

*Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

alive to the responsibilities of the situation, and have already taken upon themselves the task of supplying the essential necessities of life, such as will enable the starved and the hungry to keep body and soul together. But there is much which private charity and private co-operation can do and which Government help and Government machinery will not or cannot do. We must respond to the call of our conscience. It is a call to come and co-operate to rescue from the claws of death and disease, men, women and children in those parts of the Indian Empire where the visitation has been intense. The Government will no doubt relieve absolute want, but we must supplement their action in various ways. The supplying of little but necessary comforts, and compensating losses with a view to support and give strength to the weak and emaciated population to enable them to take to their ordinary pursuits, must needs demand our attention. The need for public charity and the need for organising charitable relief committees are called forth by the severity of the calamity. Let us endeavour to help to feed and clothe the dying heroes of the afflicted parts who have been with marvellous patience combating and suffering untold miseries. Ladies and Gentlemen, the objects to which such contributions can be legitimately devoted have been fully stated in the published Government Despatch and are the result of great deliberation. The organisation there suggested is as complete as can be imagined or expected, and I have little doubt that any movement based upon the lines therein indicated is bound to deserve your support. The organisation of charitable committees is an unavoidable necessity. For mitigating suffering, relieving distress and saving from absolute destitution, money is as essential as a properly organised machinery for work."

THE BISHOP.

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta in seconding the above resolution remarked that the Committee was formed with indefinite instructions, and he hoped that in the absence of any instruction it would be better to follow the recommendations of the Committee of 1900. Those would be their guide, but they were not prevented from making new experiments. He advised the Committee to follow the line of Government in this matter and discuss the details with local officials, for they afforded spectacles of organised heroes. They desired not only to feed the poor and to relieve their distress, but after the famine was over to open up a brighter future to those whose life was a blank despair.

SIR F. MACLEAN.

Sir Francis Maclean, in supporting the resolution, said :—" It is a very depressing reflection that within the comparatively short period

*Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.*

during which I have been in India, this is the third occasion upon which I have attended a meeting with the object similar to the present. But at the same time it is a pleasurable reflection that as regards the famine of to-day, both in point of area, in point of severity, and in point of number, it is far less than the great famines of 1897 and 1890. When I look round this platform I notice that many of the principal actors of the meeting of 1897 have passed away from India. That only raises the reflection that men may come and men may go, but the stream of charity flows on for ever. My experience in connection with the famines of 1897 and 1890 have told me and impressed upon me strongly how splendid is that object and what an enormous boon is conferred upon the people of this country by those who are charitably supported." His Lordship then explained the object of the meeting and supported the resolution.

Maharaj Kumar Hrishikesh Law, Kumar Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury of Santosh and Raja Gopendra Krishna Dey also supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Maharaja of Burdwan next moved the closing resolution, that a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to His Excellency the Viceroy for presiding on this occasion and for his kindly accepting the official Presidentship of the General Committee, and Nawab Abdur Rahman seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation.

The Viceroy, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, spoke as follows :—]

I deserve no thanks for being present at this meeting because the object which has brought us together is a melancholy one, and I can only tell you that if my attendance in any way tends to further the object of the meeting I shall feel myself highly rewarded.

[The meeting then concluded.]



DEBATE ON THE BUDGET, 1908-9.

[The Financial Statement was introduced and explained by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in the Supreme Legislative Council held at Government House on the 20th March 1908. The usual discussion took place on the 27th idem in which nearly all the Members took part. Notwithstanding the prevalence of famine it was felt that Government had done well and in the circumstances presented a good Budget. 27th Mar. 1908.]

His Excellency the Viceroy, in closing the proceedings, spoke as follows :—]

Last year it was my good fortune to be able to congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Baker on the general prosperity which continued to assure the success of his financial policy, and though to-day we have been called upon to consider a Budget framed, I regret to say, under very different conditions, I cannot but express to him my appreciation, in which I know my Colleagues will share, of the administrative ability which has enabled him so well to meet a period of financial strain. We have again to deal with a famine, less serious no doubt than that of 1897 or 1900, but bringing with it much misery and suffering for the people of India, making heavy calls upon our revenue, and grievously delaying expenditure which last year we had every reason to hope might be still further devoted to the development of the country and the welfare of its population.

The extent and severity of the present famine is perhaps not quite fully realised, or possibly the knowledge that far better machinery exists for coping with distress than was available in former years has relieved the anxiety of the public—forgetful of the demands entailed upon the public purse. The Hon'ble Mr. Baker has told us that in the present year over 2 crores of rupees have been already distributed in the afflicted districts, and that 2 crores are being provided for issue next year—in comparison with 2·3 crores in 1896—1898 and 2·9 crores in 1899—1901. But it is money well spent, for, with the terrible history of former famines still fresh in our memories, I cannot but

*Debate on the Budget, 1908-9.*

think we may gratefully recognise the results of past experience in the administrative efficiency which has enabled us, with no greater strain, to provide for a famine area of approximately 150,000 square miles, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions of persons in receipt of relief.

And in the midst of all this distress a ray of sunshine lights up the gloomy outlook, for the ravages of the plague are weakening. The total deaths from plague in Bombay, the United Provinces and Punjab in 1908 are very much lower than those of the corresponding period in 1907. I find that, in January and February of the latter year, the deaths in those provinces were 44,319 and 78,063 against 7,445 and 11,898 in January and February of this year, whilst the total deaths in January and February 1907 were 122,382 against 18,343 in the same months of this year—an enormous reduction in mortality, and, allowing for climatic influences, I trust that we may not be too sanguine in hoping that this terrible scourge is at last beginning to give way to scientific research and to the energy of our officers assisted by the people themselves. The Hon'ble Mr. Reynolds has told us of the efforts made by the Government of the United Provinces to familiarise the people with the idea of inoculation, and of the reassuring effects of His Majesty's gracious letter of sympathy—and though I am well aware that, as the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Darbhanga has told us, the sources of plague, as of many other dire diseases, are to be found in the absence of effective sanitation, we must remember that effective sanitation in its modern sense is often opposed to long established customs which cannot be immediately thrown aside, and whilst persistently aiming at improvements in that direction we shall I am sure for long be compelled to rely much upon those experimental measures which have already been so beneficial when systematically adopted.

To return for a moment to the famine. I cannot entirely follow the arguments of the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis as to its



Debate on the Budget, 1908-9.

causes. He admits the necessary results of a failure of the monsoon, but wonders that the same cause does not produce the same disastrous results in other countries. Now, all agricultural countries are peculiarly dependent on the seasons, drought and storms are everywhere answerable for much ruin, but I know of no agricultural country so peculiarly dependent on climatic conditions as India is on the monsoon. A failure in the monsoon must mean scarcity of produce, and consequent distress—and so I am afraid it must always be, except that I firmly believe that new conditions will arise as India develops, not to take the place of a good monsoon, but to afford employment and a livelihood to those who might otherwise have starved for want of food. In the present famine we have already seen something of such conditions, a demand for labour, high wages, and easier means of leaving afflicted districts to gain employment elsewhere. As years go on, such conditions will, it is to be hoped, multiply and will more and more assist the opportunities for a livelihood. I agree with my Hon'ble Colleague that economic questions are amongst the greatest of future Indian problems. I am far from saying there is no political unrest, but I believe that we shall find much more genuine unrest, or rather much more justifiable unrest, in respect to economic difficulties than in the region of so-called politics. That unrest will be associated with the development of Indian home industries, for though India is, in the first place, an agricultural country, it is in the development of resources that India herself possesses that the increasing educated community must look for employment. India will require to cherish her young industries.

It is on economic, and I would add on social, questions that the future of India so largely rests,—questions full of difficulty, both largely dependent for their solution on the people of India themselves. There is much in what the Hon'ble the Tikka Sahib has said as to social life in this country, but no one can know better than he does the strength

*Debate on the Budget, 1908-9.*

of tradition and veneration with which it is surrounded and the difficulty of bridging the gulf which separates it from modern ideas, and yet with him I earnestly hope that the clouds are beginning to lift,—that we are beginning to look further ahead,—and that racial differences of thought and custom will grow less and less.

We have been told to-day of the efforts the Government of India is making to improve its administration in the interests of the people. The Hon'ble Mr. Miller has very ably explained to us the practical and scientific line upon which agricultural interests are being dealt with, and has told us of the success so far obtained by the newly introduced Co-operative Credit Societies in providing capital for agriculturists and of the development of the vast wealth of India's forests, and we have heard, too, of the many measures in progress to meet the growing demands of trade at Indian ports, amongst them the great work at Rangoon which the enormously increased commerce of Burma has rendered necessary. The outlook for the future is full of promise, but I am aware of the justice of some of the criticisms we have to-day listened to, such as the natural demand for improved internal communication in proportion to rapidly-growing requirements, dependent largely upon a railway administration, which we must admit has not as yet proved itself quite capable of satisfactorily meeting the calls upon it. I need only say that railway administration is now in the crucible, and that I hope a system will be evolved which will keep pace with the times.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja of Darbhanga has alluded to the Calcutta Improvement Scheme—the evidence that much requires to be done stares us in the face—it is not creditable to a great city that a congested population should have been for so long allowed to exist in its midst with the machinery of sanitation either non-existent or neglected,—in circumstances fraught with danger not only to itself, but to surrounding districts.



Debate on the Budget, 1908-9.

The Hon'ble Sir H. Adamson has explained the intentions of the Government of India in respect to the scheme, which has its warm sympathy. The delay in carrying it out has been unfortunate; at the same time there have been difficulties connected with its furtherance peculiar to Calcutta, there has been a dearth of Government land, and of assets upon which necessary funds could be raised. I trust that such difficulties have now been overcome.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja has drawn attention, as have other of my Hon'ble Colleagues, to the necessity for a reduction in military expenditure—a criticism to which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has referred. The Anglo-Russian Convention has not unnaturally drawn attention to such considerations, but welcoming as I do the confirmation of friendly relations with our great neighbours, I cannot admit that any treaty would justify us in allowing our sword to grow rusty in its sheath. My Hon'ble Colleagues are very right in taking exception to extravagance in military expenditure, but I would venture to point out that reduction of expenditure on such a complicated matter as the army cannot be undertaken hastily without incurring grave risks, and a diminution in efficiency which it would be impossible to restore on the sudden appearance of unforeseen emergency.

The most expensive weapon may be the cheapest in the long run. We may justly claim the recent expedition as an example. His Excellency Lord Kitchener's military organisation enabled us to draw a sharper and better tempered sword than we have ever drawn before—the machinery of the expeditionary force had been tested in the Commander-in-Chief's workshop before it took the field, and when it did so, it was complete in every detail—the result has been an expedition of exceptional success and brevity, and brevity means economy. If India had preferred a cheaper weapon, we should have had to pay, and pay heavily, for loss of time, to say nothing about loss of life.

*Debate on the Budget, 1908-9.*

Short as the expedition was, I hope its lessons will not be thrown away, and that the acceptance of a sound military administration may enable us to look forward with confidence to the great responsibilities of the future.

Now that the Calcutta session of the Government of India has come to a close, I cannot but recall the words I addressed to my Colleagues at our last Budget Debate in reference to the political future and the reforms which the Government of India had ventured to submit to the Secretary of State. I then gave an assurance that no legislation in connection with those reforms should be undertaken before the public in India and at home had had ample opportunity for an expression of opinion on the proposals we had placed before them.

Those proposals have now been published and submitted to Local Governments, all of whose replies have not as yet been received. The Government of India has always been anxious for the opinions and the criticisms of the public, and it is to that source they largely look for independent advice, but I confess I was hardly prepared, if my interpretation of his remark is correct, for the concluding portion of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale's speech. He tells us that many things have happened during the last few years, but he omits to notice the efforts made by the Government of India to meet the representations put forward in these years, whilst he criticises the action of a Secretary of State, who, whilst determined to support law and order, has been throughout sympathetically in touch with the justifiable aspirations of the people of India.

My Hon'ble Colleague talks of the Government of India advancing and receding. They have advanced, but they have not receded; they have placed certain proposals for the amelioration of the political position in India before the Indian public, and they have asked that public for its opinion. My Hon'ble Colleague passes by the request



*Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment,
at Allahabad.*

that the Government of India have made—not only that, in the face of that offer of reforms he has attributed to us hesitation and want of appreciation of the ambitions of the people of this country. I hope, however, that, when this Council next assembles, measures will have been accepted by His Majesty's Government and will be ready for legislation here, and which will go far to meet the aspirations of those who have the welfare of the Indian people at heart.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE 1ST BATTALION,
MIDDLESEX REGIMENT, AT ALLAHABAD.

[His Excellency the Viceroy, who left Calcutta by special train on 29th Mar. 1908. Saturday afternoon, arrived at Allahabad at 7-30 A.M. On the station platform a guard-of-honour of 100 rank and file of the East Indian Railway Volunteer Rifles with band was drawn up, and as His Excellency's train came to a standstill he was received with a Royal salute, the band playing the National Anthem. Lord Minto was received by General Sir E. Locke-Elliot, officiating in command of the Northern Army, among those present on the platform being the Honourable Sir John Stanley, Chief Justice; Mr. F. W. Brownrigg, Commissioner; Mr. A. MacNair, Collector; and Mr. Moseley, Superintendent of Police. After inspecting the guard-of-honour His Excellency crossed the railway bridge and entering Sir John Stanley's carriage was driven to the polo ground *via* Queen's Road, Canning Road and Hastings Road. The escort from the station to the polo ground was provided by the United Provinces Light Horse, and the roads were lined by the 4th Cavalry, 9th Bhopal Infantry, and Allahabad Rifle Volunteers. A cordon of police was formed up behind the troops lining the roads. Large numbers of people were present on and near the polo ground to witness the ceremony of presentation, including practically all residents in the station. The ceremony of presenting new colours is singularly interesting and impressive, and on this occasion it was followed with close attention by all who witnessed it. His Excellency the Viceroy was received on the parade ground by General Keir,



*Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment,
at Allahabad.*

commanding the Allahabad Brigade, who gave the order for the Royal salute, and then handed over the parade to Colonel Oliver, commanding the 1st Middlesex Regiment. The Viceroy was conducted to a special enclosure, near which a guard-of-honour of the Allahabad Rifle Volunteers under Captain Hocking, with the band of the 9th Bhopal Infantry, was drawn up. The Middlesex Regiment, who were in white uniforms, were drawn up in line. The band and drums advanced playing a slow march from *Traviata*. It may be noted that Sergeant Drummer Deacon, who led the band and drums, was present with the battalion when the tenth set of colours were presented in 1867; he had then about two years' service, but he is still as hale and hearty as when he joined. The band and drummers having advanced to the front of the regiment, the drummer's call was sounded, and the escort for the colours advanced, under command of Major Blakeney, D.S.O., and preceded by the band and drums playing "The British Grenadiers." Sergeant-Major Cook having handed the old King's colour to Lieutenant Wheatley and the old regimental colour to Lieutenant Allott, the escort presented arms to the colours, the band playing "God save the King." The colours were then trooped and escorted along the line for a last farewell, the band following the colours and playing "Auld Lang Syne." When this part of the ceremony was over the old colours were taken to the rear of the line, and the battalion was formed into three sides of a square in front of His Excellency's enclosure. The drums were piled in the centre of the square and the new colours placed upon them. The colours were then consecrated by the Rev. D. A. Canney, Garrison Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. E. A. Oldham. The religious service was short but impressive. It began with the Lord's prayer and the reading, by the Rev. G. E. Oldham, of Psalm 144. "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight." The Rev. D. A. Canney offered prayer, and then said, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, I dedicate these colours to be the colours of the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment." Then followed another prayer, and the hymn "Brightly gleams our banner" sung by the whole battalion. After the consecration Major Rowley handed the King's colour to His Excellency the Viceroy, who presented it to Lieutenant Skaife, and the regimental colour being similarly handed to His Excellency by Major Elgee was presented to Lieutenant Gibbons.

His Excellency the Viceroy then addressed the battalion as follows :—]



*Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment,
at Allahabad.*

Colonel Oliver, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment,—It is not only a great pleasure to me to be here to-day, but I feel also highly honoured at having been invited to present new colours to a regiment with such a distinguished record of war service.

The regiment has played its part in almost all the most stirring episodes of English history. It was raised at the commencement of the Seven Years' War, and to be quite correct was, I believe, originally the 59th, but in 1757 it became the 57th, and has remained the 57th ever since.

It first saw active service in the American War of Independence and took part in the battles of Brooklyn and Brandywine, in various expeditions in the neighbourhood of New York and at the siege and capture of Charlestown in 1780. On the close of the American War it was sent to Nova Scotia, and in 1791 returned to England. In 1793 war broke out with the French Republic, and the 57th was sent to reinforce the army under the Duke of York in the low countries and was recalled almost immediately to join Lord Moira's expedition to assist the French Royalists in Brittany, after which it went back again to the Netherlands, saw much fighting under the Duke of York and retired with his army behind the Waal. In 1796 the regiment sailed for the West Indies and took part in the capture of St. Lucia. It was at that time commanded by Colonel Picton, afterwards General Sir Thomas Picton, who fell at Waterloo. After the Treaty of Amiens in 1802 it returned to England and formed part of the troops intended to defend the south coast against Napoleon's threatened invasion. It was subsequently stationed at Gibraltar, and in 1809 was ordered to join the army under Sir Arthur Wellesley in Portugal, and at once began to play its part in that splendid story which Napier has told so well. In the early days of the war it was



*Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment,
at Allahabad.*

present at Busaco and the retirement within the lines of Torres-Vedras, and in 1811 formed part of the force that followed the retreat of Marshal Massena. Then came the battle of Albuhera where it covered itself with glory. Having gone into action with a strength of some 30 officers and 570 men, the senior officer brought out of action about 10 officers and 150 men, its Colonel lying wounded on the ground and exhorting his men to die hard. Ever since that the 57th have been "The Diehards," and in recognition of their services on that memorable day they wear the laurel wreath as the regimental crest. Then followed all the desperate battles, the history of which one knows so well, the siege and storming of Badajoz, perhaps the most bloody fighting of any war, the passage of the Ebro, the battle of Vittoria, the tremendous struggles in the Pyrenees, the battles of the Nivelle, Nive, and St. Pierre, and then Orthez and Toulouse—an epoch of great battles. And then after all these victories we come to what has always seemed to me one of the saddest pages of the history of the Peninsular Army—a large part of the army which had fought its way through Spain and Portugal was sent off at a moment's notice from Bordeaux to take part in the American War and to share in the disasters of New Orleans. If my recollection is correct, General Picton was in command of that force, but I believe the 57th itself was sent to Quebec instead of to the Southern States. In 1815 the regiment returned to England too late for Waterloo, but joined the Duke of Wellington's army of occupation and remained in France till that army was withdrawn. In subsequent years it served in Australia and India and so on till 1854, when it found itself again in the field with the army before Sebastopol, took part in the battles of Balaclava and Inkerman, and was selected for the storming party on the first attack on the Redan, where it lost heavily, its Colonel being amongst the killed. It returned to India after the Mutiny and



*Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment,
at Allahabad.*

subsequently saw much service in New Zealand in the Maori War, and in 1867 was back in England. In 1879 it saw service in South Africa and took part in the actions of Ginghilovo and the relief of Etshowe and was present at the battle of Ulundi. In 1896 it again embarked at short notice for South Africa and proceeded from there to India in 1898.

This is the third occasion on which new colours have been presented to the regiment.

In 1853 Viscount Hardinge, who had succeeded the Duke of Wellington as Commander-in-Chief, presented new colours to the 57th, stipulating only that the old colours which had been so gallantly carried at Albuhera should be sent to him. They were then in possession of Captain Inglis, whose father commanded the regiment at that battle. The colours presented by Lord Hardinge saw service all over the world, and new colours were again presented to the regiment in 1867. Those are the colours which after forty years with the regiment I now have the honour to replace. Colonel Oliver, I present these new colours to the regiment which you have the honour to command, knowing that they will be cherished with the same loyalty to the King-Emperor and guarded with the same magnificent devotion as has distinguished the 57th during its many years of warfare.

[Colonel Oliver, in replying, said they were much indebted to His Excellency for the honour he had done them in performing the ceremony just completed. They had cause for hearty congratulations in having so distinguished a soldier and statesman as Lord Minto to hand over to them their new colours, and they had listened with great interest to the words he had addressed to them on the history of their regiment, of which they were justly proud.]

Lieutenants Skaife and Gibbons advanced with the new colours to their place in line, the battalion receiving them with a general salute while the band of the regiment again played the National Anthem.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the battalion marched past in column of companies, and His Excellency then went by motor to the 1st Middlesex Officers' Mess, where he breakfasted with the officers. The road to the Mess was lined by the 4th Cavalry, and a guard-of-



Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.

honour was furnished by the 9th Bhopal Infantry. After breakfast His Excellency returned to the station, and continued his journey to Gwalior about 11 A.M. The return journey was made by motor *via* Thornhill and Queen's Roads, the roads being lined by the 4th Cavalry and 9th Bhopal Infantry, the police as before being formed up behind the troops.]

BANQUET AT GWALIOR.

21st Apl. 1908. [On Tuesday, the 21st April, His Excellency the Viceroy attended a gymkhana in the afternoon at the Elgin Club, and in the evening there was a large dinner party at the palace, fifty-four ladies and gentlemen being present. After drinking the King-Emperor's health H. H. Scindia (the Maharaja of Gwalior) proposed the toast of His Excellency in a short speech, and said how much pleasure it had given him to have entertained the Viceroy for the past three weeks, though he hoped that His Excellency would soon honour him with another visit, and next time would bring Her Excellency Lady Minto with him. He felt sure that these visits to the States of Native Chiefs were of the greatest possible benefit.

In reply His Excellency thanked the Maharaja for all his kindness and hospitality and complimented him especially on his wonderful organisation, saying what a pleasure it had given him to see so much of Gwalior State and the admirable way in which it was administered. He characterised His Highness as a first-class administrator, sportsman, and host.]

VISIT TO, AND ADDRESS FROM, THE M. A. O. COLLEGE, ALIGARH.

22nd Apl. 1908. [The Viceregal party left Gwalior by special train at 11 P.M., and arrived at Aligarh next morning at seven o'clock. There were on the platform to meet His Excellency, Nawab Sir Fayaz Ali Khan, the President; Maulvi Mustaq Hussain, the Secretary; Mr. Archbold, the Principal; the Joint Secretary and the Trustees of the M. A. O. College of Aligarh, and also Mr. Peart, the Collector of Aligarh. When all these gentlemen had been presented to him, the Viceroy drove with the President to the College, and was met at the porch of the main gate of the Sir Saiyad Court by the chief officials of the College, when the Indian and English gentlemen of the staff were presented to him. His Excellency then visited all the buildings of the College, including the library and laboratory and the English house, where



Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.

Miss Harris, the Lady Superintendent, was presented to him. From here the mosque and tombs and the Nizam Museum were in turn visited, till the Strachey Hall was reached. When His Excellency had taken his seat, the President asked permission for Mian Shah Din, one of the Trustees, to read an address, which was as follows :—

May it please Your Excellency,—We, the Trustees of the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh, beg most humbly and respectfully to approach Your Excellency with sincere gratitude for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon us and upon our community by visiting this College to-day. The visit of the representative of our Sovereign and of the Head of our Government is to us always a source of great gratification and pride; but we welcome Your Excellency with feelings of special regard, respect and honour, as we recognise in you a sincere friend and benefactor of our people. At a time when the fortunes of our community were at their lowest ebb, when their prospects in the struggle for existence going on around us were of the gloomiest, Your Excellency's statesmanlike and generous policy towards them raised us from the depths of despondency and filled us with a new life, new hope, new courage, which bid fair to usher in the dawn of a brighter future for the Musalmans of India. In their affection and regard Your Excellency therefore occupies a unique position, and past experience has taught them that they may confidently rely on Your Excellency's practical sympathy with their national aims and aspirations. On the present occasion, when Your Excellency sets foot for the first time on the soil of Aligarh, and amidst all the engrossing cares and responsibilities of this vast Empire finds time to pay a visit to this centre of Musalman national life, we greet you no less as a trusted friend of Musalman progress and Musalman education than as the Viceroy and Governor-General of the Indian Empire. And here we cannot refrain from alluding to one who had long looked forward to this auspicious day, and from whom, had he been spared to us, Your Excellency would have received a most sincere welcome. The late Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk was the right-hand man of the great founder of this College, whose work and mission he carried on with conspicuous success, and with a singleness of purpose and self-sacrificing devotion worthy of all praise. Both his work and his example are to us a national asset, and his death is no less a national loss.

Your Excellency is already so well acquainted with the aims and objects of this College, with its ideals and its methods of work, that our task of explaining these matters to you is comparatively a simple one. It was in the dark days of the Indian Mutiny that its great

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

founder, the late Sir Saiyad Ahmad, K.C.S.I., was seized with the conviction that education of the right kind, including Western learning and the teaching of modern science, was the only weapon with which it was possible to fight the superstition and ignorance in which the vast majority of his co-religionists were then steeped. The College at Aligarh founded in 1875 was the ultimate outcome of that conviction; but meanwhile the soil had to be prepared for the reception of the good seed it was to sow in the distant future. Sir Saiyad saw clearly that unless Musalman religious ideas of the day could be freed from their superstitious accretions, his educational scheme would be foredoomed to failure. But at a time when even to learn the mere rudiments of the English language was regarded by gentle and simple, by maulvi and layman, as the surest way to perdition and tantamount to a renunciation of Islam, this was no easy matter. With characteristic energy, Sir Saiyad undertook single-handed this Herculean task, and his labours were rewarded with unparalleled success. The story of his gigantic struggle against the forces of fanaticism, suspicion, prejudice and immemorial custom, arrayed against him in all their strength and intensity, forms a brilliant chapter in the history of all recent movements for reform of a socio-religious order. Even before his death he had succeeded in converting into good-will and active support the determined opposition and the *odium theologicum* with which his earlier efforts were rewarded.

But his task was not completed until he had achieved equal success in another and far more important aspect of his work, namely, that of reconciling Indian Mahomedans to British rule. At the time of which we are speaking the recollections of their former greatness and dominion were still fresh in their minds, and they regarded the new régime with singular suspicion and distrust, engendering corresponding feelings towards them in the minds of the British authorities. Sir Saiyad, on the one hand, by ceaselessly pointing out to his co-religionists the blessings of British rule and impressing on them more especially the freedom of worship and religious toleration they enjoyed under its ægis, and on the other, by demonstrating conclusively that there was nothing in the principles or doctrines of Islam which was in any way antagonistic to British rule, succeeded in removing those mutual misunderstandings, and in bringing about a state of affairs in which sentiments of absolute trust in the justice and humanity of British rule, and in its policy of religious toleration, liberal education, progressive and well-considered reform became and are to-day the prominent characteristics of Musalman political faith.

At Sir Saiyad's death the whole aspect of affairs was changed, and since then the Musalman community throughout the length and breadth



Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.

of India has come to appreciate, at its true worth, his life-long labour, and to recognise this College as their only national seat of learning. The College represents the Musalman ideal in education, in social life and even in politics. It is the centre of their most cherished hopes, of their highest aspirations, of their future progress, enlightenment and advance; and with it are bound up for better or for worse all their hopes for the regeneration of their race.

The secret of Sir Saiyad Ahmad's success lay in finding out the exact educational requirements of his community, and in providing for them. He saw that the existing Government Colleges and Schools, committed as they were to a policy of absolute religious neutrality, and to the promulgation of secular instruction pure and simple, were in every way unsuitable for the Mahomedans who attached the greatest importance to religious teaching. Indeed, their one fear was lest English education should sap the foundations of faith, and they were not prepared to accept it for their youth at the expense of all sense of reverence. Moreover, almost entirely detached as this instruction was from the personal influence of the teachers, it failed in the main object of all education, namely, the formation of character.

Sir Saiyad saw the supreme importance of the residential system and of religious teaching, and by making these two principles the foundation upon which he built up his system of education, he allayed the suspicions of his co-religionists and converted their aversion or indifference into a keen desire for education, provided always that these two principles were maintained unimpaired.

Another special feature of the Aligarh College, now widely imitated like its residential system, is the prominence given in its educational scheme to manly sports of all kinds, which are systematically encouraged by precept and example, and taken up by the students with a keenness nowhere surpassed. A riding school, and provision for cricket, football, hockey and other manly sports form part of its equipment.

It was by a combination of all these special features that the great founder of the College realised his ideal of what a sound, liberal, and truly national education should be. The whole drift of his wise and statesmanlike policy was that the College should send out into the world not merely men of learning but men of active habits and self-reliance, imbued with a strong sense of their duty as citizens and as loyal subjects of the State. Those connected with the Aligarh movement lay no claim to a monopoly of loyalty—far from it—but they are proudly conscious of the fact that theirs is the only

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

educational institution in India where every effort is made systematically to impress on students the lessons that true patriotism and true loyalty, so far from being incompatible, are in reality one and the same thing and cannot be divorced from one another to any good or useful purpose. Experience shows that the lessons thus taught do not lead to a habit of servile cringing, but to a manly, outspoken and withal respectful attitude towards our rulers, which has given the *alumni* of the College a well-earned reputation for good manners. The whole environment of students at Aligarh, moreover, tends to generate an *esprit de corps* which distinguishes them throughout their lives. The type of young men thus turned out has often received the highest appreciation and eulogy of British officers of all ranks and of non-officials. This type it is the earnest desire of the whole Muslim Community and of the trustees of this College to perpetuate, to improve, and to disseminate widely over this great Continent.

The establishment of this College was the first example in India of a real national effort at self-help. As such, and because it was founded on sound principles, it attracted from its very inception the sympathy and support not only of our own princes and people, noblemen and gentry, nawabs and zemindars, but also of English gentlemen and English officials of the highest degree, and successive Viceroys, Lieutenant-Governors and British officers have patronised it both in their official and their private capacities. Under such high patronage and under the quickening forces which owe their origin in this country to the benign influence of British rule, the College has flourished and has reached its present stage of evolution, and our *motto* must still be "Excelsior." We must not look back, we must not mark time, for the crying needs and the daily growing requirements of our community forbid us to do so. Year after year we have to send away, for want of accommodation, hundreds of our youths from all parts of India, either to idle away their time at home or worse still, to join some educational institution with methods and ideals different from our own. Such is the confidence of the Musalman community in this College, that there is no limit to candidates for admission except such as want of accommodation necessarily imposes upon us; and that this confidence is shared by Mahomedans in all parts of India and even in countries beyond its borders, is amply borne out by the following statement of the places from which College and School Boarders at present on our rolls come to us:—

The United Provinces of Agra and Oudh	366
Punjab	130
Frontier Province	22

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

Baluchistan	2
Bengal and Behar	92
Eastern Bengal	33
The Central Provinces and Berar	25
Madras	19
Bombay and Sindh	30
Hyderabad, Deccan	58
Rajputana	3
Nepal	1
Burma	4
Chitral	3
Transvaal	1
Total	789

Some may think that this College has reached the limits of expansion, but the Trustees would be wanting in their sense of duty to the community and would be betraying the sacred trust bequeathed to them, if they failed to place upon record a respectful but emphatic negation of any such suggestion. Our present situation may be briefly described as follows:—On the one hand we find that in order to hold our own against other races in the keen competition of the present day, we must arm ourselves with knowledge—knowledge such as modern science and high education alone are capable of furnishing us. In every walk of life, whether in Government service or private employment, in the professions, in trades or in commerce, the weapons with which the battle of life has now to be fought consist of high educational qualifications, character, and training. On the other hand we have the pitiable spectacle of the extreme backwardness of our community in education, more specially when once the precincts of the primary school have been passed. The figures given below bear eloquent but mournful testimony to the truth of this observation. To take the instance of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam which has got the largest Mahomedan population and where the proportion of the Mahomedan to the general population is about 66 per cent., the proportion of Mahomedans receiving education compared with the other communities in 1906 was as follows:—

(1) Primary education	52 per cent.
(2) Secondary „	16 „
(3) Arts Colleges	3 „
(4) Professional Colleges	2 „

and yet from this very Province of Eastern Bengal we have been obliged to refuse many boys for want of accommodation. Similarly a

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

number of applications for admission have to be refused every year from all the Provinces of India.

What happens to these young men when they are thus refused admission is to the Trustees of this College a matter of the deepest concern; and they venture to submit that when the position is clearly placed before Your Excellency, you will not regard their anxiety as altogether baseless. It has already been explained that merely as a question of self-preservation in their competition against other races, the desire for education among Indian Mahomedans has now become very strong, and they would prefer to have such education on the lines followed at Aligarh.

But if through unavoidable circumstances they should be unable to send their youths to us, they must perforce let their sons join such educational institutions as may be within their reach. Your Excellency has, on different occasions, very justly expressed your disapproval of the abuse of educational opportunities, of the absence, in ordinary schools and colleges, of facilities for religious instructions and of arrangements for the residence and supervision of the pupils. The Trustees cannot but feel a glow of pride at the thought that Your Excellency has thus indirectly approved of the very principles which they so dearly cherish at Aligarh, and which have been put into practice in this College from its first foundation. They also feel that Your Excellency will sympathise with them when they ask themselves the following questions:—Is it wise, is it politic, is it in the best interests of the Mahomedan community or of the British Government that we should shut the door in the faces of our youth, and drive them thus to schools where opportunity and example for the abuse of educational facilities may abound, where the formation of character may be no part of the schoolmaster's business, and where religious instruction may be conspicuous by its absence. Sir Saiyad and his successors laboured incessantly to prove to our people the urgent need for education, and now that they have succeeded in creating among them a demand for it, are we to tell them to go away and seek it in places where none of Sir Saiyad's ideals are recognised, and where the education is entirely unsuitable for the needs of our community.

To all these questions the Trustees feel it their duty to answer in the negative. They, on the contrary, are convinced of the need for the expansion of this College; and the point they wish to emphasize here is that theirs is no parochial seminary, but a national Educational Institution for the whole of India and its dependencies. Numbers which may seem large for a single town or even for a province become insignificant when we consider them in relation to the whole country.



Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.

After Sir Saiyad, no one has helped more to place this College on a sound footing than his trusted friend and adviser, the late Mr. Theodore Beck, the popular, sympathetic and zealous Principal of the College, who did more to save it at a critical period of its history than any one else. His ideals and those of Sir Saiyad with regard to the expansion of this College are ours to-day. Their view of its ultimate development was the formation of a Mahomedan University, of which the idea was strongly supported by the late Mr. Justice Mahmood, son of Sir Saiyad, and by Mr. Theodore Morison, our last Principal. The former may indeed be said to have formulated, if not fathered, the University scheme, while the latter developed it in his numerous writings on the subject. As regards numbers, Sir Saiyad and Mr. Beck put down one thousand for the College Classes, and at least the same number should be allowed for the School. We need hardly point out to Your Excellency that ever since the foundation of the College our Collegiate School has formed an essential part of the scheme on which the educational system of this College is based. Our School, like our College, is not confined to any one district or province, but undertakes the education and training of students not only from all parts of this country but even from countries outside India. The English House and the Zahur Husain Ward have, at the present time, on their roll boys of very tender age from Rangoon, Siam and other distant provinces. We attach very great importance to the part which our School plays in our educational system, for it is only boys who have passed on from the School to the College that have benefited to the fullest extent from the whole training and discipline of the place and that represent the true Aligarh type.

We are fully conscious of the fact that this expansion must be slow and gradual, and *pari passu*, there must go on an increase in the staff and in the accommodation. Any increase in numbers entails additional work on our staff, both English and Indian, but specially on the English staff. It is their supervision, their example, and their sympathy that we prize so highly and that we wish to secure to the fullest extent. They are gentlemen of ability, refinement and culture whose influence in moulding the characters of our boys at an impressionable age is a factor of infinite value and importance to this College. We remember with feelings of gratitude not only the late Mr. Theodore Beck, but such men as Mr. Arnold, Mr. Morison and many others. We have nothing but admiration and regard for our present staff—Mr. Archbold (our Principal), Mr. Towle, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, Mr. Rees (our Head Master) and their colleagues. We are conscious that although ours is, if not the largest, at least as large a European Staff as that of any Arts College in India, with the

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

exception of the St. Xavier's Colleges at Calcutta and Bombay (where there are additional Professors for the European classics), the work entailed on its members on account of the supervision they have to exercise over the boys is of an arduous nature, and any further increase in the number of students or the cultivation of closer relations with the boys must mean an increase in the staff. Our Boarding House accommodation also, although the largest in India, will require further expansion. But money spent on Boarding Houses we find to be the best investment for our capital—the returns leaving a margin for the employment of extra staff.

Before anything practical can be done, further funds are of course necessary. With that object the Trustees have started the Mohsin-ul-Mulk Memorial Fund, and will exert every nerve to collect contributions as soon as it may please Providence to lighten somewhat the burden of the famine. After the death of the late Sir Saiyad, which was a time of even greater financial need, we had to make a similar effort for raising necessary funds, and the sympathy and support which were extended to the movement by Your Excellency's predecessor Lord Elgin and the Government are deeply impressed on our grateful hearts. Our present needs are of equally pressing nature, but with the countenance and sympathy of the Government, which has always been extended to us, and with the support of our patrons, old and new, we have every reason to hope for success in our endeavours. A few only of such patrons we can find space here for mentioning by name. They have made Aligarh what it is, and the whole community is under an everlasting debt of gratitude to them. Among our oldest benefactors is His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, among our newest His Majesty the Amir of Afghanistan; while the College has always been most generously helped and supported by His Highness Sir Agha Khan of Bombay, His Highness the Nawab of Rampore, His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, His Highness the Nawab of Malerkotla, His Highness the Nawab of Bhawalpore, His Highness the Nawab of Jaora, the Honourable Nawab Sir Fayaz Ali Khan and the late Raja of Nanpara. The latest addition to our resources is the Prince of Wales' School of Science, the establishment of which has been rendered possible by the princely generosity of Sir Adamji Peerbhoy of Bombay, and by the munificent gifts of His Highness the Agha Khan, the Raja of Mahmudabad and Nawab Sir Fayaz Ali Khan, our respected President. Another Faculty, that of advanced Arabic, for the post-graduate study of that classic, has been strengthened by the generosity of the Government, by that of the Raja of Jahangirabad, and by a host of other donors; while the Faculty of Theology has been supported by Hadji Ahmad Said



Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.

Khan of Bhikampore. The education of women, of which a beginning has been made in Aligarh, has received the warmest support from Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal, His Highness the Nawab of Bhawalpore, His Highness the Nawab of Tonk and His Highness the Mir of Khairpore, Sindh. This strengthening of the various Faculties and enlarging of boundaries of study, one after another as opportunities offer, is in fact the plan of action which the Trustees have deliberately mapped out for themselves in their policy of expansion. It is thoroughness and efficiency in each Faculty that they are determined to secure, rather than mere rapid expansion with corresponding weakness.

It is with great pleasure that we mention, on this occasion, the latest act of generosity on the part of one of our Trustees, whose name is well known in the country, and who has served in an important Native State for a long time with remarkable distinction and success. Khan Bahadur Yar Mohammad Khan, C.S.I., the Prime Minister of Jaora State, has, with the entire concurrence of his heirs, obtained the sanction of His Highness the Nawab of Jaora for transferring to the M. A. O. College, Aligarh (as a permanent grant), the Family Pension of Rs. 320 a month, which the State had granted to the family of the Khan Bahadur in perpetuity from the time of his father. We have received the formal SANAD duly signed, sanctioning the said Grant to the Aligarh College permanently. It is needless to add that, by this magnanimous and noble act, our esteemed Khan Bahadur has secured a prominent place in the list of our community's benefactors, and the large-minded self-denial shown by his heirs sets an example worthy of all praise.

Lastly, we beg again most earnestly to thank Your Excellency for the trouble you have taken in coming here and for the opportunity, you have been pleased to accord to us of addressing you on matters that closely touch the interests of our College and our community matters to which Your Excellency has vouchsafed a patient hearing, for which we shall be ever grateful, and as in duty bound, we shall pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

His Excellency made the following reply :—]

Gentlemen,—I thank you for your address and for the cordiality of your welcome to me on my first visit to Aligarh. I assure you I sincerely value your courteous and appreciative words, and you may always rely upon my interest and sympathy in the patriotic aims which your College has done so much to further.

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

I have long looked forward to this visit. I know how anxious your late distinguished and much beloved Secretary, the Nawab Moshin-ul-Mulk, was that I should come here. I wish I could have done so under his guidance, but it was not to be. He was sitting in my room at Simla only a few days before he passed away, and I know how dear to him was all that concerned you here. He was, as you rightly say, the right-hand man of the great founder of this College, to which he has bequeathed an invaluable legacy in the memory of his devoted labours and example.

I have listened with the deepest interest to the history of Aligarh which you have so ably sketched. Your College is only 33 years old—little more than the recognised life of a generation,—yet in those few years I think I may say without exaggeration it has established itself as the centre and directing influence of educated Mahomedan thought in India. It has nobly fulfilled the hopes of its great founder. We may justly marvel at the commanding position it now holds when we remember what Sir Saiyad Ahmed had to face at the commencement of his great work: not only financial difficulties, which were plentiful enough, but something much harder to cope with—the weight of social and religious suspicion—the unthinking opposition of traditional customs—and he triumphed over them. He triumphed in the recognition of the idea for which he had fought so hard, the combination of the advantages of Western education with the sanctity of all that is best in Musulman religion. To my mind he struck the keynote of the education India requires. He saw plainly the danger that must beset rising generations if they were to be reared on a smattering of Western knowledge, with no opportunities for that spiritual guidance upon which their forefathers relied, with no care for the self-restraint and self-sacrifice which every religion demands, with no religious ideals to look up to. To meet such risks he inaugurated that residential system combined with

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

religious teaching which has been so successful in its results.

The College made its first start on the Queen's birthday, in May 1875, but it was not till 1877 that the foundation-stone of the present group of buildings was laid by Lord Lytton just after the Imperial Durbar had broken up. The final sentence of the address then presented to the Viceroy expressed the hope that the College which had made such a modest beginning would eventually expand into a University: "Whose sons shall go forth throughout the length and breadth of the land to preach the gospel of free enquiry, of large-hearted toleration and of pure morality."

The University has not come as yet, but no one can deny that the *alumni* of the College have fulfilled the hopes expressed in that address to an extent that its founder can hardly have dared to expect. Aligarh has set its stamp upon the pupils it has sent forth into the world. As long ago as 1892 Sir Auckland Colvin said: "To have been an Aligarh man is, I have over and over again found, a passport to the respect and confidence of both Englishmen and Natives. They carry with them the stamp of their training, the impress of the mind of the man under whom that training has been accomplished."

The history of the College may be divided into two periods. From 1875 to 1887 it was one long struggle to place the institution on a solid financial basis and to make it popular with the whole Musulman community, whilst after 1887 the tide of public opinion began to flow in Sir Saiyad's favour, and under him and his honoured successor, Nawab Moshin-ul-Mulk, and with the whole-hearted assistance of its staff, it has continued steadily to expand. Perhaps it is not too much to say that Aligarh has now entered upon a third period of its existence, when it may justly claim that the training it has administered and the high ideals it has encouraged are spreading far beyond the confines of the College for the benefit of the Musulman population of India.

*Visit to, and Address from, the M. A. O. College, Aligarh.*

But the very success which the College has achieved is increasing its opportunities for more good work, and a great deal still remains to be done. You have very rightly emphatically asserted in your address that the limits of the expansion of Aligarh have not been reached. There are many backward Mahomedan communities amongst whom education has scarcely penetrated at all, and there is a growing demand for that instruction which in these days of competition is becoming more and more necessary for success. Moreover, you have recognised the great part the education of women, with their influence over home life, must play in the future—and in all this educational advancement the Indian Mahomedan prefers the lines laid down by Aligarh and is looking to her for assistance.

I hope that the Mahomedan community of India will be mindful of its educational wants and will not be forgetful of what they already owe to the great work of Sir Saiyad Ahmed. Much must, I know, depend upon individual liberality, and Aligarh has had the assistance of many munificent benefactors, whilst the splendid generosity of Khan Bahadur Yar Mohammad Khan, who has with the sanction of His Highness the Nawab of Jaora, and with the self-denying concurrence of his own heirs, made over to you the Family Pension earned by distinguished services, affords indeed a striking testimony of the value so justly attached to the services of this great institution.

I congratulate you, Gentlemen, on the work Aligarh has already done, and I heartily share with you in your hopes for its continued success in years to come.

May I be allowed to say one word more. Your Secretary, Maulvi Mustaq Hussain, has succeeded the Nawab Moshin-ul-Mulk, and I am well aware of the heavy responsibilities and the constant work demanded of him. I feel sure therefore that I shall be meeting the universal wish of Aligarh in conferring upon him the title of Nawab so long held by his distinguished predecessor.



EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES AND NEWSPAPERS BILLS.

[The above Bills—the one to deal with the use and manufacture 8th June, 1908. of explosives and conspiracies connected with them, the other for the prevention of incitements to murder and other offences in newspapers—were introduced into the Legislative Council on the 8th June and passed into Law the same day.

His Excellency the Viceroy, in closing the Meeting, addressed the Council as follows :—]

Before I put the motion, I would venture to make a few remarks.

My Hon'ble Colleague, Sir Harvey Adamson, has clearly and ably explained the nature of the measures we have before us to-day. He has recapitulated the powers we have hitherto possessed under the law, and has shown how utterly insufficient they have proved to enable us to deal with existing circumstances.

The lamentable incidents at Mozufferpore have sent a thrill of horror throughout India, and have too clearly warned us that we must be prepared to deal immediately with an iniquitous conspiracy and with murderous methods hitherto unknown to India.

I know that my Hon'ble Colleagues will join with me in expressing the sincerest sympathy for Mr. Pringle Kennedy in his terrible bereavement. His attachment to India and his many years of good work have earned him the respect and affection of English and Indian society alike, in which his wife and daughter very fully shared. There have been other atrocious deeds besides that at Mozufferpore—one cannot forget the sufferers from the explosion in Grey Street in Calcutta, or the deliberate attempts to assassinate Sir Andrew Fraser, the Maire of Chandernagore and Mr. Kingsford. As to Mr. Kingsford, the public have been told in India and at home that the attempts on his life were due to the infliction by him of sentences of flogging for political offences—an unwarrantable accusation, which I am glad to have this opportunity

*Explosive Substances and Newspapers Bills.*

of denying, against one who has fearlessly and straightforwardly done his duty. In not a single case has Mr. Kingsford awarded flogging as punishment for political offences.

My Hon'ble Colleague has dealt so fully with the details of the legislation we propose to pass to-day that I need only refer to the general position with which we are confronted. It is very necessary that no preconceived prejudice should blind our judgment. It was, I believe, the Duke of Wellington who said that he had spent the best part of his life in trying to know what was going on on the other side of the hill on his front—and for us the *pardah* of the East unfortunately hides much from view. It would be better for us and for the many races of this country if we knew how to lift it—at present we have failed to do so. We cannot but speculate as to much that it conceals, yet it is all-important that our guesswork should not be hasty or unjust.

All India has been shocked by a cruel crime. Expressions of abhorrence and condemnation have reached us from public meetings, associations, and Indian gentlemen throughout the country, and the great mass of the people have loyally shared with the British Raj in detestation of its contemptible brutality. What we, the Government of India, have had to consider is the nature of these crimes, the influences which originated them, and the best means for protecting the populations, with whose safety we are charged, against the perpetration of similar outrages.

We all know—at least every one who watches the daily story of Indian political life knows—that the lines of Indian thought are changing, and that embryo national aspirations are beginning to take shape, and it will be a bad day for the British Raj and a bad day for the people of this country if we ever allow the belief to spread that the doctrines of murderous anarchy are even indirectly

*Explosive Substances and Newspapers Bills.*

associated with the growth of those ambitions which British education has done so much to encourage. Nothing to my mind has been more unfortunate and despicable than the readiness with which in certain quarters endeavours have been heedlessly made to further a belief that assassination is merely the effort of a down-trodden people struggling to free itself from a foreign oppressor. The conspiracy with which we have to deal represents nothing of the sort. To the best of my belief it has largely emanated from sources beyond the confines of India. Its anarchical aims and the outrageous doctrines it inculcates are entirely new to this country. But unfortunately the seeds of its wickedness have been sown amongst a strangely impressionable and imitative people,—seeds that have been daily nurtured by a system of seditious writing and seditious speaking of unparalleled virulence vociferating to beguiled youth that outrage is the evidence of patriotism and its reward a martyr's crown.

I have no desire to minimise the dangers of the present time—they are evident enough. I know well the anxieties that the suspicions of subterranean plots must bring to all loyal men and women of whatever race or creed. No one can say how far the poison has spread. I only ask that the nature of it should not be misunderstood, that the canker we have discovered should be localised, and that we should not jump to the conclusion that it has spread beyond the control of legitimate remedies. What those remedies should be have been for some weeks under the careful consideration of the Government of India. The two Bills which we are about to pass are the results of our deliberations. My Colleagues will support me when I say that we have had no lack of advice. The public has been told that we are weak, that we have failed to maintain order, that the glory of England has departed, that strong measures have been neglected. I am no believer in compliance with hysterical demands in the hour of danger. I maintain that

*Explosive Substances and Newspapers Bills.*

the strength of the British Raj has been built up upon the justice of its administration. Heaven knows it has been no weak rule, but it has been a just one—and it will continue to be so.

It has been with a heavy sense of responsibility that the Government of India has recognised that the law of the land has not been strong enough to enable us to cope with the present emergency. We have felt that we must have further powers. We have had two main points before us—How best to deal with bomb outrages and the conspiracies connected with them; and how to annihilate the evil influence which has done so much to inspire them. The machinery we have decided to adopt is before you in the two Bills which the Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson has introduced. In them we have, after careful consideration, empowered judicial rather than executive procedure. We have preferred to act by legislation. But another course was open to us—We might have proceeded by the issue of an Ordinance; we should have saved time by doing so, and the condition of affairs demanded prompt and decided action. And now, if we are asked why, when we decided to proceed by legislation, we did not let that legislation follow the normal course of publication, reference to Select Committee, report and final discussion, I unhesitatingly answer that the urgency of the case would not allow of it. As it is, we have incurred delay, but in doing so we have secured an opportunity of explaining our position, which we should have lost in procedure by Ordinance. It is my firm belief that the Government of India occupies an infinitely stronger position in legislating, as it has done to-day, in open court, than if it had attempted to act summarily during the first shock of the tragedy of Mozufferpore.

There is one point which during our discussions in Executive Council I have impressed upon my Colleagues and which I will venture to repeat. Sir Harvey Adamson has already alluded to it. I look upon to-day's legislation as



Explosive Substances and Newspapers Bills.

exceptional, as framed to meet dangerous emergencies, and as regards the Newspaper Bill, to give powers to deal with a particular class of criminal printed matter. It is quite possible our Bills may not be strong enough, and in that case we shall not fail to amend them. But the Newspaper Bill in no way takes the place of a general Press Act, and it in no way ties our hands as to the future introduction of such an Act. In my opinion a further general control of the Press in India is imperatively necessary. I believe it would be welcomed by the best Indian newspapers. *The Indian Nation* and *The Indian Mirror* have reviewed the present crisis in a tone which would do credit to the Press of any country. They have recognised the evil of unbridled journalistic freedom under Indian conditions,—conditions entirely different from those existing at home, where public opinion based on the teachings of centuries of constitutional government would be ever ready to refuse or to ridicule such unwholesome vapourings as are daily furnished to the people of India. India is not ripe for complete freedom of the Press. It is unfair upon her people that, for daily information, such as it is, they should be dependent upon unscrupulous caterers of literary poison. We are called upon to regulate its sale. No exaggerated respect for principles of English freedom, totally unadapted to Indian surroundings, can justify us in allowing the poison to work its will.

By some irony of fate, the outrages for which that poison is already so largely answerable have been sprung upon us almost upon the eve of the introduction of constitutional changes. I am determined that no anarchical crimes will for an instant deter me from endeavouring to meet as best I can the political aspirations of honest reformers, and I ask the people of India and all who have the future welfare of this country at heart to unite in the support of law and order, and to join in one common effort to eradicate a cowardly conspiracy from our midst.



JUBILEE OF THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA'S
PROCLAMATION. HIS MAJESTY THE
KING-EMPEROR'S MESSAGE.

2nd Nov. 1908. [The 1st of November 1908 completed 50 years since the Government of India was taken over by the British Crown from the East India Company.

On this occasion, the Jubilee of that event, His Majesty the King-Emperor decided to send a message to his subjects in this country. The time was peculiarly suitable, owing to the unrest in India, and His Majesty's message was received with general satisfaction.

The time of the year was unfortunately the time of the annual move of the Government offices to Calcutta and the time of His Excellency's own departure on his autumn tour : so that the message could not be delivered by the Viceroy at either of the head-quarters of Government. But His Excellency decided to read the message at a public Darbar at Jodhpur, to which State the Viceroy was proceeding to invest His Highness the Maharaja with the insignia of K.C.S.I.

His Excellency arrived at Jodhpur on the evening of the 1st November, and on the morning of the 2nd, after having received a visit from the Maharaja, drove to the Darbar Hall to pay His Highness a return visit, to invest him with the K.C.S.I. insignia and to read His Majesty's message.

After certain presentations had been made to the Viceroy and the Maharaja had been invested, His Excellency rose to address the meeting and to read the King's message, and in doing so said :—

I have long promised to avail myself of your hospitable invitation to visit Jodhpur, and it so happens that in fulfilment of that promise I am your guest on the Anniversary of Queen Victoria's proclamation of 1858, an anniversary which will always be memorable in the annals of Indian History : and your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been commanded by His Majesty the King-Emperor to deliver to-day a message to the Princes and people of India, which I will now proceed to read to you :—]

"I. It is now fifty years since Queen Victoria, my Beloved Mother, and my August Predecessor on the Throne of these Realms, for divers weighty reasons, with the advice and consent of Parliament, took upon herself the government of the territories theretofore administered by the East India Company. I deem this a fitting anniver-



Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria's Proclamation. His Majesty the King-Emperor's Message.

sary on which to greet the Princes and peoples of India, in commemoration of the exalted task then solemnly undertaken. Half a century is but a brief span in your long annals, yet this half century that ends to-day will stand amid the floods of your historic ages a far-shining landmark. The proclamation of the direct supremacy of the Crown sealed the unity of Indian government and opened a new era. The journey was arduous, and the advance may have sometimes seemed slow; but the incorporation of many strangely diversified communities, and of some three hundred millions of the human race, under British guidance and control, has proceeded steadfastly and without pause. We survey our labours of the past half century with clear gaze and good conscience.

"2. Difficulties such as attend all human rule in every age and place, have risen up from day to day. They have been faced by the servants of the British Crown with toil and courage and patience, with deep counsel and a resolution that has never faltered nor shaken. If errors have occurred, the Agents of my Government have spared no pains and no self-sacrifice to correct them: if abuses have been proved, vigorous hands have laboured to apply a remedy.

"3. No secret of empire can avert the scourge of drought and plague, but experienced administrators have done all that skill and devotion are capable of doing to mitigate those dire calamities of nature. For a longer period than was ever known in your land before, you have escaped the dire calamities of war within your borders. Internal peace has been unbroken.

"4. In the great Charter of 1858, Queen Victoria gave you noble assurance of her earnest desire to stimulate the peaceful industry of India, to promote works of public utility and improvement, and to administer the government for the benefit of all resident therein. The schemes that have been diligently framed and executed for promoting



Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria's Proclamation. His Majesty the King-Emperor's Message.

your material convenience and advance—schemes unsurpassed in their magnitude and their boldness—bear witness before the world to the zeal with which that benignant promise has been fulfilled.

"5. The rights and privileges of the Feudatory Princes and Ruling Chiefs have been respected, preserved, and guarded; and the loyalty of their allegiance has been unswerving. No man among my subjects has been favoured, molested, or disquieted, by reason of his religious belief or worship. All men have enjoyed protection of the law. The law itself has been administered without disrespect to creed or caste, or to usages and ideas rooted in your civilization; it has been simplified in form, and its machinery adjusted to the requirements of ancient communities slowly entering a new world.

"6. The charge confided to my Government concerns the destinies of countless multitudes of men now and for ages to come; and it is a paramount duty to repress with a stern arm guilty conspiracies that have no just cause and no serious aim. These conspiracies I know to be abhorrent to the loyal and faithful character of the vast hosts of my Indian subjects, and I will not suffer them to turn me aside from my task of building up the fabric of security and order.

"7. Unwilling that this historic anniversary should pass without some signal mark of royal clemency and grace, I have directed that, as was ordered on the memorable occasion of the Coronation Durbar in 1903, the sentences of persons whom our Courts have duly punished for offences against the law, should be remitted, or in various degrees reduced; and it is my wish that such wrongdoers may remain mindful of this act of mercy, and may conduct themselves without offence henceforth.

"8. Steps are being continuously taken towards obliterating distinctions of race as the test for access to posts



Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria's Proclamation. His Majesty the King-Emperor's Message.

of public authority and power. In this path I confidently expect and intend the progress henceforward to be steadfast and sure, as education spreads, experience ripens, and the lessons of responsibility are well learned by the keen intelligence and apt capabilities of India.

"9. From the first, the principle of representative institutions began to be gradually introduced, and the time has come when in the judgment of my Viceroy and Governor-General and others of my counsellors, that principle may be prudently extended. Important classes among you, representing ideas that have been fostered and encouraged by British rule, claim equality of citizenship, and a greater share in legislation and government. The politic satisfaction of such a claim will strengthen, not impair, existing authority and power. Administration will be all the more efficient, if the officers who conduct it have greater opportunities of regular contact with those whom it affects, and with those who influence and reflect common opinion about it. I will not speak of the measures that are now being diligently framed for these objects. They will speedily be made known to you, and will, I am very confident, mark a notable stage in the beneficent progress of your affairs.

"10. I recognise the valour and fidelity of my Indian troops, and at the New Year I have ordered that opportunity should be taken to show in substantial form this, my high appreciation of their martial instincts, their splendid discipline, and their faithful readiness of service.

"11. The welfare of India was one of the objects dearest to the heart of Queen Victoria. By me, ever since my visit in 1875, the interests of India, its princes and peoples, have been watched with an affectionate solicitude that time cannot weaken. My dear son, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess of Wales, returned from their sojourn among you with warm attachment to your land, and true and earnest interest in its well-being and content. These

*State Banquet at Jodhpur.*

sincere feelings of active sympathy and hope for India on the part of my Royal House and line, only represent, and they do most truly represent, the deep and united will and purpose of the people of this Kingdom.

"12. May Divine protection and favour strengthen the wisdom and mutual good-will that are needed for the achievement of a task as glorious as was ever committed to rulers and subjects in any State or Empire of recorded time."

STATE BANQUET AT JODHPUR.

2nd Nov. 1908. On the night of the 2nd November His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur entertained Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Minto at a State Banquet at which were present a large number of distinguished Europeans and Indians.

The Banquet was a brilliant success, and, in proposing Their Excellencies' health, the Maharaja spoke as follows:

"*Your Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen*,—I cannot adequately express the joy and pride I feel in welcoming Your Excellency and the Countess of Minto to my capital. Your visit has been most auspicious in many ways. To me it has brought honour and the much coveted mark of Royal favour; to my people it coincides with a record year of prosperity, and to my State it marks the happy condition of being practically free from debt. But it is not only I and my State that have profited. All the Princes and people of India have received a blessing in the gracious message from the King-Emperor which Your Excellency conveyed to them at my Darbar this morning, and I appreciate very deeply the good fortune which has given me and my nobles the great honour of hearing His Majesty's most generous and sympathetic Proclamation from Your Excellency's own lips. Many Viceroys have visited Jodhpur, but none under such favourable conditions as you, Sir, and I feel proud that the honour which was this morning done to me is no personal favour, but a recognition of the mere unswerving loyalty to the British Throne that has been and will always remain the dear and precious heritage of my House and people.

"I am glad my Imperial Service Lancers have given satisfaction to Your Excellency, and I shall always deem it an honour and the proudest of privileges when their services can be utilised in support



State Banquet at Jodhpur.

of the British Throne. I know without a doubt that I am expressing the unanimous feeling of all the Native Rulers of this land, as also of all sane Indians who have the good of the country at heart, when I say that to India the British Raj has been a boon and an unmixed blessing. It has saved Rajputana from ruin and elevated India both morally and economically.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, as a Rajput I cannot miss this occasion of expressing my abhorrence and detestation at the useless and seditious movements to which His Majesty has graciously referred, and that have been effectively brought under control by Your Excellency's timely and much needed enactments, and by the enforcement of law and order with the strength and firmness that is the only remedy. Fortunately in a State like this we devote our energies to better ends than causing trouble. We have to grapple with the poverty of our natural resources and with all the many problems that arise in endeavouring to better the condition. It is most gratifying to me that Her Excellency, who takes so keen an interest in the welfare of the women of India, has been so very kind as to-day to visit the hospital known after the name of my father of beloved memory.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now ask you to join me in drinking the health of my illustrious guests Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Minto."

His Excellency in reply spoke as follows :—]

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The kind words in which you have proposed the health of Lady Minto and myself, the magnificence of the reception you have extended to us, and the hearty welcome of the people of your State will, I assure you, always remain very fresh in our memories.

I know that many of my predecessors have visited Jodhpur, but it has been my special good fortune to come here at a time of prosperity, when the steady development of your revenues in spite of bad years and the generous assistance of the Durbar in relieving famine has done much to ensure the happiness of your people. I congratulate Your Highness on ruling over a State which is now practically free from debt, and in which, notwithstanding the necessity of discharging heavy liabilities incurred

*State Banquet at Jodhpur.*

in the past, it has been possible to introduce administrative reforms, entailing of necessity further expenditure, but which an increasing revenue fully justifies. It is therefore, Your Highness, all the greater pleasure to me to have been able as the representative of the King-Emperor to celebrate your investiture to-day in the presence of your own feudatory Chiefs, and surrounded by your own people. I only wish that time had allowed me to see more of them, to make some personal acquaintance with the population over whom you rule.

I must congratulate Your Highness on your Imperial Service Lancers. It was a real pleasure to me to be present on parade this morning and to see for myself the efficiency of your two splendid regiments—to see good horses looking fit and well, ridden with the delightful ease and confidence of natural horsemen. You and your officers may be justly proud of the stuff of which these regiments are formed, the product of an ancient race of warriors whose descendants have so faithfully proved their readiness to serve the Empire in any part of the world—and Your Highness, whilst referring to your military organization, I am glad to have this opportunity of presenting to you six 9-pr. guns which I hope may prove a useful addition to your State's equipment.

Your Highness, speaking as a Rajput—and I know that you can justly speak too on behalf of the Hindu community, has expressed your abhorrence at the anarchical plots with which the Government of India have unfortunately had to deal. I assure Your Highness I am firmly convinced that abhorrence is shared by the vast majority of the people of India. I will never admit that they sympathise with the crimes which have been committed or with the plots which have been discovered.

I have had the honour to-day of delivering a message from the King-Emperor to the Princes and people of India, a message which I trust will sink deep into the hearts of

*Lucknow Municipal Address.*

its vast population, a speech which asserts that the British Raj can be proud of its rule, that its aim has been and will continue to be the administration of justice tempered with firmness, and the furtherance of the prosperity and happiness of the people committed to its charge. And speaking for *myself* and for the Government of India, I can honestly say that recognising as we do that the spread of education and an increasing contact with the outer world has encouraged in India hopes and ambitions which it would be folly to disregard, we have laboured incessantly to submit to His Majesty's Government such proposals as have seemed to us best suited to the conditions with which we have had to deal. Those proposals are now before Lord Morley, and whatever the future may bring forth, the people of India may at any rate feel sure of his warm sympathy and support.

Your Highness, I am afraid I have somewhat wandered from the point, that I have forgotten that I am returning thanks for the toast of my health—I can only plead that feeling as I do that to-day has been a very memorable one I have been led somewhat off the track.

I can assure you Lady Minto and myself will never forget the cordiality of our welcome to Jodhpur and the magnificent hospitality you have yourself vouchsafed to us. Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in drinking the health of our hospitable host the Maharaja of Jodhpur.

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

[Their Excellencies the Viceroy, Lady Minto, Lady Violet Elliot and staff arrived at Lucknow on the morning of the 19th November, where they were entertained as the guests of His Honour Sir John and Lady Hewett. The arrival was public. On alighting from the train His Excellency was greeted with a salute of 31 guns. His Honour and staff, Major-General Sclater and staff, Mr. Porter and Mr. Saunders, Commissioner of Lucknow, the leading Civilian and Military officers and the Talukdars of Oudh were present at the

*Lucknow Municipal Address.*

station to receive His Excellency. After shaking hands with the officials His Excellency inspected the Guards-of-Honour of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry with band and the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway Volunteers. His Excellency then entered the station hall, which had been most tastefully decorated with every kind of railway material from the engine downwards by the station staff, and received from the Hon. Rai Sri Ram Bahadur an address of welcome on behalf of the Municipality of Lucknow.

His Excellency the Viceroy, in reply, said :—]

Gentlemen,—It is, as you tell me, over two years since I last visited Lucknow, and I am glad to find myself again in your beautiful city and to receive the hospitable welcome your Municipality has for a second time extended to Lady Minto and myself. The two years which have passed over our heads have not been uneventful in the history of this province. You can be justly proud not only of the progress that has been made, but can look forward with confidence to the promises of the future, for the expenditure of public money has been wisely allotted for the public good. I trust that each succeeding year may bear ample testimony to the success of your endeavours by the growth of the important works to which you have referred, by improved sanitation and by the advance of education, especially that technical education upon which, to the best of my belief, the industrial success and the consequent comfort and happiness of the people of India so largely depends, and the development of which is so dear to the heart of your Lieutenant-Governor.

But, Gentlemen, in the midst of all the happy indications of future welfare, I cannot forget that the population of your province is only now emerging from a long period of scarcity and suffering. The story of every famine must always be a sad one, and the report of the famine relief recently issued by the Government of the United Provinces makes it easy enough to realize the intensity of the distress and the patience and fortitude with which it was met by your people in the cities and in the villages, but I am glad to say it does something more : it inspires the reader with a sincere admi-

*Oudh Talukdars' Address, Lucknow.*

ration for the foresight, the vigilance and the ability which have consistently marked the administration of relief by the Local Government under the personal direction of Sir John Hewett. It bears witness to the splendid work done by the European and Indian staff of all grades under most trying conditions. It tells of the generous assistance so freely rendered by the non-official classes, and it affords an object lesson which goes far to show the extent to which disaster may be warded off and suffering mitigated by an efficient machinery. I hope your province may long be spared a recurrence of its recent troubles and that no cloud will overshadow the advancing prosperity of its people, of whose united loyalty and devotion to the King-Emperor I am well assured.

I thank you again, Gentlemen, for the kind words of your address and the cordiality of your welcome.

OUDH TALUKDARS' ADDRESS, LUCKNOW.

[While at Lucknow His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by 19th Nov. 1903
Lady Minto and Lady Violet Elliot and Sir John, Lady and Miss Hewett and party, attended a fête given by the Talukdars of Oudh at the Kaiser Bagh. As the National Anthem was played simultaneously the whole assembly rose, while Their Excellencies walked up to their seats on the dais. The Rajah of Balrampur read the address of welcome to His Excellency assuring him of their unswerving loyalty, to which His Excellency replied as follows :—]

Gentlemen,—I well remember the magnificence of the reception extended to me by the Talukdars of Oudh within these historic walls on the occasion of my visit to Lucknow two years ago, and I rejoice in the opportunity which has enabled me for a second time to listen to their cordial words of welcome. I congratulate you on the general progress of your province and on an increasing prosperity, which will I hope soon obliterate the recollections of the trials through which your people have so

*Oudh Talukdars' Address, Lucknow.*

recently passed—trials which the foresight and energy of your Lieutenant-Governor have done so much to mitigate. Your Local Government has, I am aware, many important matters under its consideration, and I hope that the recommendations of the two Conferences which have already been held may go far to ensure the success of the objects for which they were assembled and which will have my hearty interest and support. The effects of the Act of 1869 to which you have alluded are not unknown to me, though as yet your Local Government's Bill has not been before me. But as I have told you when I have had the honour of addressing you before, I am myself a land-owner and can well appreciate the difficulties which mistaken legislation may impose upon both landlord and tenant, and you may rely upon my assistance in expediting any necessary measure. Gentlemen, as the representative of the King-Emperor it is very gratifying to me to receive your assurances of devotion to our Sovereign. I know full well how proudly you can vouch for the loyalty of the Talukdars. You have stood out manfully in troublous times for the maintenance of law and order and have done much during the last three years to stem the flow of the preachings of sedition into northern India. For 50 years Oudh has enjoyed the blessings of peace under the Crown, and you are determined that that peace shall not be disturbed. It is only the other day that on the anniversary of Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858 I delivered a message from the King-Emperor to the Princes and peoples of India renewing the promises of that Proclamation and foreshadowing the grant of such reforms as the advance of education and the consequent growth of political ambitions would appear naturally to justify, and yet since the delivery of that gracious message, the law-abiding subjects of His Majesty have been horror-stricken by the commission of crimes which may well have raised doubts in many minds as to whether the present moment is opportune for the introduction of

*Oudh Talukdars' Address, Lucknow.*

broader political principles into the administration of the Indian Empire. I say at once that I do not share in these doubts. I refuse to admit that the murderous deeds of misguided fanatics should be allowed to blacken the reputation of a whole people or to dissipate their rising hopes. But at the same time I refuse to minimise in the slightest degree the dangers which confront us. We are face to face with a conspiracy which as long as it exists is a menace not only to personal safety but to public security, and which must inevitably cripple the industrial progress so all important for the future of this country. A poisonous seed has been sown in India hitherto foreign to its soil. It has grown into a noxious weed. We must dig it up and cast it out. The British Raj is determined, as it has ever been, to safeguard the populations committed to its charge. It is determined to shut the door in the face of a ruinous anarchy, and for the special difficulties with which it has to deal it will not hesitate to forge special weapons. The horrible crimes we lament have—if good can come out of evil—had one good effect—they have evoked protestations of devotion to the Throne from every creed and every race throughout India, and I would ask the loyal subjects of the King-Emperor to join hands in one united effort to eradicate the evil which is undermining the welfare of their country. With such an effort I know the Talukdars of Oudh will be in full sympathy.

I thank you, Gentlemen, for the kind words of your address and for your emphatic pronouncements on the great questions affecting the present history of India.

[His Excellency's speech created a profound impression on all present.

Afterwards the Talukdars, to the number of about a hundred, were presented to His Excellency.]



THE INDIAN CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

11th Dec. 1908.

[Owing to the spread of anarchical crime during the year in Bengal and Eastern Bengal, the Government of India were faced with the necessity of introducing more stringent measures than the existing law allowed to deal with the situation. A series of attempts at train-wrecking, bomb-throwing, attempted murder, in some cases with serious injury, culminated on 7th November in the attempted assassination of Sir A. Fraser, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Public opinion was deeply stirred. Associations, Bodies, Trusts, and individuals alike addressed the Government condemning the outrages and asking that suitable action should be taken to deal with the class of crime which had gained such ascendancy. Special legislation was called for and European and Indian alike were insistent on strong measures being at once introduced.]

A Bill in two parts was prepared, the first part containing the procedure for bringing cases to trial before a special Bench of the High Court without a jury, the second to deal with Associations. This Bill received the approval of the Secretary of State and was laid before the Governor General's Legislative Council on the 11th December. The Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson in his speech introducing the Bill explained at length the reasons for the action being taken and moved its passing at a single sitting. Some speeches strongly supporting the motion were made by Hon'ble Members including the Hon'ble Sir E. Baker. The Bill was passed into law without a dissentient voice, with the single exception of Dr. Rashbehari Ghose, and in closing the proceedings His Excellency the Viceroy spoke as follows :—]

My Hon'ble Colleague, Sir Harvey Adamson, has described so fully the chain of incidents which have led up to the present position that there is no need for me to recapitulate them. We should, however, bear in mind the true interpretation of the story he has told us. We should remember that for years the vapourings of a seditious press have been disseminating the seeds which are now bearing fruit, and that following in the wake of inflammatory newspaper articles we have had the speeches of revolutionary agitators, and the consequent deplorable misguidance of the youth of the country culminating in the commission of senseless outrages and brutal crimes.

*The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Bill.*

No one has hoped more sincerely than I have that the existing laws of the land might have proved sufficient to deal with the difficulties which have surrounded us, but it has not been so, and the exceptional legislation we have already passed, though productive of good results, was not framed to meet the danger which now confronts us. The Maniktollah Garden discoveries, followed by the attempt on the life of Sir Andrew Fraser, and the murder of the Police Inspector, have opened a new chapter in the history of sedition. They have taken us far beyond treasonable pamphlets and revolutionary speeches, they have shown us the results of those preachings, and are laying bare before us the workings of a murderous conspiracy,—a widespread conspiracy,—recruited from the ranks of emotional young men saturated with grotesque ideas of political freedom. Horrible as it all is, I confess to some feeling of commiseration for these infatuated boys—for many of them are little more than that—blindly ruining their own future and the happiness of their home surroundings.

But there it is. The Government of India have this conspiracy to deal with. We know its acknowledged aims, the systematic assassination of Government officials which is to discredit our administration, and expel the British Raj from India, and notwithstanding the wicked absurdity of such schemes, we cannot disregard the fact that personal and public security are dangerously threatened, and that we are imperatively called upon to protect the public safety, and to subdue the indications of an increasing lawlessness.

My Hon'ble Colleague, Dr. Rashbehari Ghose, has taken exception to certain clauses in the Bill and to our procedure in attempting to pass it in a single sitting. I am always very ready to treat the opinion of my Hon'ble Colleague with respect; indeed I look to his sage advice and to his influence with his fellow-countrymen to assist

*The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Bill.*

us largely in the solution of the political problems of the future. But when I am told that the position is not one of such emergency as to justify a departure from recognised routine in the introduction of new legislation, and that further opportunity should be given for constitutional discussion, and for the expressions of public opinion, I must refuse to agree. Public opinion, European and Indian, has spoken out freely from every part of the country, and has officially and privately declared to me that the existing insecurity can no longer be tolerated, and that the Government of India must be more efficiently armed. With that opinion I am in entire accord. This is not a time to ponder further over the details of legislative machinery. There is nothing to justify a demand for further deliberations as to the action which the Government of India is now called upon to take.

There are other reasons, too, for which I have been anxious that the Bill which we are about to pass should immediately become law. We are on the eve of the announcement by the Secretary of State of reforms which have long been foreshadowed, and I should be sorry to see that announcement immediately followed by exceptional criminal legislation such as that with which we have to-day been dealing. I cannot agree with my Hon'ble Colleague, Dr. Ghose, that we should first promulgate our reforms, and then proceed to deal with anarchical crime. I should prefer to feel that the stern measures which the unfortunate necessities of the moment have forced upon us, have been completed before any announcement of reforms is made, and that having done our best for the maintenance of law and order we can proceed with a free hand to discuss the development of the future. The success of that future must be based not only upon the united efforts and co-operation of British and Indian administrators, but on the good sense of the Indian community. Upon its active assistance at the present moment much depends,



*Presentation of Colours to the 17th Infantry, the Loyal Regiment,
at Barrackpore.*

and I would earnestly ask the members of every race, of every caste and of every creed to unite in one common effort to put an end to the dark plots and apprehensions of hidden danger which are crippling the daily life of the people. I would ask them to assist the Government of India in removing the causes which have so unfortunately necessitated to-day's legislation.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE 17TH
INFANTRY, THE LOYAL REGIMENT,
AT BARRACKPORE.

[In connection with its Jubilee, His Excellency the Viceroy presented new colours to the Regiment on Sunday last, and this brought the celebrations to a close. The officers extended themselves for the occasion, and invitations were issued to all the messes in and around Calcutta and Barrackpore. A special train was run in the afternoon and took up a large number of guests from Calcutta. The ceremony was timed to commence at 4 P.M., and long before that hour a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled on the parade ground of the Regiment, where the Regiment was drawn up in excellent trim and commanded much admiration. A little before the time, Lady Violet Elliot arrived, and shortly after came His Excellency and Lady Minto, followed by Lady Baker and Miss Baker.

Their Excellencies motored to the ground and took up their position under a small shamiana reserved for them, surrounded by His Excellency's staff. On each side the guests were assembled, and behind Their Excellencies were assembled the retired officers, who attracted great attention, some of them being grey-headed veterans. After the National Anthem and Royal Salute had greeted the arrival of His Excellency, the solemn and doleful duty of trooping the old colours was performed aided by the band and followed by a company of the Regiment. The old colours were trooped in customary fashion, the solemnity of the occasion being increased by the slow-march and the playing of "Auld Lang Syne." The standard-bearers with the new colours and the drummers of the Regiment then approached, and the drums were piled and the new colours placed on them. The Regiment meanwhile formed three sides of a square. His Excellency