

ADDRESSES, &c.

PRESENTED TO

AND

REPLIES MADE

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK

G. C. I. E.

ON HIS FIFTH TOUR.

December 1891.



V211,12:3(U8)M91

M91.5

12876

ADDRESSES, &c.

PRESENTED TO

AND

REPLIES MADE

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK
G. C. I. E.

ON HIS FIFTH TOUR.

December 1891.

Government of Madras.

SECRETARIAT LIBRARY.

Madras

Class. *I—c* No.

Ch. S. V. 1-5000-17-10-24.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Address of Welcome at Bellary	1
His Excellency's Reply	1-2
Municipal Address at Anantapur	2
His Excellency's Reply	2-3
Municipal Address at Kurnool	3-4
Address by the Inhabitants of Kurnool Town	4-5
His Excellency's Reply	5-6
Merchants' Address, Kurnool	7-9
His Excellency's Reply	9
Report read before His Excellency by the Headmaster, Municipal High School, Cuddapah, at Prize Distribution	9-11
His Excellency's Reply	11

1091.5

1091.5

12876

ADDRESSES, &c., PRESENTED TO AND REPLIES MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD WENLOCK ON HIS FIFTH TOUR.

Address of Welcome at Bellary.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the Town and District of Bellary, beg leave to welcome Your Excellency with sincere feelings of gratitude for this most opportune visit and for Your Excellency's desire to ascertain the condition of the district at this critical period without the slightest consideration for Your Excellency's personal convenience and comfort.

2. It is a matter of great consolation to us to have amidst us at such a time a Collector of wide sympathies to our agricultural population and the laboring classes. The people are immensely indebted to him for the timely visit he has paid to the affected parts of the district from time to time and for the masterful reports which he has submitted from time to time, placing before Your Excellency's Government all the information collected by him during his tours.

3. We learn with regret that orders have been issued at the instance of the Famine Commissioner for the collection of the first instalment of the Land Assessment in the whole of the district, the affected parts not excepted. A few patches of cultivation, where about a fourth of the ordinary crop has been realized at great expense and labour, should not be taken as the standard for the demand of any instalment of revenue. Such of the ryots as have been fortunate enough to cultivate a portion of their holdings and raised a scanty crop could make no profit, as they would be hardly able to maintain their families and dependents who would otherwise be thrown upon State relief. The protection of even the most useful cattle in these hard times would cost no small portion of the out-turn of such cultivation. We earnestly request Your Excellency to investigate this matter in a kindly spirit and direct the withdrawal of the said orders.

4. We beg to avail ourselves of this opportunity to draw Your Excellency's attention to the necessity of a speedy commencement of the construction of an irrigation canal from the Tungabhadra to the Daroji tank and of the enlargement of the Alipore tank for the supply of fresh and wholesome water to the town. These two projects seem to have been in the hands of the Engineering Department for some time. It is needless to repeat here the reasons for our prayer as we have stated them at length in the memorials presented to Your Excellency and your predecessors.

In conclusion we pray for the long life and health of Lady Wenlock and Your Excellency.
—Bellary, 19th December 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

He thanked the deputationists for the kind words of welcome addressed to him on this his second visit to the town, on an occasion when, he regretted to say, there were symptoms of a grave and serious amount of distress in the district. He had come for the special purpose of conferring with the various officials concerned as to the best means Government should adopt to meet the imminent distress. He was glad to see from the second paragraph of the address, and from the manner they spoke of Mr. Sewell, how satisfied they were with the efforts and measures he had taken to point out the different aspects of the situation, so that Government might be in full possession of the facts of the case. The address then went on to say that at the instance of the Famine Commissioners a certain order had been issued for the collection of the first instalment of the kist now due. Mr. Clogstoun, His Excellency said, had come with him on this occasion to assist in the deliberations, and it was hardly possible, without further inquiry, to say how the matter should be dealt with. They asked him to investigate into the matter in a kindly spirit, and he could only promise that he would certainly do so. As regarded the orders issued, it appeared that since the first was issued another order had gone out ordering a suspension of the collection on all lands lying waste. This, he thought, showed that there must have been some misapprehension as regards the first order. As regarded the remission on dry lands, they must naturally be aware that the matter was one of grave importance, not only here but in other parts of the Presidency where Government had to meet face to face the difficulties of the situation. A total remission of the cess on dry lands in the affected districts would seriously affect the revenues of the country, but, as they said, the question was one requiring careful and kindly consideration, and that he promised it would receive when he went back to Madras and was able to discuss the various matters which he had gone into on the spot, and for which purpose he had come here on this occasion. Naturally they were aware that the dry land rates were levied on

lands taking the whole period for which they were assessed and the rates were calculated to cover both good and bad years alike. It was therefore, perhaps, asking Government too much to ask for a total remission in bad years. The matter would, however, be looked into, as it was one of great importance. The address then alluded to the question of the irrigation canal from the Tungabhadra to the Daroji tank. This was a question which was being enquired into. As regards the analysis of the soil and the water in the district, great difficulties would occur in irrigating lands of a certain description of soil. It was absolutely necessary to have all information which would enable Government to see whether the giving of water to the lands would produce a good result. That might not occur, in which case the ryots would not take the water. The matter was being looked into, and as soon as they had full analyses of the soil and the water they would be able to determine whether or not they would proceed with the scheme. With regard to the supply of water to the town from the Alipore tank, His Excellency said he fully recognised the importance of a good water-supply. Mr. Jones, the Sanitary Engineer, who had accompanied His Excellency on this occasion, had brought the plans, &c., with him. He himself would go carefully into the matter with that officer and see if it was possible to bring about a work so necessary to the town. The presence of Mr. Jones and Mr. Clogstoun showed that Government was doing all it could to meet the wishes of the people after full and careful investigation. In conclusion, His Excellency thanked the deputationists for the kind address of welcome they had presented him.

Municipal Address at Anantapur.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Councillors of the Anantapur Municipality, rejoice to have this opportunity of welcoming Your Excellency to our town, and beg leave most respectfully to express our sincere gratitude for Your Excellency's constant and untiring endeavours to promote the happiness and alleviate the suffering of millions of the Queen's subjects entrusted to your care. Your Lordship follows the great example of our Good and Gracious Empress, and so truly and ardently sympathises with our troubles and difficulties that, denying personal comforts at a considerable risk to your health, you travel through famine-stricken districts to ascertain personally the nature and extent of distress in each case, and to concert the best possible measures to avoid or lessen it.

The impending famine in this district has told on our Municipality also. The high prices of grains and the want of fodder for cattle have interfered with the collection of Municipal taxes and tolls. Many townsmen have left their houses and prefer living in villages with their cattle. Others are unable to pay municipal dues, as their daily earnings hardly suffice for their food itself. We fear the Municipality will have at the end of the year a deficit balance due partly to large irrecoverable arrears of Municipal taxes and partly to the unexpected decrease in the income of our High School. The high rates of school-fees hitherto in vogue have prevented many a poor parent from sending his children to school. The present scarcity and absence of remunerative employment have made matters worse still. The consequence is that the strength of the school has fallen off and the amount of school-fees realised will be only about half of that estimated, while the expenditure will remain the same throughout the year. The school-building in the Jubilee Park is yet under construction. The estimate for it has been recently revised by the Public Works Department, and the sum of money now required for the undertaking has been enhanced from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000. The Municipality is unable to raise funds to meet this increased expenditure while its income has generally decreased. Unless Your Excellency's Government and the District Board liberally aid the Municipality, it appears impossible for the boys of Anantapur to have a more decent school-house than the present inconspicuous and ill-ventilated chattram.

The Municipal Council has always given its best attention to sanitation, roads and communications, and protection of water-supply. Vaccination in the town is satisfactory. A first-class hospital is maintained jointly by the District Board and the Municipality. This useful institution also requires a *habitat* of its own. Estimates have been sanctioned, funds have been allotted, and the plans, &c., are nearly ready. The building will be commenced shortly. A general drainage scheme is under preparation and will, funds permitting, be soon introduced.

In conclusion, we once more heartily welcome Your Excellency to our town and fervently pray that the Almighty, the Giver of all good, may shower his choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock.—*Anantapur, 21st December 1891.*

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. A. AHMED HUSSEIN AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for the kind words of welcome which you have addressed me on the first visit I have had an opportunity of paying to your town and district. I am glad I have had this opportunity of paying this visit though in consequence of other business arrangements it is impossible for me to spend a longer time. I regret to hear of a considerable amount of scarcity among the agricultural portion of the

community, and I have come down here on purpose to have a consultation with Mr. Underwood, and Mr. Clogstoun who has special business in connection with this particular matter, and we have been able to draw out such a scheme as might meet the necessities of the case as far as they go. I am glad to find, however, on the whole, that the District of Anantapur is not likely to be affected so generally, as I was afraid from what I first heard it might be. No doubt in a certain portion of the District where the crops have failed distress will prevail; but I hope the arrangements we have made will be able to obviate not only the scarcity but to give to that portion of the labouring classes that work which will enable them to provide for the bad time which, I am afraid, is before them. You say in your own particular Municipality you yourselves have a certain amount of trouble to meet. Prices are high and you have great difficulty in collecting the taxes due. I am afraid what applies to you applies also to other places where distress prevails in the districts, and there is always a certain amount of trouble of this kind. We can only hope that it will be short-lived and the clouds which are now pressing heavily on you will soon roll away. You point out among other things that the young men of the Municipality are not able to get a proper amount of education, which I am glad to see you yourselves acknowledge that they should get, if possible. You say the high fees are such as to keep away many boys to the disadvantage of the education you are willing to give them, and that therefore the High school is suffering in consequence. I hope it will be a satisfaction for you to know that when the present fee notification expires on the 31st December, a new scale of fees will come into force, which I hope will be found more satisfactory, as they will be considerably lower than those at present in force. In regard to the building itself, the matter is now under the consideration of Government, but as far as I am able to gather from inquiries made since I have been here, the difficulties have arisen in consequence of the condition of the ground which has been selected as the site for the school. The Public Works Department estimates an additional sum of Rs. 5,000 in view of the difficulties of the site selected. I would be glad to know your views on this subject more explicitly, because I am told that if another site were adopted this expense would altogether be obviated. Therefore it is for you to consider whether you are willing to press the matter on account of this Rs. 5,000. It appears hardly right that Government should be asked to meet the expenditure on this particular occasion, because it is almost a luxury on your part having the school in this particular place. The site selected is but a short distance from the town, and it could hardly be considered a hardship to ask the boys to come this distance. I am glad to find from the statement that the Municipal Council has always given its best attention to sanitation, roads and communications, and that you have a scheme for improving the sanitation of the town. I am given to understand that this is a matter which can easily be carried out. Mr. Jones, who has come down with me, I understand is going over the town and will, I hope, be able before long to give us his views on the subject. I hope it will be found that the important work of an improved drainage will be effected without putting the town to any great expense. I hope Mr. Jones' investigations will prove this to be the case. If so, you are to be congratulated in having a scheme ready to your hand for providing an important improvement in the way of sanitation. As regards the hospital to which you allude, I understand the idea is that the Police hospital now joined to the Civil should be removed and the present building should be left entirely at the disposal of the Municipality for its civil patients; but the plans are not yet prepared, and all I can say in the matter is as soon as they come up, they will receive careful attention. I beg to thank you for your kind remarks, and I hope the next opportunity I have of visiting you will be at a time when the trouble which oppresses you at this particular period will have entirely disappeared.

Municipal Address at Kurnool.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council and of the Local Fund Board, Kurnool, beg to approach your Excellency on the occasion of your Excellency's first visit to this district with feelings of the profoundest respect and to convey through your Excellency our sincerest loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress who has confided to Your Excellency the interests of this Presidency.

On an occasion so fraught with golden opportunities as Your Excellency's presence in our midst, fain would we have been to press upon Your Excellency's attention the many wants of this remote district, one of the latest acquisitions of the British power in India, and therefore one of the last to participate in the many blessings conferred by that power. From this varied and interesting task, however, we are recalled by a painful sense of the immediate occasion of Your Excellency's tour into Kurnool district and of our duty to help Your Excellency as far as in us lies in providing for the present agricultural distress of this district.

That at this crisis the resources of the Government will be thrown open with the utmost liberality to prevent the loss of human life by starvation and disease, we make no doubt. But we are most anxious that the desire of the Government to anticipate the wants of the sufferers may expend itself not only on the alleviation of present want but on the prevention of future calamities of the kind we are now deploring. Foremost among the measures of prevention we allude to must be placed the connection of Kurnool by railway with the principal grain marts of

India. Were such a connection in existence at this day we should not have had the sudden rise in prices to which the recent grain riot owed in the first instance their unfortunate origin. The importation of grain from districts which have had a greater share of the monsoon is rendered prohibitive by the heavy cost of carriage from the Railway station which has at present to be incurred.

Should it be asked whether it is worth while to bring Kurnool within the network of Indian Railways, we would only point to the cost in money and human life such an event as the famine of 1876—78 and the probable consequences of the present distress. Should it unfortunately enter on the stage of famine, we respectfully beg Your Excellency to consider whether even supposing the industrial poverty of Kurnool should render the State guarantee a permanent burden on the provincial revenues, that burden will, after all, bear comparison in point of weight or magnitude with the incubus of a famine year and much more of a succession at intervals of several such years. But we trust that your Excellency will refuse to believe in the irretrievable poverty of this district; its resources, by no means despicable, are likely to develop under the genial influence of free and uninterrupted communication with the neighbouring districts, and if its roads to progress be in the beginning expensive, it must in long run pay its way.

While we are convinced that a rail-road to Kurnool will avert or at least minimize the evils of another famine, we are certain that of all the measures which may be proposed for giving employment to the poor during the present distress—the opening of a rail-road—will solve most of the problems which present themselves in dividing labour, and will bring into existence an extensive field of labour which skilled and unskilled workmen can enter alike and in the benefits of which the inhabitants of fully one-half of this district will participate. We may add that most of the branch roads constructed at great cost during the last famine have, owing to the insufficiency of the district funds available for maintaining public ways, been reduced to a condition worse than that of foot-paths. We need hardly observe that the fate of these roads will never be shared by a famine rail-road, such as we beg to press on your Excellency's notice.

We are sorry to have troubled your Excellency with such a lengthy address when your Excellency has hardly had time to rest from the fatigues of the now unfortunately tedious journey. We beg therefore to withdraw having laid before your Excellency this single petition which is as it were the epitome of our wants, and trusting that your Excellency having had personal knowledge of the industrial and commercial resources of this district will, at an early date, be pleased to accord the requisite sanction for the commencement of this most important work—Kurnool, 22nd December 1891.

Address by the Inhabitants of Kurnool Town.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the town of Kurnool, beg leave to approach your Excellency with a cordial welcome to our town on the occasion of your Excellency's auspicious presence in our midst.

2. Under the beneficent rule of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress we, in common with our fellow-citizens in the Indian Empire, enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity, and we gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity of giving expression to our feelings of loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and to your Excellency both personally and as Her Majesty's trusted representative in this Presidency.

3. During the short time that your Excellency has been holding your high office your Excellency has been able to visit many parts of the Presidency entrusted to your care, and we ascribe your Excellency's visit to us to the same paternal solicitude for our welfare, especially at a time when we are passing through a period of great anxiety.

4. Your Excellency is aware that the monsoons have almost totally failed this year in this district, and that the consequence has been the general failure of dry crops which are raised on by far the greater portion of the lands in the district and the prevalence of high prices of food-grains. Under these circumstances, we need not bring to your Excellency's notice the sufferings of all but the most well-to-do ryots, of whom we have a very small number indeed, and all classes of the poor, and as there are no prospects of any rain till the next north-west monsoon, their condition must be expected to grow worse and worse daily. We therefore humbly beg distress by the free grant of remissions on dry lands and the opening of relief-works, and even kitchens, if necessary. We are not unaware that the critical condition of the district has already attracted the attention of the authorities and that steps have been taken to open relief-works. But we consider it would not be out of place to lay the facts known to us before your Excellency, in order that such steps may be taken as your Excellency may deem proper for the relief of the ryots and the poor.

5. We beg also to bring to notice that there are complaints by the coolies employed on the relief-works near the town that the wages paid to them are insufficient for their sustenance, and considering their physical inability in a season like the present to turn out the full quantity

of work and the high prices that are now prevailing, we are sanguine that steps will be taken to remedy the existing state of things.

6. We need not detain your Excellency by a reference to the painful occurrences here during the last month caused by the prevalent season of scarcity, and we beg to express our gratitude for the steps eventually taken to place the public safety of the town beyond all possible danger. But working to the proximity of the town to His Highness the Nizam's territories and the necessity that has from time to time arisen for the despatch of troops for the preservation of public peace, we venture to suggest for favorable consideration the expediency of permanently stationing here a force of such strength as may be considered sufficient for the protection of the town.

7. The question of opening a railway from Kurnool to Dhone has been laid before your Excellency by the Municipal and District Boards, and we shall not detain your Excellency more than to say that we cordially support their prayer and earnestly solicit its favorable consideration.

8. The rigor of the forest rules is felt here as well as in the other districts, and many are the difficulties experienced by all classes of the population and especially the agricultural classes. We commend to your Excellency's favorable consideration the necessity of taking steps at a convenient time towards the relaxation of the rules and the restoration to us of our ancient privileges in the forests. We specially and urgently solicit that some steps be taken, at least in this season of scarcity, to allow the free pasture in all or specially selected reserves and on such terms as may seem proper, of all cattle which are great sufferers at such seasons.

9. We along with many of our fellow-citizens in the district have submitted to your Excellency in Council a prayer for the cancelment of the seigniorage fees recently ordered to be levied on stone and earth, &c., quarried, and we are glad to be able to state that our Collector has been pleased to recommend it for favorable consideration. We venture to solicit your Excellency's support when the matter is placed before your Excellency for decision in due course.

10. We are very much concerned to hear that the Government is pressing the Municipality to raise the incidence of the house-tax from 6 to 7½ per cent. on the annual rent value, that is, the highest rate allowed by law. It is a well-known fact that the majority of the house-owners in the town are very poor, and from the records of the Municipality it will, we believe, be sufficiently clear that the tax even at its present rate is collected with very great difficulty. We venture therefore to plead as earnestly as we can that the Government may be pleased not to insist on the incidence of the tax being raised.

11. In conclusion, we beg to press for consideration the justice and expediency of according (1) to the rate-payers of the Municipality the privilege of electing a certain proportion of the Municipal Councillors, and (2) to the Taluk Boards a certain proportion of the members of the District Board. The Municipality is already enjoying the privilege of electing its own Chairman, and we submit it may be held to have been wisely used. We also venture to urge that the town has a sufficient proportion of rate-payers competent to exercise the privilege of electing the Municipal Councillors, and that it is not in any respect behind several of the towns on which the privilege has been conferred. Your Excellency is aware of the several advantages of the election system, and we are not without hopes that Your Excellency will be pleased to accord favorable consideration to our humble prayer.

12. As for the Taluk Boards, all the members are the nominees of Government, and when they enjoy the privilege of sending some of their number to the District Board in other districts not more advanced than ours, we venture to think that it would not be unreasonable to pray for a similar concession in our district.

We humbly solicit pardon for the trouble we have ventured to give Your Excellency and with an expression of an heartfelt thanks for being allowed to approach Your Excellency.—Kurnool, 22nd December 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

He thanked the deputationists for the welcome accorded him. It being Christmas time, however, his stay among them could not be for very long. He felt the necessity laid upon him of examining into everything properly, and he had come down for the purpose of concerting measures to meet the distress which was prevalent in the district.

THE RAILWAY.

The only point referred to in the Municipal address was the question of railways. Of course, they were aware that this was a matter of finance, and the question was whether it would pay. They had, however, to obtain the sanction of the Government of India. His Lordship had done his best to impress upon that Government the desirability of constructing the line. Government had only a certain amount of money to spend in this way annually, but the Madras Government had laid the matter before the Government of India, and he hoped that that Government would decide favorably concerning the matter of a branch railway for Kurnool. While

of necessity a delay must take place as regards the sanction, yet, His Excellency thought, the earthworks ought to be taken in hand as a famine relief work. He would be glad to hear that the sanction had been accorded as the railway was a necessity for the town of Kurnool. Personally he hoped the branch would be finished, but he could not absolutely promise that it would be done, but he would say that to the best of his belief it would be done.

REMISSIONS OF KIST.

In reply to the People's address His Excellency said the first point raised was the remission of the assessments on dry lands. The Board of Revenue were considering the matter. The rates, as all knew, were fixed by Government for a period in which both good and bad years were taken into consideration, and it would be asking too much of Government to give a total remission on the dry lands for bad years. The matter was, however, being considered in a kindly and liberal spirit. With regard to the relief works and kitchens, the former were being opened to meet the necessities of the case and the latter would be opened if the distress increased to such an extent as to make it necessary.

OTHER MATTERS.

The next point alluded to was the rates of wages sanctioned for relief works being insufficient. His Excellency said of course he knew that some labourers could not do what others could and that what some could earn might be entirely insufficient for others. The question was being carefully considered by Mr. Clogstoun and the Collector. With regard to the presence of the Military permanently, the present arrangements, His Excellency said, were made for the protection of the town especially from the roving bands of badmashes from the Nizam's Dominions and there was at present no intention of removing the soldiers from the town; but as to making them a permanency, that was a question which had to be decided later. The Commander-in-Chief on being consulted on the matter had said that owing to a large number of the Madras troops being engaged in Burma, it would be found difficult to station them everywhere in the Madras district where it was thought they would be needed.

GRAZING GRIEVANCES.

Then, as regards the relaxing of Forest Laws, His Excellency said he did not quite understand what their wishes were in this particular matter. As regarded the question of free pasturage, the matter was being carefully considered; but they had to bear in mind that by reserving large tracts of forests, there would be a better supply in the future and Government had of necessity to look beyond the present. For these reasons it was necessary to have rules and regulations governing the forest reserves. He was forced to admit that there was a considerable amount of suffering and hardship, which he hoped would be done away with to some extent. In cases of very great distress, of course there would be certain relaxations permitted. But after careful inquiry from the District Forest-officer he found that in the Nallamalais there were about 18,000 square miles of forest and of these only about 50 square miles were closed to pasturage, so that 17,500 square miles were open and 250 of these without fees for the grazing of cattle, and on the rest of the land only a very few annas per head is taken for grazing the cattle. They must not suppose that the difficulties would be obviated by allowing free grazing for all cattle. The sum of 2 annas per head was certainly a very small sum of money to pay for keeping their cattle alive during this time. With regard to the Yerramallas there was an extent of about 400 square miles, of which only 30 was closed against grazing, thus leaving about 350 square miles. His Excellency thought, that nobody reading these figures could think that Government was pressing hardly on the ryots in question, but on the contrary would see that Government was granting as much grace as possible. He hoped therefore that they would induce the ryots and forest inhabitants to help in the matter and enable Government to place a much larger quantity of fodder in the public market, to enable the cattle to live which would otherwise fail in the troublous time that was before them. The next point raised in connection with the forests was that the seigniorage fees on stone and gravel should be done away with. The point was before the Board of Revenue who would lay the result of their consultations before Government, who would see what could be done in the matter. They then mentioned the incidence of house taxation being enhanced to meet the water-rate and the sanitation rate. For those who lived in towns it was impossible to carry on a scheme of sanitation or water-supply without paying for these luxuries, which were almost indispensable to the public health. He was therefore afraid he could not afford them much encouragement in this matter. With regard to the election of Municipal Councillors, he found that this had not been granted up to date, but the next time it came up for consideration he would remember their wishes, but without making any definite promise; he would have the matter looked into, and if it was found possible it would be sanctioned. He did not see any reason why it should not be considered. His Excellency did not think there were any more points mentioned which had not been gone into. He would therefore in conclusion thank the meeting for the address which had been presented, and he could assure them how glad he was to have the opportunity of being there and hearing from themselves their views on the matters that were to be discussed.

Merchants' Address, Kurnool.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the merchants of the town of Kurnool, beg leave to welcome Your Excellency to our historical town and express our heartfelt gratitude for the gracious permission accorded to us of approaching Your Excellency on the occasion of Your Excellency's auspicious visit.

2. We take this opportunity of expressing our feelings of loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, under whose benign rule the country, and especially the mercantile community enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity, and we need not assure Your Excellency that there can be no more loyal subjects of Her Majesty than the class we represent. It is our conviction that even-handed justice is dealt out to all Her Majesty's subjects, and our belief that Your Excellency's visit is in some measure due to Your Excellency's gracious pleasure to give us a hearing that have emboldened us to approach Your Excellency.

3. The main heads of our case have been stated in our telegrams to Government, dated the 6th and 20th November 1891, and we have now mostly to fill up the details so as to place it before Your Excellency in a clear and intelligible light. We beg to assure Your Excellency that in doing so, we have used our best endeavours to express ourselves with humility and moderation, and if we have still transgressed our limits we crave Your Excellency's indulgence as from a father to his erring but well-meaning children.

4. Owing to the almost general failure of the monsoons this year, in this as well as in other parts of the Presidency, and large exportation of grain to Salem, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Cuddapah and other places, the prices of grain at Kurnool gradually rose so high that, on the 4th of November last, cholam was sold at 11 measures and rice at 6½ measures the rupee.

5. The prices of grain having thus inevitably risen high, there was a serious disturbance in the bazaar on the morning of the 5th November, when a mob consisting of from five to six thousand persons of both sexes broke open about five grain shops and looted large quantities of grain worth about Rs. 1,500,* and not only Rs. 300 or 400 as inaccurately reported to Government in the papers recorded in G.O., No. 2363, Judicial, dated 18th November 1891.

• (Tide enclosure A).

6. The officials in charge of the town did not put in appearance on the scene until about an hour after the commencement of the disturbance, and though the Deputy Magistrate, the Town Sub-Magistrate, the Police and others came subsequently, they took no steps to disperse the mob by any show of authority and made no attempts to arrest any persons, although they must have seen several persons carrying away grain.

7. It was not until about 9-30 A.M., when the officials had it announced by beat of tom-tom, that they would cause cholam to be sold at 15 measures and rice at 8 measures the rupee, that the mob showed any inclination to disperse. At about 10 o'clock, the Deputy Magistrate and other officials went from shop to shop and caused the terrified merchants to open their shops and sell grain at the rates announced, threatening them that they would otherwise go away and leave them at the mercy of the mob.

8. The merchants had thus no alternative, but to sell at the rates proposed, and, in so selling, some merchants sold away the whole of their own stock of grain, while some had in addition to sell, though reluctantly, the stock deposited with them by others with express directions not to sell below certain rates.

9. On the next day, i.e., Friday the 6th November, the officials again came to the bazaar and asked the merchants to continue to sell at the rates fixed by them, when the latter told them that they had exhausted their own stock and that they could not sell the deposits by others at such low rates and become responsible to the owners for the consequent loss. In spite of this, the merchants were eventually made to sell cholam at 13 measures and rice at 7 measures the rupee, and this state of things continued until the 11th idem.

10. The District Magistrate left Kurnool within an hour before the commencement of the disturbance on the 5th and though his camp was at Gadthimadugu, which is about 7 or 8 miles from Kurnool bazaar, he did not return before the morning of the 7th.

11. The officials present on the spot, not being impressed with the gravity of the situation, did not pay much heed to our representations to send for troops and otherwise arrange for the protection of the town, and we telegraphed to Government on the 6th to issue directions to the authorities here to make the necessary arrangements and to send for troops. But, as a matter of fact, no steps were taken to ensure the protection of the town with the exception of placing some constables on guard in the bazaar.

12. Even after the District Magistrate returned to Kurnool on the 7th he did not hold any investigation to ascertain the causes and details of the outbreak, except, as now appears from the published papers, hearing the officials not unnaturally interested in minimising the nature of the outbreak and the extent of the loss caused thereby.

13. If the District Magistrate had held any independent inquiry or even heard the merchants, he would, we are assured, have not been in a position to place before the Government the statements he did in his telegram of the 9th November and his letters of the 7th and 9th idem, Nos. 5429 and 5469, respectively, and which, we beg permission to observe, are inaccurate.

14. We petitioned the Collector on the 10th November representing to him all that had happened, and praying for a redress of our grievances and the adoption of proper steps for the protection of the town. The Collector, thereupon, issued summonses on the 11th to the petitioners to appear before him at 12 noon that day, the summonses being served on some at 12 noon that day, and on others at 12-30 P.M., or even 1 P.M., and nevertheless they appeared before him as soon as they could with a High Court Vakil, whom they took with them to make the necessary representations on their behalf. On their appearance, the Collector was not pleased to give them a patient hearing and accorded them a treatment which is not deserved by any humble supplicant for the redress of grievances at the hands of the ruling power.

15. The Collector at first summarily dismissed the petitioners from his presence without any proper reply, but again sent for them and told them that he would make arrangements to prevent a recurrence of the riots. He subsequently sent them an endorsement, * No. 860-A, dated the 11th November, that their case would receive "investigation," and again another endorsement, † No. 860-B, dated the 12th November,

* (Vide enclosure B).

† (Vide enclosure C).

that "having made fully inquiry" he had ascertained that the allegations of petitioners were "utterly untrue" on all material points.

16. We are not aware what investigation was held by the Collector after he favoured the petitioners with his endorsement of the 11th November (Enclosure B), but from the papers recorded in G.O., No. 2363, Judicial, dated 18th November 1891, it is clear he had formed a strong opinion adverse to the merchants even before they had presented their petition, and had given expression to it to the higher authorities.

17. We desire to place some stress on this head of our grievances because it serves to disclose fully the spirit by which the conduct of the local authorities has been guided during these unfortunate occurrences—they seem, for some reason or other, to have come to the conclusion that merchants were greedy and selfish in raising the prices and that they consequently deserved no sympathy, and acted accordingly.

18. We need not press upon your Excellency the fallacy of the views held by the local authorities, for the remedy for any arbitrary and improper action on the part of the trade lies, except perhaps on very extraordinary occasions, in the speedy operation of the law of demand and supply, and we believe that, as a matter of fact, the prices fixed by the merchants on the eve of the rioting of the 5th November, did not compare unfavorably with those ruling at the time in the adjoining districts, and that under any circumstances the merchants are fully entitled to the protection of their trade and property.

19. We were preparing ourselves to appeal to the higher authorities against the orders passed by the Collector on the 12th November, but meanwhile the second rioting occurred and developed fresh complications.

20. The action of the local authorities during the rioting of the 5th November, and subsequently, and especially their entire failure to take steps to bring the offenders to justice and the rejection of the complaints of the merchants, unfortunately encouraged the mob, who threatened another outbreak on the 7th and whose attitude continued to be suspicious all along.

21. The result of all this was the importation of grain was completely stopped, and it was beyond the power of the merchants to lower the prices.

22. The Collector who had been wrongly, as now appears from the turn of affairs, led to consider that all the representations of the merchants were "purely sensational and unnecessarily alarming," left the town again about the 14th November without making any arrangements to prevent the recurrence of the riots and leaving the town in the hands of the inexperienced Deputy Magistrate. Before leaving he even deemed it proper to withdraw, in spite of the merchants' protestations to the contrary, the police guard stationed at the bazaar for the protection of the town.

23. This unsettled and unprotected state of the town encouraged the mob, who made a second attack on the 17th November with much greater vehemence than the first. Your Excellency is aware of the details of this deplorable outbreak, but we may be permitted to refer to the fact that the mob held their own in the town from about nine in the morning to about

‡ (Vide enclosure D).

3 or 4 in the evening and helped themselves to property worth about twenty thousand rupees,‡ which they leisurely carried away on their heads, and on carts and buffaloes. We also believe that but for the intervention of the District Judge at about 3 P.M., the town might have remained in the hands of the mob for a longer time.

24. This serious rioting opened the eyes of the local authorities to the gravity of the situation, and we beg to express our thanks for the promptitude with which the Government was pleased to despatch troops for the safety of the town. We regret, however, to have to bring to Your Excellency's notice that no adequate steps were taken even after this occurrence to bring the looters to justice and that this, coupled with the small strength of the force which arrived

here, failed sufficiently to over-awe the mob, which continued to concert fresh plans of attack. It was at this critical juncture that we were compelled to bring these facts to the notice of Your Excellency's Government in our telegram of the 20th November and our heartfelt thanks are due for the steps immediately taken to place the safety of the town beyond all possible danger and to assure us of the readiness of Government to afford us all protection.

25. We are also glad to be in a position to state that after our representations to the Government and after a new Police Inspector was placed in charge of the town, in place of the one disabled during the second riots, there was some indication on the part of the local authorities to take measures for the punishment of the offenders, but we beg to be permitted to express our belief that more rigorous steps would have been taken but for the deep-rooted prejudice against the merchants.

26. We beg also to bring to notice that there has not been any open inquiry, at which we have been heard, into the causes and facts of the riots, and we believe that the inquiry which we hear has been held by the Collector *in camera*, and at which none but the officials impeached and one or two non-officials arbitrarily selected are said to have been examined, is not sufficient to meet the ends of justice.

27. The ryots have caused great losses to the merchants and have given rise to many difficulties in their trade, culminating in the death on the 28th November of a respectable merchant Kallur Veeranna, who had sustained heavy loss during the first rioting and who committed suicide by drowning himself in a well unable to face the difficulties of the situation.

28. That two such disturbances should have been allowed to occur within such a short interval at the head-quarters station of the district has, as Your Excellency is no doubt aware, had a prejudicial effect on the public safety in this and the neighbouring districts. We crave leave to add that if the local authorities had shown more sympathy towards the merchants and their representations, or if they had taken steps to keep themselves better informed of the real state of affairs than they were, we believe we would not have been in a position which unfortunately compels us to set forth our grievances before your benign Excellency.

29. Under these circumstances we humbly solicit Your Excellency will be pleased to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to bring to light the real facts of the riots. We are not unaware that from the nature of the case we cannot reasonably expect from Your Excellency any final reply on the present occasion, but we are not without hopes that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to accord favorable consideration to our representations. We beg Your Excellency will also be pleased to take into consideration whether an open inquiry by some officer or officers, unconnected with the occurrences, may not be one of the modes calculated to give satisfaction to all concerned and be conducive to the interests of justice, peace and good order.

With profound respects to Your Excellency and with an expression of our feelings of gratitude for the patient hearing accorded to us.—*Kurnool, 22nd December 1891.*

His Excellency's Reply.

You have presented a long address in connection with the unfortunate state of affairs, which I understand took place here last month. I don't think it necessary for me at the present moment to go into the various points raised. In fact the last sentence of your address describes clearly the best position for me to take up. You also say that at this moment you don't expect a final reply. I can assure you, I think, this is the best plan on the present occasion on which this matter should be met. I can assure you that I will take care to inquire into the matter most carefully and satisfy myself. You know that Government is equally anxious to have the correct facts in connection with the recent riots, and we shall take all the steps necessary to ascertain these facts, and we will then be in a position to know what we shall do. I am glad you have brought the matter forward and have raised the points which you wish carefully looked into. I am much obliged to you for the manner in which you have presented this address.

Report read before His Excellency by the Headmaster, Municipal High School, Cuddapah, at Prize distribution.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In giving an account of the history of this High School for the past official year, I begin, as usual, by mentioning the different changes that took place in the staff. In the headmastership there was no change. Mr. Ince, B.A., the permanent First Assistant, was away from the school for four months from 26th July 1890 to 25th November 1890, during which time Mr. B. Venkata Rao, B.A., acted for him. Mr. B. Rangunadha Rao, B.A., the permanent Second Assistant, returned just at the beginning of the year from the Teachers' College to which he had been sent for training, but he remained only till 27th April when he left us on six months' sick leave. At about the same time, Mr. K. Ramachary, the permanent Third Assistant, resigned his appointment to take up a clerkship in the

Revenue Department. Thereupon Mr. A. Venkatagiri Rao, Fourth Assistant, was appointed to be Third, but to act as Second, Assistant, Mr. D. Vemboo Iyer to be Fourth, but to act as Third, Assistant, and Mr. K. A. Varadachary to act as Fourth Assistant. All this acting arrangement terminated, and the work of the school had to be redistributed once again towards the close of October when Mr. Ragunadha Rao, B.A., returned from his leave. He, however, finally resigned his appointment on the 13th of March this year. He was succeeded by Mr. Vemboo Iyer, Fourth Assistant, who had just then taken his B.A. degree, and Mr. T. V. Kristnasawmy Iyer, Writing Master and Clerk, was appointed to do duty as Fourth Assistant temporarily. Thus then, during the past official year, the First Assistantship changed hands twice, the Second and the Third three times and the Fourth four times. On the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction, a carpentry instructor was appointed in the middle of October last, but as the appointment was not approved by Government, his services were dispensed with at the end of December. I have also the painful duty of reporting the untimely death of my late writer G. Raghava Charry, in the middle of January last. The changes that have taken place since the beginning of the current official year will find their place in the next year's report. I may be permitted, before proceeding to the next subject, just to mention that such frequent changes in the teaching staff of the school cannot fail to have a prejudicial effect on the efficiency and progress of the institution. In reviewing the Inspector's report on the school for last year, the Director of Public Instruction remarked "Constant changes in the staff seem to have affected the efficiency of the school." The staff at present consists of three graduates and two F.A.'s, besides pundits for Sanskrit and Telugu and a gymnastic instructor.

2. *Numerical strength.*—The year opened with 74 pupils on the rolls and closed with 76. This school consists only of the High School and Middle School departments, in all five classes. In the primary department under my supervision the present strength is 151. The strength of the secondary department may, in certain quarters, be considered somewhat too low for a High School at the head-quarters of a district. But I humbly submit that, before pronouncing an opinion like that, all the circumstances connected with the question should be carefully considered in a generous spirit. There is no denying the fact that Cuddapah is the Bcootia of the Madras Presidency. The unhealthiness of the climate of the place is notorious. The education of this town and district has, consequently, always been in an extremely backward state, as is amply evidenced by this one fact among others that the number of candidates for the newly instituted Lower Secondary Examination from all parts of the district put together is only 47, while a single institution in the southern districts would furnish double that number. These circumstances constitute an important claim for the schools in the Cuddapah district, among which this High School takes the lead, on the special favour and patronage of Government. While the rest of the Presidency has come to appreciate fully the value of Western education and is always ready to start schools and colleges of its own as soon as Government or the local bodies abolish theirs, this district continues in its original state of ignorance and inactivity. This is the only well-organized High School in this district. Of the High Schools at Madanapalle I do not know much. But, even if they had all the conditions and signs of permanency, they would not benefit this town and the parts of the district adjoining it, for, although Madanapalle is geographically near enough to Cuddapah, it is practically farther away from it than Madras, Nellore, or Bellary, considering the means of communication. Consequently if, for any extraordinary reason, the Government and the Municipal Council of Cuddapah at any time thought of withdrawing from the secondary education of this town, it would be reduced to a perfectly helpless condition, since there is not the slightest chance of any private agency coming forward to take their place, as would be the case in the other districts of the Presidency. I may just add that the outlook may be rendered less gloomy if the question of school-fees just now under the consideration of Your Excellency's Government be very favorably settled, as regards this backward district.

3. *Receipts and Charges.*—The total amount of fees collected in the year was Rs. 2,003-13-0. The total cost of the institution including salaries and contingencies was Rs. 6,023-14-7. A sum of Rs. 1,942-1-7 was contributed by Government towards the cost of the High School or Upper Secondary Department, of which the net cost is being paid by it every year. The net cost to the Municipality on account of the institution was only Rs. 1,462-1-2. I may be permitted to state that, considering the object for which it is utilized, and the backward state of education and the other peculiar circumstances that I have already mentioned, this sum cannot, I venture to say, be looked upon as too large a proportion of Municipal revenues.

4. *Public Examinations.*—Of the 21 boys that were sent up for the Middle School Examination of last year 11 passed—7 in the second class and 4 in the third—and these results have been pronounced by the Inspector of Schools to be "a considerable improvement on those of the previous year." But the results of the Matriculation Examination were not so satisfactory, only 3 passing out of 16 sent up. Last year was a disastrous year for Matriculation throughout the Presidency and especially in the Ceded Districts, and, unsatisfactory as our results were, they were slightly better than those of any other Municipal High School in the Ceded Districts.

5. *The Library.*—The library which contains nearly 700 volumes is well used by both masters and pupils.

6. *Apparatus.*—The science apparatus, to the incompleteness and insufficiency of which I had to refer in my previous reports, has been recently rendered complete at a cost of about Rs. 300. The gymnastic apparatus also is almost quite complete. Besides a gymnasium, the school has got a badminton court and a cricket club attached to it.

7. As to the registers and the account books, the remark of the Inspector of Schools last year was "They are kept extremely well;" and this year "satisfactory."

8. Before bringing this short report to a close, I beg permission to avail myself of this opportunity just to enumerate the several peculiar difficulties that we, schoolmasters, have to contend against at Cuddapah—

(1) The notorious unhealthiness of the climate which affects us in two ways—first by undermining the energy of the pupils and the masters and secondly by making it extremely difficult to get competent masters for the school. I may just mention, as an instance, that neither the Inspector of Schools nor the Municipal Council has been able to get a master for the First Form for the last nine months and more.

(2) The Matriculation Examination being held in the middle of December, which, you all know, is just the middle of our fever season.

(3) Our boys having to go to other stations for their Matriculation Examination, Cuddapah having been struck out of the list of examination centres.

Of these the last difficulty is only a temporary one. Owing to the misconduct of a former headmaster of this school and of the parents of a few pupils, four years ago, the University authorities inflicted a severe punishment upon this town by striking it out of the list of examination centres. The punishment already undergone during the last five years should, I beg to say, be considered sufficient for all purposes, and I most earnestly hope that Your Excellency, as Chancellor of the University, and the members of the Syndicate will take pity upon us and restore Cuddapah to the list of University Examination centres next year.

9. The prizes that are now to be distributed are of four sets. The first set, worth Rs. 70, consists of the Smith prizes founded some years ago by the inhabitants of Cuddapah in honour of Mr. Smith, a former popular Collector. They are intended for the benefit of the three highest classes. The second is the Pullampet Jubilee prize founded by the Pullampet public in 1887. It is given to the first boy in Telugu at the Matriculation Examination. The third consists of the prizes awarded from Municipal funds. The fourth and last set consists of prizes generously awarded by certain liberal private gentlemen for proficiency in special subjects. To all these gentlemen I tender my most sincere thanks with the earnest request that they will kindly continue this encouragement and patronage year after year. Their names will be read out as their prizes are given away.

10. Besides these prizes, there is attached to the school an annual scholarship of Rs. 50 called the Barnett Scholarship after the founder. It is given away every year to the first boy in the fifth class (Pre-Matriculation class).

11. I cannot conclude without mentioning that, in all my endeavours to manage and improve this institution, I have always been duly supported and encouraged by the Chairman and the other members of the Municipal Council, and that all my assistants have earnestly, zealously, and cordially co-operated with me both in and out of school.

12. It only remains now for me to say that my boys deserve the highest congratulations on their prize-giving of to-day being celebrated under the presidency of Your Excellency. The value of the prizes they are going to receive to-day will be enhanced a thousandfold by the hand that gives them. Such an honour is rarely conferred upon an institution of this kind. This auspicious circumstance of the very ruler of this vast province presiding at its annual prize-giving augurs a long life and a glorious future for this High School and it is the earnest prayer of us all that Your Excellency will continue to take a lively and sympathetic interest in the welfare and progress of this humble institution.—Cuddapah, 24th December 1891.

His Excellency's Reply.

In reply His Excellency promised consideration.

12876