mater when opportunities have been lost that can never be recovered, and I would ask you, young men of the Calcutta University, to enquire of yourselves at this period of your lives, what this education has done for you, and to think how you can best utilize it. Do not let the knowledge it has given you lead you astray. It will have opened to you fresh hopes, and glittering possibilities for the future, but should all the more deepen your sense of duty and responsibility. You have come to manhood at a period of great educational advancement throughout India, and at a time too when through a certain backwardness in the development of indigenous industries, there is not sufficient employment for the ever-increasing educated class who seek for it. At present too I know that high prices and increased expenditure in living are pressing hard on the "Bhadralok" of Bengal, who may naturally feel that what they have spent in education is after all yielding them but a poor return, and I fully sympathise with them in their difficulties. But yet I hope that, with each succeeding year, the growth of home industries, and the consequent demand for greater technical knowledge, together with the restoration of Indian art and letters, will throw open fields of employment, which now scarcely exist, for those who need never think they



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have wasted their time in a University education. In furtherance of my hope, I have great pleasure, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, in announcing that the Government of India will give an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 towards the establishment of a Chair of economic science. Education must move with the times, and I trust that this new Professorship will put within reach of the students of this University opportunities for obtaining that practical instruction which commercial enterprise and universal competition will more and more require. The past history of the University augurs well for the success of the invaluable work it has before it.

## INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND.

[The meeting convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta for the relief of those in the famine-stricken districts was held at the Town Hall on the 17th March. H. E. the Viceroy presided, and there was a large attendance of influential citizens of Calcutta, including the Judges of the High Court, H. E. Lord Kitchener, Sir Andrew Fraser, the Maharajas of Burdwan, Darbhanga, Cossimbazar and Murshidabad, the Hon'ble Mr. A. A. Apcar, the Lord Bishop, Archbishop Brice Meuleman and others. On the arrival of the Viceroy, Mr. G. H. Sutherland, as Sheriff, in declaring the meeting open, stated that it was just eight years since a meeting was held in the same hall for the same melancholy and charitable purpose. The famine of 1908 was not so widespread as that of 1900, yet the severity with which it had struck the United Provinces appeared terrible enough to justify the steps they were about to take in this part of India.] 17th Mar. 1908.

Maharaja Sir Prodyot Coommar Tagore then proposed and Mr. W. Smith seconded the proposal that H. E. the Viceroy do occupy the Chair.

His Excellency in explaining the objects of the meeting said :—]

*Mr. Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—I venture to think that before I address you as to the object of to-day's meeting I should explain to you the circumstances under which I have gladly consented to preside.

I need scarcely tell you that ever since the premature stoppage of the monsoon last autumn the Government of



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India and the Local Governments have been occupied in anxiously watching the agricultural situation as it developed week by week and in making ready for the worst that could possibly occur. But I am not here to-day as representing the Government of India, I have merely consented to preside in response to an invitation conveyed to me by the Sheriff on behalf of the citizens of the metropolis at a meeting for the organization of a Charitable Relief Fund. The non-official public, prompted by its own generous impulses, has come forward of its own accord to show a practical sympathy for the suffering in the affected tracts. In that sympathy I very fully share, and it is in the hopes of furthering the general wish of the Calcutta community that I have welcomed their invitation to take the chair.

The general position is at present as follows: The famine area comprises practically the whole of the United Provinces, some of the protected States in Central India and parts of the Punjab, Bengal, the Central Provinces and even Bombay. It covers approximately 150,000 square miles, somewhat more than Great Britain, Ireland, Holland and Belgium combined, with a population of roughly 50 millions. In other words, over one-twelfth of the area of India and one-sixth of its population are affected. And though I have been told that some exception has been taken to raising a general fund for all India on the present occasion, on the ground that this is merely a United Provinces famine, it is really much more than that, though the depth and extent of the distress in the United Provinces compared with that under the other Local Administrations has naturally focussed public attention on that one particular part of India. But even supposing we had only a United Provinces famine to deal with, the needs of that province are far too great to be met by local charity, and it would appear to me only right that residents in other parts of India should be given an opportunity





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of assisting their less fortunate fellow-subjects of the King-Emperor.

It is unnecessary to go into any great detail as to the character of the famine, but a few statistics may assist to explain the situation to the meeting. Over the whole affected area the loss of crops has been very great. In one division of the Punjab, for instance, the outturn of the autumn harvest was less than one-sixth of the normal, and it is calculated that this means an actual loss of 200 lakhs (£1,383,000). For the whole of the United Provinces the autumn harvest was less than two-fifths of the normal, and the failure is of course considerably greater in the famine-stricken areas. The loss on rice and maize, alone—two great food crops—is estimated at 15 crores (ten million pounds). According to the latest returns there are 1,410,181 persons in receipt of relief, namely, 1,261,509 in British India and 148,672 in the protected States. And though in January our hopes were raised by the excellent and widespread rain which fell over northern and upper India, when there seemed indeed some probability that the sowings for the spring harvest would be more extensive than the original forecast made out, since then unfortunately no more rain has fallen, and we are receiving gloomy accounts of prospects of the next harvest, especially in the Punjab. Should no rain fall within the next few days the situation will be seriously aggravated, and whatever happens there will necessarily be a long interval before the distress in districts dependent mainly on autumn cereals comes to an end. These figures give some idea of the situation which the people and the Government have to face. In the meantime, recognising as we must the existence of much unavoidable misery, it is reassuring to know that the experience gained in previous famines and the development of remedial measures steadily carried on under the direction of my two distinguished predecessors Lord Elgin and Lord Curzon have placed the Government



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of India in a far better position to cope with widespread distress than they have ever been before, whilst the unprecedented liberal issue of agricultural advances and arrangements made for prompt suspensions of revenue have been a distinguishing feature of the administration of this famine and have put much heart into the people, who in their turn are facing the position with remarkable courage and determination. The conduct of the campaign by Sir John Hewett and his officers has been thoroughly practical and humane, and they deserve all praise.

It is quite true that the present famine cannot be compared to the last two great famines either in respect to its extent or severity. But it has one distinguishing feature in which it markedly differs from its predecessors, and to which I should wish to draw the attention of the meeting. That feature is the very high range of the prices of food grain. They are much higher than the great famine of 1900 and distinctly higher than in 1897. And though the labouring and artizan classes have to some extent been saved from distress by the gradual increased demand for labour in the last few years, and though cultivators in the fortunate position of having a surplus to sell have benefited by the rise in prices, there is on the other hand an actually larger number than in former years of respectable poor people whom custom and tradition forbid to apply for Government relief to whom these prohibitive prices mean the most terrible distress and suffering. To-day's meeting would appear to me, Mr. Sheriff, to give ample evidence of the quickness with which the citizens of Calcutta have appreciated the economic position.

Since I accepted the invitation to preside I have received communications from the different Local Governments expressing their sympathy with the movement and promising their co-operation, and I am much honoured in having been authorized to announce to the meeting that the King-Emperor has consented to be Patron of the Fund.





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His Majesty's gracious act is, I feel, all that is needed to unite every class and every creed in support of the objects for which this meeting is called.

It is all-important that we should succeed in those objects. It is by charity alone that we can hope to relieve much of the existing distress. I know it is possible to argue, I believe it has been asserted, that if Government admit their responsibility for saving life and for keeping together the bodies and souls of the suffering people until brighter times come round there is no necessity to draw on private benevolence for assistance. I am afraid I cannot agree. In spending the money of the Indian taxpayer on famine relief, Government must in justice to that taxpayer act on certain fundamental principles and in accordance with certain accepted rules. They must recognise that State aid, if it is to be properly administered, must be first asked for and then with reasonable exceptions be given only in return for such amount of work as the physical condition of the applicant admits. Such limitations are imperative in any expenditure of public money, and in its self-appointed task of saving life the State must be strictly bound by them. But this restriction of the functions of Government leaves a very large margin of misery and suffering untouched. There is no Poor Law in India, and perhaps some of the wonderful endurance and resignation shown by the people of this country under a great calamity may be due to that fact. In ordinary circumstances India depends for the relief of the indigent and needy entirely on caste institutions and spontaneous private charity. But in a famine this automatic system must break down as the charitably inclined find their own resources reduced whilst the field for the exercise of benevolence is enormously widened. It is in recognition of such principles and facts that this meeting has been called to invoke the charity of the public.



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Already private charity relief agencies are at work in different parts of India. They are, I know, doing good work, and those in charge of them are freely devoting their time and labour to the interests of their distressed fellow-countrymen. There have, too, been examples of princely generosity, such as the grants already made to United Provinces and Central India from the Famine Endowment Fund of the Maharaja of Jaipur, whilst many Indian landlords, notably the Maharaja of Balrampur, are providing for famine relief in their own estates with admirable care and completeness.

But separate efforts, no matter how munificent, are after all limited, and the time has come for the general public to occupy the larger field open to charity and to undertake the organization necessary to ensure that public benevolence should be a fellow-worker with the State. In this view I would outline the objects on which charitable funds will be spent. The administration proposed is based on that of the famine of 1897:—

*Firstly*,—In supplementing the subsistence ration which is alone provided from public funds by the addition of small comforts whether of food or of clothing for the aged or the infirm, for patients in hospital, for children, and the like;

*Secondly*,—In providing for the maintenance of orphans;

*Thirdly*,—In relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government help, the relief of such cases of destitution to be officially enquired into;

*Fourthly*,—In restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in their struggle for existence, and in giving them a fresh start in life. Expenditure from charitable funds upon such objects will, it is to be hoped, both supplement and aid at each critical stage of the famine what the Government can do for the relief of distress. It will cheer the hearts of workers in the relief camps by supplementing and varying





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the monotonous ration and will give them strength to endure. It will assist thousands of destitute widows and orphans and women and children unable to accompany their husbands and fathers in search of relief. It will give a new chance of life to very many suffering from diseases incidental to famine who would rather die than go to a public hospital, and whose recovery depends not so much on medical treatment as on diet. It will enable thousands of families whose livestock has disappeared and whose grain stores are depleted at the end of the famine, to make a fresh start with cattle and agricultural implements and will save them from lapsing into poverty.

And, Ladies and Gentlemen, the operations of this charitable fund will not be confined to British India, but the subjects of such protected States as are affected will freely share in its benefits. I am glad to say that the Durbars have shown the utmost determination to bring their administrations into line with the high standard we have set up in British India, and that when famine has visited a State and the revenue has been seriously curtailed and expenditure enormously increased and there has been no surplus available to the Durbar, Chiefs have nevertheless risen to their responsibilities in a way that deserves the highest encouragement and support.

I hope the meeting will clearly understand that charitable funds will not relieve Government of one iota of their responsibility or enable them to relax their efforts in the slightest degree. A committee has already been formed for the administration of the fund, over which I have been most fortunate in persuading the Chief Justice to preside, as he has done on two similar occasions in past years, and to give the subscribers the benefit of his great experience and capacity in these matters. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, I earnestly trust that the results of our meeting to-day may be productive of much good in the districts which are so sorely afflicted.



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The following Resolutions were then proposed and carried :—

## RESOLUTION I.

## MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja of Darbhanga moved the following resolution :—

"That this meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a Charitable Fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government, and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country, and contributions from abroad be thankfully received."

He said :—"I feel assured that your presence here this afternoon in such numbers is itself an enthusiastic response to the appeal which has been made to our common humanity on behalf of our distressed and suffering brothers and sisters in the famine-stricken districts of our land, and an unmistakable proof that you have already taken to heart and embraced the terms of my resolution and have made them your own. The Government are already engaged in doing their duty, and are doing it well, to the starving multitudes, within the limits which circumscribe their operations. But while the meting out of rations sufficient to keep starving people from dying of hunger is a great work in itself, it is not enough. And therefore we feel ourselves bound by all the ties of common brotherhood, to step in, and co-operate with the Government, by filling up, in no ungenerous and stinted fashion, that quality of service which is required not only to stave off death but to comfort those poor people while the famine lasts, and when it abates to help to put them on their feet again. This is the purpose for which the fund is now to be started, and I know the appeal will not be made in vain, for the rich and the well-to-do and even the poor in their poverty, will all vie with each other in helping on this noble work."

The Maharaja then referred to the latest returns from the famine-stricken districts and said :—"The famine area extends over 150,000 square miles. Provision also will have to be made for those who have lost their guardians and supporters until they are of age to support themselves. The peasant cultivator who has lost his all in the struggle for existence will have to be helped to get a fresh start in life, while the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for public relief will have to be sought out and treated with the most delicate consideration and care."



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THE HON'BLE MR. APCAR.

The Hon'ble Mr. Apar said :—" I have the honour to second the resolution which has been proposed by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. From the facts which have been laid before us by His Excellency the Viceroy it is clear that it was necessary to call this meeting to give relief to the distressed people in the famine districts of India. It is true the present famine is fortunately not so severe as those of 1897 and 1900, but the numbers on relief works are sufficient to cause not only the Government, but all sympathetic people, anxiety. The Government of India has the difficult task of keeping alive the poorest of the population, and it is for us to organise relief to those whom the Government cannot reach and who by reason of the conditions prevailing in this country are reluctant to appeal for help. It is for them an appeal is made to those who are in a position to afford it. We meet here to-day of all races, of all religions and of all professions in the cause of charity, and I am confident that the call on us will be generously met for the needs of our fellow-subjects. On previous occasions other countries responded nobly to the appeal for help. When the object of this meeting is telegraphed to all parts of the British Empire, I feel sure that the call of the distressed people of India will not be made in vain. With these remarks I beg to second the motion."

SIR ANDREW FRASER.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, in seconding the resolution, said :—

"*Your Excellency and Gentlemen*,—I rise to support the resolution which has been proposed and seconded by my hon'ble friends Maharaja Sir Rameswar Singh Bahadur and Mr. Apar. I shall not detain you with many observations. The objects of the meeting have been already explained by Your Excellency ; and the second resolution deals especially with the objects to which the fund which we are here to establish is to be devoted. The number of speakers at this meeting is large ; and the speeches must therefore be short.

"There are two points on which I should like to say a few words. The first is that, while we are thankful in Bengal that prospects have greatly improved, we realise the obligation of helping others. We suffer in common with the rest of India from abnormally high prices which have long prevailed ; but real famine conditions will, we trust, be limited in this province to comparatively small areas. We may ourselves require some assistance from this fund ; for we are in some parts already inviting and receiving the co-operation of private liberality ; but we trust that the assistance we shall require will be



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small. In the past, however, Bengal has been assisted in times of distress by other parts of India; and it is meet that she should now render assistance to others who are in trouble.

"The second point which I desire to notice is this, that under present conditions there will be specially severe suffering amongst the lower middle classes. High prices have to a very large extent benefited the agricultural classes; and the demand for labour is so great that the labouring classes suffer less than is usually the case in times of famine. This at all events is undoubtedly our present experience within the limited famine areas in Bengal. On the other hand, owing to the abnormally high prices which prevail, the scarcity, where it exists, has affected the lower middle classes more severely than usual. Now it is these classes whom it is the main object of this fund to assist. They must look largely to this fund for the only relief they can accept. And, therefore, although this famine may be very much less severe than other famines with which some of us have had to deal, yet we must with all earnestness commend this fund to the liberality of those who can afford to assist their fellow-men in their distress. With these few remarks I support this resolution."

The Hon'ble Munshi Madho Lal, the Maharaja of Cossimbazar and Prince Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah supported the resolution, which was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

## RESOLUTION II.

## NAWAB OF MURSHIDABAD.

The Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad moved the following resolution :—

"That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may be legitimately devoted as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January, 1897, and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund; and resolves that a General Committee be appointed, with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund."

He said :—"The harrowing tales of sorrow and distress which have been reaching us from the upper provinces have found an echo in distant Bengal and the attendance this evening shows that the chord of sympathy has been struck at last. The gravity of the situation has now broken upon us, and it is no longer possible to ignore or minimise it. The Government have pledged themselves to do certain things, and they have been doing all in their power to afford relief. But the Government cannot be expected to do everything. The Government are