

ADDRESSES, &c.

PRESENTED TO

AND

REPLIES MADE

BY

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

ON HIS SIXTH TOUR.

April-May 1892.



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

Address from the Inhabitants of Bezvada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—Your Lordship's determination, regardless of the extreme heat, to see for yourself the nature of this part of the country and the work that is being carried out for its further development, is a source of great satisfaction to us, both because we can now address you as possessing that increased and more vivid knowledge which comes from personal observation, and because you have, by coming at this particular time, enabled us, before it is too late, to put before you the very important question of continuing the Southern Mahratta line to this side of the river. We beg most earnestly that Your Lordship will weigh this matter in all its bearings, because an error now made will be irretrievable. The chief leverage brought to bear on the Government of India to induce that Government to sanction the great expenditure involved in building the Kistna bridge was, that the line from Guntakal would be seriously defective as a famine prevention scheme unless it were put into connection with the whole of this food-producing delta. The value of the bridge, in case of famine, would be enormously reduced by a break of gauge and the chief idea in building it largely nullified. Although the river will cease to be an obstacle, we submit for Your Lordship's very serious consideration that the break of gauge will half destroy the object for which the famine line was constructed, and in case of a great famine be an error that may cause terrible regret. To be brief, we may add that Bezvada is so thoroughly the centre of communication in all directions, both by land and water, that in every way the original plan is the only satisfactory one, and to depart from it will be fighting against nature. Another advantage of bringing the Southern Mahratta line to this side of the river would be that the branch to Masulipatam could be constructed at very much less cost by continuing the metre gauge to that place. The whole arrangement would be symmetrical and the Southern Mahratta Company have a suitable terminus for their main line. We beg to urge on Your Lordship's attention the proposed Masulipatam branch, because of its excellent alignment. It passes through a wonderfully rich territory, where, for the greater part of the year, communication is almost impossible. We suggest that the proposed line from Madras should have the name "East-Coast" given to it, so that the whole railway from Madras along the sea coast to Cuttack may have the same name, and we recommend for Your Lordship's consideration that, in default of some Company taking up the work of construction, the Government do it themselves with their present East Coast staff as that staff become available by completing the more northern work. Bathing-ghauts and water-supply are the next points for which we bespeak Your Lordship's kind attention, and although of less magnitude than the previous ones, the mass of the people feel a far deeper interest in them than in anything else. Nothing touches so closely their daily comfort, and the greatest blessing that can be given them is good water and means of bathing in the river. In both respects Bezvada is in an unsatisfactory state. In the hot weather the wells are nearly dry and the canals are closed and the river is the only place for bathing and washing purposes. The ghauts on the Kistna are quite insufficient. The training banks and other stone work, when the Kistna is full, make the difficulty greater, and the work of washing clothes and bathing more dangerous. We therefore beg that more ghauts may be provided, for in no way could money be better spent. Regarding water-supply, there are two plans—one by Mr. Jones and the other by Mr. Spring. Mr. Spring's plan comes incidentally as part of the bridge arrangements. It possesses three virtues:—1st, Small cost; 2nd, Is capable of rapid execution; 3rd, Will give more excellent water than any other plan. Against it may be put the fact that it is a very small scheme; but as time goes on it could be extended or supplemented by Mr. Jones' or any other scheme. A Municipality needs time to get used to taxation. We therefore incline to Mr. Spring's plan as the cheaper one. This being the time when Mr. Spring's plan must be either accepted or rejected, we beg Your Lordship to give its merits and demerits your kind consideration. A few stand-pipes, giving a good supply of pure water, would be a real blessing to all classes, and especially to the poor. A point that closely affects the mercantile people of this district is the transfer of the Bellare Sub-Judge's Court to Bezvada as the more suitable and convenient place for it. We believe Mr. Hanna could make some useful extensions in the navigation system and thus, at a low cost, facilitate communication, where it is much wanted, by water, which after all is the cheapest. We believe that he could make some useful improvements in the Buckingham Canal, and we would urge Your Lordship to consider what a splendid water-way could be made of it by putting in locks which would retain the water at high tide level. Goods from Madras are brought by it at a very cheap rate. We regret to have to inform Your Lordship that cholera, which in past years was only too prevalent in Bezvada, has visited the town again this year, though in a mild form. We believe that this is partly due to the cramped position of the old town, surrounded by hills on two sides and by the river and canal banks on the others. Recently our esteemed Collector submitted to Your Excellency in Council certain important proposals

for the further development of our town, including among them the cutting down of the banks of the Ellore and Rives' Canals within the Municipal limits, so that more air might find its way into the town and the low-lying lands might be converted into dry and elevated building sites. The estimated cost of the whole scheme is Rs. 30,000, which is small as compared with the benefits which will, we believe, be derived from it. Your Excellency in Council was pleased to approve the proposals, but owing to the pressure of famine expenditure the necessary allotment for cutting down the banks could not be made. We beg Your Lordship to extend your interest to this important improvement and to sanction the scheme as soon as funds are available. Meanwhile the Council is expending its own funds in cutting openings through the banks for the streets of this new suburb. In conclusion, as representing the inhabitants of a town than which none in all the territories under Your Lordship's care has more prospered through the enterprise of the British Government, we beg to express our devotion to you and our hearty loyalty to Her Majesty the Empress. We feel bound to also add a word expressing our admiration of the vigour with which you have met the distress prevailing in districts less fortunate than the one you are now visiting, where, thanks to the utilization of Kistna water, we are safe against famine. We feel we cannot close the address without expressing our sincere regards to Mr. Arundel, to whose able administration the district owes its improved condition.—*Bezváda, 14th April 1892.*

Address from the Inhabitants of Masulipatam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The inhabitants of Masulipatam, the chief town of the Kistna district, beg permission to present this address of welcome upon Your Excellency's first visit to this district. Your Excellency's petitioners hope that, in giving attention to the works at Bezváda, which is the central junction of the various lines, the necessity for the early construction of the branch line to Masulipatam will not be overlooked. The canals of this delta are primarily an irrigation work, and traffic on them is only a secondary object. As Your Excellency sees at the present moment, these canals are closed at the most important period of the year, when the rice harvest is in progress and when demands from other districts are heavy. The line which has been approved by Your Excellency's Government and by the Government of India, and for which surveys and estimates have been prepared, will pass through a populous and fertile country to Masulipatam, which is the commercial centre of the delta and a town of over 38,000 people. Your Excellency's petitioners hope that funds may be allotted and that the line may be commenced at once. Your Excellency is aware that the proposed line will pass through the Gudiváda taluk, which is one of the most flourishing grain-producing taluks in Southern India, the irrigated area in which is rapidly increasing. Your Excellency's petitioners beg leave also to lay before Your Excellency the need for the transfer of the Subordinate Judge's Court from Ellore to this district, viz., either to Masulipatam or to Bezváda. All small cause suits from 50 to 500 are tried in the Subordinate Court, and from 400 to 600 such cases belonging to this district are annually tried at Ellore, to the great discomfort and inconvenience of suitors. The Godávári district now possesses two Subordinate Courts, one at Cocanada and the other at Ellore, and your petitioners venture to urge that this district, which now yields Government the largest land revenue in the Presidency, may fairly claim the transfer of the Ellore Court to a more convenient locality. And your Excellency's petitioners shall, as in duty bound, ever pray for your Excellency's long life and happiness.—*Bezváda, 14th April 1892.*

Address from the Tax-payers' Association of Guntúr.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the Tax-payers' Association, Guntúr, beg to approach Your Excellency, on the occasion of your gracious visit to this district, with this address of welcome, and to express on behalf of the people of Guntúr our heartfelt feelings of deep loyalty and sincere gratitude towards the Representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. While we keenly appreciate the cordial good-will and hearty sympathy which Your Excellency has been known to accord to the millions entrusted to your care, we beg to take this opportunity of respectfully bringing to your notice certain wants for which the people of this district—those of Guntúr in particular—earnestly desire to seek remedy at the hands of Your Excellency. Although the town of Guntúr is inhabited by nearly 25,000 people, and is a most important place in the district, famous as the centre of commercial life and industrial activity, still it is very insufficiently supplied with drinking water. We have a spacious low-lying expanse which is called a tank in the rainy season; but it becomes nothing but a barren waste even before summer sets in, and in consequence, the reservoirs and wells in the town, which get their supply from the tank, also become almost dry at a time when fresh water is most needed; especially the most thickly-peopled portions of the town—Old Guntúr and Sangadigunta—have absolutely no water in their wells during the hot season. We beg to request, therefore, that Your Excellency will be pleased to order that some effective means be adopted for supplying this great want, by laying out a scheme by which the tank mentioned may get a never failing supply. Further, apart from the advisability of sinking a large number

of wells in various parts of the town and supplying them with a sufficient quantity of water to alleviate, in a measure, the acute sufferings of the people, we beg to lay before Your Excellency a special grievance in connection with a scheme proposed to be carried out under substantial support from the Local Boards and Government. It was proposed that the tank should be improved and the town supplied with water by means of pipes, and that in the eastern part of the town, on the site of the Sub-Magistrate's office, a reservoir should be constructed for storage of water from the tank. For this purpose it was resolved that the people of Guntúr should subscribe Rs. 5,000, and that Rs. 15,000 be contributed in equal shares by the Municipality, the Local Boards and Government, and to this end the work of collection was actually begun, and subscriptions were forthcoming. But to our great disappointment, we have heard that the authorities are not very anxious about the subject, and that the Government have resolved to dispose of the site mentioned above. However, we beg to submit that it is highly important that the site pointed out should be utilized for this kind of public good, because those who have generally come forward with large subscriptions reside in that quarter of the town, and if there is any place that stands in urgent need of speedy water-supply, it is that portion of Guntúr and no other. Under these circumstances, we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to cause the project to be speedily undertaken, and order that the site referred to should be reserved for the construction of the cistern. Another point which we wish to lay before Your Excellency is that the town of Guntúr is devoid of any easy rapid means of communication with the adjoining districts and with the capital of the Presidency. Though the Bellary-Kistna State Railway connects this and the Ceded Districts with the Presidency Town through the Madras Railway, still the time that is occupied and the long distance that has to be gone through are so great that there is not much facility afforded for the rapid passage of traffic and free communication with the more enlightened part of the Presidency; hence we are anxiously waiting to see the day when the long-contemplated line from Nellore to this district will become a reality. Seeing that Guntúr is one of the most important places in the district, and satisfies all the requirements for a junction station, we beg to suggest the advisability of making that place the point of junction, in preference to constructing a branch line from Guntúr to some station on the main line. If what we pray for becomes an accomplished fact, it will be conferring a great boon upon the people, and will not only promote the best interests of the district by encouraging the trade and industry of Guntúr, but will also be a source of great saving to Government, as the plan suggested will obviate the necessity for constructing several additional miles of railway. Another point to which we beg to invite Your Excellency's attention is the want of a good and useful seaport for this district. The Kistna district is one of the most fertile districts in the Presidency, and it has always been exporting to distant places large quantities of raw produce such as rice, oil-seeds, indigo, cotton, &c. Masulipatam, the port at which the steamers call, is not well adapted for commerce, as the vessels anchor at a very great distance from the shore. Hence these articles are now transmitted in boats through canals to places such as Cocanada or Madras, more than 200 miles away; further even this tardy means of communication does not exist in the hot season, since then the canals are closed for repairs, and at such times these articles have to be stored up till they can be transmitted on the opening of the canals. With Your Excellency's permission, therefore, we beg to mention that, at a distance of about 40 miles from Guntúr there is a port called Epurpaliam, in a healthy inviting locality, affording every facility for easy and rapid shipment of goods, as there the steamers can safely anchor within a few hundred yards from the shore; and the value of the port is greatly enhanced when it is considered that the Nellore-Guntúr Railway will make the port very easy of access from the inland towns of the district, as the line will pass through Bapatla within 4 miles from that port; and this circumstance will give great stimulus to the trade and industry of these parts, since all produce from this and the Kurnool district can be readily exported at a comparatively much less cost. We cannot close this address without acknowledging the deep debt of gratitude under which Your Excellency has laid the people of this Presidency by the warm interest you have always evinced in their welfare and prosperity, by your untiring efforts to relieve the miseries of the suffering thousands in these days of severe scarcity and famine, by going to such tracts and graciously inviting the public to lay before you their grievances, if any, and we respectfully beg to assure Your Excellency that we most gratefully appreciate the earnest endeavours you have been making to inspect in person the relief works and other famine operations undertaken by District Officers—greatly at the risk of your health in series of visits to unhealthy tracts on long tours during the hottest months of the year. Praying to the Almighty to bestow upon Your Excellency long life, sound health and increasing prosperity.—*Bezváda, 14th April 1892.*

Address from the Inhabitants of Bapatla Taluk.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the inhabitants of the taluk of Bapatla, Kistna district, beg respectfully permission to approach Your Excellency, with our humble requisition embodied in the following lines:—On behalf of all those whom we represent, we most cordially welcome Your Excellency, and request that this your first visit into the district will not fail to teem with beneficial results to the district. In connection with the matter of railways, we on our part, beg permission to plead the great desirability of a direct line from

Madras to Bezvada *via* our town of Bapatla and neighbouring places, and this necessity we beg to put forward on the following grounds:—(i) The necessity for such a line has been a long-felt desideratum, which was sought for some four years ago in a unanimous petition to Government, eventually leading to an expensive survey of the proposed route, which was already completed and favorably recommended in 1890. (ii) The line which is the subject of our prayer, if granted, would run by the important weaving and mercantile centres of "Ipurpalem," "Chirala," "Perala," "Vetapalem," "Pandillapally," and "China Ganjam," covering an extent of about 25 miles with a population of 50,000. (iii) The taluk of Bapatla and the neighbouring Repalle, the principal delta taluks of the district, export large quantities of paddy and other grains to Madras. (iv) The present railway line from Madras to Bezvada *via* Guntakal is 550 miles, whereas the route proposed is about half the distance, carrying us through healthy and populated tracts, and through the town of Bapatla, considered to be the sanitarium of the district, in contrast to the unhealthy and arid tracts of feverish Cumbum water *via* Guntakal and such like places through which the line runs. (v) There exist no engineering difficulties to speak of in the proposed line in the absence of large rivers to bridge over and rocks to excavate, with the special advantage of high sandy ridges always favorable to the construction of a railway line. (vi) The important salt factories of China Ganjam and Kanuparti would thus be connected by railway with the interior, and it would thus facilitate the exportation of salt. (vii) This line has also the advantages of sufficient fuel and water, the necessary demands of a railway. Bezvada, Guntur, and other places, connected as they are by rail at present, not one of these lines is connected with Masulipatam, chief port of the district and its capital. We earnestly pray that the railway line may be extended to that station, making Bezvada the common terminus of all the railways. In conclusion we beg Your Excellency will kindly condescend to grant this our humble prayer, which we trust will be strongly supported by Mr. A. T. Arundel, our able Collector, to whom we are indebted for the interest he takes in our general welfare. For which act of kindness we, as in duty bound, shall ever pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity. With due respect and profound loyalty, we beg respectfully to remain Your Excellency's most obedient subjects.—
Bezvada, 14th April 1892.

His Excellency's Reply.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have, in the first place, to express to you the great pleasure I feel at being able to come and see Bezvada, a town situated in this important district, at a moment in its history of so great an importance as the present one. The building of the great bridge which is now proceeding over the Kistna river is a moment at which I think any one who knows this country well must carefully consider what an extraordinary improvement is most likely to occur within a very short period in the history of this part of the country; and every day as he watches the progress of the great bridge he cannot but think how gradually and certainly vast improvement is about to set in not only in this town, but in all the neighbouring districts; therefore, it is to me a matter of great satisfaction and pleasure to be able to come here at this moment and to see the town at this period of its history. You naturally refer in your address to the question of the railway. It is one of very great importance, not only to you, but also to all the dwellers on this part of the Coromandel Coast; but I can only say for myself that I am as anxious and watching as keenly the progress of the line as any of you who live here on this coast. I am perfectly convinced in my mind that what is really wanted is to get an extension of the railway from Madras up to this place made as soon as it possibly can be made (loud applause); but, however anxious the Government of Madras and the people of Madras may be for any particular work, we have to deal with another Government still, because it is from the Government of India that the funds are to be found to carry on this work; and, as we all know the old saying, "that the man who pays the piper has the right to choose the tune," so in this particular matter we are left in the hands of the Government of India. We have urged upon them as far as we possibly can that this work should be carried out, and every day and up to the present we have been assured that they have no funds at their disposal to carry out this work. I am glad to say that the Secretary of State is himself as anxious as we are here to see that this work is carried out. I cannot say for certain, but I sincerely hope that before long we shall see some change in the *non possumus* policy of the Government of India, and that they will come forward and cheer us up with the words that they will withdraw their present plea of *non possumus* and come forward, I hope, and help us to carry out the work. I do not say that they will, but I only say that I have great hope that they will be induced to do so, because no efforts will be wanting on our part to get this work done. We forwarded to the Secretary of State our own representations and representations from the Chamber of Commerce of Madras which were most strongly supported; and the Madras Railway have asked the Secretary of State to be allowed to complete this line on debentures which are to be furnished through them, and I only hope that it may be found possible in that way, if in no other, to carry out this great work. You naturally ask about the question of the gauge of the railway down to Masulipatam. As you know, the Government of Madras and the Government of India too have both approved of there being a railway to Masulipatam; but the great question is of what gauge it should be constructed. My

own view has been very much what is put forward by you to-day. When I first had this matter mentioned to me, the arguments which you brought forward appeared to me to be very strong; but since then it has been very strongly urged that the East Coast Railway will be a trunk line running between north and south, and that the proper point of cutting off the narrow gauge will be at Guntur. However, that matter is still before the Government of India, and the Southern Mahratta Railway have been asked to express their views on this subject, and the whole question will come up for further consideration in a very short time. I am very glad to have received this expression of your views on this subject. The great advantage of going to a particular spot is to find out the wishes and feelings of the people on any particular subject, and by being brought face to face with them, and by hearing their arguments and by satisfying myself what their wishes are, and how they think that certain works can be carried out. Personally, I am bound to say that I feel you have made out a very strong case for the line being constructed on the gauge you propose. The Bezvada address, to which I will first refer, mentions, among other things, the great desire that they have for a better provision of bathing ghats. Your Collector, Mr. Arundel, tells me that the Municipality are constructing a ghat for this purpose above the anicut, and that Mr. Spring is going to construct another—one below the anicut on the new banks which he is there making—and will see that the revetment is so placed as to be able to afford facilities to the people for bathing. With these two ghats I hope the town will be satisfied. The question of water-supply is naturally one which creates a good deal of inquiry and anxiety. You mention two plans put forward, one of them by Mr. Jones and the other by Mr. Spring. You strongly recommend that Mr. Spring's plan should be, at all events, tried. I am glad to think that in this matter you are not asking Government to come forward at the present moment with any money, but that you will be satisfied if Mr. Spring adopts this experiment that he will carry out, namely, by pumping water from the wells on the abutment nearest the town here, laying it on at certain points and by seeing that not at a very large outlay may be provided a good supply for the whole of the town. I think the town should be very much indebted to Mr. Spring for the idea which he has evolved, and the manner in which he is going to carry it out. I shall watch with very great interest the result of the experiment which he will take up (applause). The next point touched upon in the Bezvada address is also alluded to in the address from Masulipatam—it is the transference of the Ellore Sub-Judge's Court to Bezvada. All I can tell the inhabitants of both Bezvada and Masulipatam is that I will send up their representations to the High Court. It rests very much with them—as to how they view it—to carry out this project. The judicial work of the country is under their particular eye and under their supervision, and the Government are advised by them as to the best means in their opinion to carry out judicial work in this country. However, I shall see that your views are laid before them, and that the matter is carefully considered. It is impossible for me to say at the present moment what possibilities there are of the improvements you suggest in the Buckingham Canal being made. You suggest that by putting locks a great increase might be made to the facilities of navigation; but I am not prepared to say, without knowing more of the subject, that your suggestion can be carried out. However, I will have the matter looked into, and I will see that you are furnished with an answer as soon as it can possibly be provided. You then go on to say that your town is being visited by cholera, which you attribute to your cramped position. There is no doubt that you are closely shut in here with all these hills, and the banks of the canals are also very disagreeable obstructions. The Government has sanctioned the removal of these banks; but every work that can possibly be undertaken is now put off in consequence of the trouble we meet with in other parts of the Presidency. However, as soon as funds are available, they will be placed at your disposal for the purpose of removing these obstructions (applause). You then go on to speak in terms of the most sincere loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress; and I can only say, as her representative here, that it has given me very much satisfaction to receive these assurances from you. I believe that under the administration of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress the whole of this country ought to go on continuing in a career of continued prosperity; and I do not see any place in this country round here which is more likely to advance in that direction than the town of Bezvada. I only hope that you may reap all the benefits of the great works going on around you, and that the Kistna district may continue to be, as it has been for some time past, one of the most prosperous and fertile of this part of this country. I have to thank you very much, gentlemen, for the manner in which you have alluded to myself; and I can only say that I had great pleasure in being able to come here. It was merely, as it were, a chance visit, as my work lies a little bit further from Bezvada. I am glad to think that anything in the way of inspecting famine works is not necessary in this part of the district, though there are in the upland parts of the Kistna certain portions which require careful watching. I am glad that under Mr. Arundel's eye those parts are being properly watched (applause); the districts a little further away, I am sorry to say, have not been so fortunate as you are. In Kurnool and in Nellore there has been and now is a great deal of scarcity and distress; but the Government have taken, I believe, every step it is possible for the Government to take to relieve that distress. Works and kitchens have been opened wherever they have been required, and the management of the works and their supervision have been most carefully carried out under the eye of Mr. Clogstoun, a member of the Board of Revenue, who has great experience in this matter; and I can only say and I can assure you from my own personal

inspection I believe that everything is being done to carry the people through in a time of scarcity. At certain places every now and then the people appeared to be not so well off, rather in a lower condition than in others. Generally speaking I may say that I found the people up to now in a very good condition. On one work there appeared to be a falling off from that condition, and that work is going to be most specially watched, and a different system is to be instituted as regards the weakly members, and I hope that we shall soon get better reports of the people there. The people suffer very much in that part from malarious fever, and there is no doubt that it affects considerably their constitutions; at a time like this, when prices are very high and crops are scanty, they are more liable to attacks of this character than they would be on ordinary occasions. Therefore it is, I think, that Government should take special care of the people of that particular part, and I am glad to think that this will be done. The numbers on the works up to now have been very much less than what the Government had reason to expect. There is almost a total failure of crops in a great many districts not only in this, but also in past seasons. We feel we are able to provide larger work for people, and I think we may take it as a sign of the general prosperity of the people that they have been able to hold out so well during this protracted time of drought and scarcity and up to now have given no considerable anxiety to those responsible for their welfare. All I can say is that if the south-west monsoon comes in its usual quantity and at its usual time, all the troubles of Government will very soon vanish away. I have no anxiety myself whatever, and I do not believe that anyone need have any anxiety that the Government will not be able to deal with the subject of distress up till that time; but if the monsoon should fail we will no doubt be placed in a position of very much graver responsibility than we now find ourselves in. Our attention has been for a long time seriously attracted to the particular question, and the subject of having to provide work for very much larger numbers is receiving the careful attention of Government; and if it should unfortunately be the case that we should complain that the south-west monsoon is a failure in the distressed districts, we should have to provide work for large numbers. I think I can assure you that you will find that the Government has done all in its power to meet the necessity of the case. The next address is from the Muhammadans of Bezvada. In reply to them I should like to say that I thank them most extremely for the kind words they use towards myself in coming here on this occasion, and it is to me a matter of great satisfaction—and they are able to express it in terms in which they do—at the position in which they find themselves in this country and at their sincere and devoted attachment to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress (applause). I think I have answered the Masulipatam address in answering the Bezvada address. The two points are the question of the railway and the question of the Sub-Judge's Court. I think we are as anxious as anybody can be to have the railway extended to Masulipatam; but as we are not provided with funds we are not able to do what we should like to do. The Guntur address is the one, I think, that came next. It brings to the notice of the Government the fact that they are badly off in the matter of water. I am afraid in that respect they are like great many others in this unfortunate dry season; but they point out that they think that Government should provide a site for a reservoir to supply the water. As far as I can ascertain, the supply is to be from a lake which dries up at this particular period of time. Therefore, I am afraid I am placed in some difficulty as to whence the supply should come. Mr. Arundel informs me that it is purely an engineering question; that levels have been taken, and he finds it is impossible to bring water from any spot except one irrigation tank which lies above Guntur and the bund of which has not been repaired. I should like the Guntur people to inform me a little more clearly what is the particular supply they think Government should tap. As far as information goes, the particular configuration of the country makes it impossible to provide water by gravitation. Any suggestion put forward which would point out the direction to which the attention of Government should be turned will receive most careful consideration. One of the points they refer to is that the Municipality passed a resolution to the effect that Government should pay Rs. 15,000 towards the scheme. In respect to this I would like to point out to them that if the Government were called upon to subscribe money whenever a resolution has been passed by the Municipality that the Government should pay, the finances of this Presidency would be before long in a rather embarrassed condition. I am afraid we should present the doubtful spectacle of an adverse balance. It is easy to vote for money, but it is not so easy to provide for it. The question of the Sub-Magistrate's office also hinges upon the water-supply, and there is no intention at present to dispose of that. You ask with regard to the Madras Railway. I think I told you exactly what the position is. The Madras Government are very anxious that the railway should be made as soon as possible. They also recommend that the alignment should pass through Guntur and go up to Bezvada; but that is only a recommendation. The final solution of the question rests with the Government of India. You then point out that the port of Epurapallam should be made a seaport of the district. I think we should wait and see what the effect of the railway if opened at Bapatla will be. In conclusion, I hope that all those good things which you have foreshadowed may very soon be provided. As regards the Government of Madras, you have our sincere wishes and our great hope that this railway will be pushed forward as soon as possible. The great Kistna bridge is before your eyes every day; and before two years the Godavari bridge will be completed, but I do not think myself that this communication can be called a complete scheme till the whole line is made right through from Madras to Calcutta (applause). It appears to me that it is a most extraordinary thing

that the two great important towns of Madras and Calcutta should have waited very near till the end of this century before they were joined by a line of railway; it appears to me also to be a most extraordinary thing that the idea of the East Coast Railway should have been started with constructing 500 miles in the centre of 1,000 miles; and all I can tell you is that you have the best wishes of the Government of Madras and the sincere desire of the Secretary of State. It rests with the Government of India to give us funds, and I can assure you that no efforts will be wanting on our part to induce them to adopt such measures as to finish off the East Coast Railway as soon as possible (applause). I have to thank you very much for the kind manner in which you have received me here at Bezvada (loud applause).

Address from the Vijayavada Sabha and Rate-payers' Association, Bezvada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the undersigned members of the Vijayavada Sabha and the Rate-payers' Association, Bezvada, venture, on this occasion of Your Excellency's presence among us, to approach Your Excellency with our humble but hearty address of welcome not only as the illustrious ruler of our province, but also as the worthy representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty, our beloved mother, the Empress of India. While we are fully alive to the innumerable blessings bestowed upon us by the benign British Government, under whose paternal protection Providence has cast our lot, we gladly take this opportunity of Your Excellency's presence amidst us to bring to Your Excellency's notice a few prayers which vitally interest the town, and which, if granted, will be lasting boons both to the townsmen and to the community in general. Our first request, in which the townfolk are chiefly interested, is the privilege of election of members to the Local Municipal Council and increase of their number from twelve to twenty-one with a non-official Chairman. In the year 1888, when this town was first constituted a Municipality, the public were given to understand that the Council would consist of twenty-one members who would all be representative; but to the utter disappointment of the people, the Council, when formed, consisted of only twelve members, the selection of whom did not satisfy the cravings of the people. Consequently, the Government was moved by a telegram and a memorial from the Vijayavada Sabha, stating that the Council was not thoroughly representative and praying for the enlargement of the same by the addition of representative members. The Government was thereupon pleased to issue G.O., No. 525 M., dated 21st May 1888, to the effect that no change could be allowed so soon, but that, when vacancies occurred in the Council, the wishes of the Sabha would be favorably considered. Many a time vacancies did occur, and the Sabha represented its views to the Council, but, to the total disregard of the Government Order, they were never favorably considered. Here we beg to be understood that we are no grievance-mongers if we submit to Your Excellency that the public feel the Council's administration hard to bear in many ways, the taxation very heavy and the return comparatively small. The second point to which we beg to invite Your Excellency's attention is the prohibition of Municipal Councillors to sit as Honorary Magistrates in the Bench Courts, and the appointment, in their stead, of well qualified persons from the community in point of general education as well as of requisite legal knowledge. For, in the existing system, it happens very frequently that the same officer who as a Municipal Councillor sanctions a prosecution goes as a Bench Magistrate to sit in judgment over one accused by himself—a curious instance in which the complainant himself as the judge, hears and disposes of his own case. Singularly in our town there are five Honorary Magistrates, four of whom are Municipal Councillors, the *de facto* Chairman being amongst the list. We next submit for Your Excellency's favorable consideration the necessity of supplying water to the town by means of pipes from the river. This extensive town of rising importance and increasing population, of which only a corner of small area is in contact with the river, depends for the water-supply for the most part on wells, of which there can be only a few in this rocky soil, and few of which retain a good supply of water during the hot season. Hence the water-supply of this town, as it exists at present, is very defective; and the occasional conflagrations recurring almost every year and sweeping down houses by tens and hundreds call for an immediate water-supply at hand, for which, on past occasions, the Krishna had to be reached. Consequently the introduction of the pipe-system of water-supply, if accomplished, will be an everlasting boon to Bezvada. In connection with this we beg to submit that we came to understand that the supply can be cheaply effected by pumping up water from the Kistna bridge wells. Our next prayer is on a subject which once drew the attention of Your Excellency's predecessor, namely, the extension of a branch line of railway to Masulipatam, the head-quarters of the district, and the port nearest to the Nizam's Dominions. It is needless to dwell on the political and commercial importance of this line, which has been repeatedly urged in the several memorials of the Masulipatam public, any more than to point out that, if laid out, the line will pass through the Gudivada taluk, the unfailing granary of the district. We beg to represent next that though sanctioned by Secretary of State, the scheme for the separation of the Revenue and Magisterial functions has not yet been introduced. We therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to accelerate its speedy introduction in this

Presidency. Lastly, we beg to represent that the enforcement of the Forest laws in all their rigour has been a source of inconvenience to men and cattle and therefore pray that they be relaxed, so as to remove the inconvenience. For instance, most of the lands adjoining this town have been reserved without sufficient space left for grazures, &c. We therefore beg to suggest that sufficient margin be allowed around crowded towns for the convenience of men and cattle. In conclusion, we devoutly hope and pray that Your Excellency may for many long years be preserved with health and strength to sustain the responsibilities of Your Excellency's exalted position.

Address from the Inhabitants of Gudiváda Taluk.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—It is with feelings of unalloyed pleasure that we, the undersigned public of Gudiváda, crave permission to approach Your Lordship to offer a hearty welcome to this our district. We need hardly say that, in seeking the privilege of an interview with Your Lordship to-day, we have been mainly influenced by a desire to express our loyalty and love to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress' government of this country and our thankfulness for the manifold blessings we enjoy under Her benign sway. We are fully cognizant that Providence could not have placed our safety in better hands than Her Majesty's, and that no Government is so solicitous about the welfare of the people committed to its charge as the British Government. Nothing would better illustrate this care and tenderness for the governed than this trip of Your Lordship through those parts of the Presidency that have been besieged by that grim monster of famine, whose periodical visits to this country have been the source of so much concern and anxiety to Your Lordship's government. This trip, undertaken at no small sacrifice of personal comfort at a time when the country should have expected Your Lordship dwelling on the snowy and delightful tops of the Nilgiris, amply testifies to Your Lordship's sympathy for the sufferers. We must confess that, in coming to welcome Your Excellency, we have not been unselfish. We have long had a petition to urge and have thought this the best opportunity to lay it before Your Lordship. During the time of Your Lordship's predecessor, we begged that the railway might be extended to Masulipatam, the head-quarters of the district. The Government sanctioned the survey which has been completed. Nothing further has been done in the direction for some time. We have taken the liberty of reminding the Government of the promised boon. Your Lordship is aware of the importance of Bezvada which has become the nucleus of railways. It is now the terminus of the Southern Mahratta Railway and Nellore State Railway, and the East Coast Railway is ere long to have its terminus here. The system will not be complete in the district unless railway communication is settled between Bezvada and the chief town, which is also the chief port in the district. We need not take up Your Lordship's invaluable time by enumerating the advantages of extending the railway in Kistna, which is one of the few large paddy-growing districts. Gudivada being one of the important delta taluks of the district, our grain would be within the easier reach of places where it may be wanted. The line already surveyed passes through the Nuzvid, Challapalli, and Vallur zemindaris and through Gudivada town, which, besides being the head-quarters of the taluk, is also the station of the new Munsif's Court established since the 1st March last. The trading and litigant population will, not to speak of others, find an immense boon if the railway be soon opened, for, except during the three hottest months of the year, communication is, for want of good roads and owing to inundation by water, not very easy. In conclusion, we beg to state that we earnestly hope that it will be in the power of Your Lordship's government to see the line between Bezvada and Masulipatam completed at an early date. Wishing Your Lordship and Lady Wenlock long life and prosperity.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency had in the first instance to express to the gentleman of the Vijayavada Sabha and the Rate-payers' Association, Bezvada, and the gentleman who came there as a deputation from the Gudivada taluk, his sincere thanks for the kind words with which they had received him on this his first visit to Bezvada. It was especially fortunate perhaps that they had been able to have a second meeting at Bezvada as it had enabled, in the first instance, the gentleman from Gudivada, who had unfortunately met with a severe accident on the road the day before to present his address from that part of the country. In the second place, it was fortunate, he thought, that they should have that meeting, as thereby all misapprehensions which occurred in consequence of the address from Vijayavada Sabha not having been received would be set at rest. He regretted that there had been any misunderstanding on the subject; but, as they well knew, the formality that Government required in respect to presenting addresses had not been fulfilled with regard to that address, which was not in the first instance sent through the Collector. There also appeared to be some misunderstanding as to whether the address should be presented or accepted as a petition; but it appeared evident that a great many gentlemen had expressed their wishes to lay certain matters before him, and he was glad to think that Mr. Arundel's management and arrangements had got over the difficulty and he was there that day to hear what they had to say. The Vijayavada Sabha memorialists wished certain points to be decided in their favour. They

first of all addressed their remarks to the question of the local Municipal Council, and their first demand was that it should be increased in numbers; and their second request was that they should have a non-official Chairman. As they all knew, in this country the Municipal form of government was one that had only lately been introduced; and His Excellency was bound to say that everybody must be aware that the introduction of such a form of government in such a country as India must be considered to be more or less an experiment, and it therefore behoved Government to see that that form of government should be introduced with proper precautions and safeguards. It was only four years since the Bezvada Municipality was formed at the instance of Government by nominating Councillors to attend on that Council. The very great interests which Government had at stake, the very large amount of property it had there, and the absolutely new life which had taken place in the town, required one particular head to manage the whole affair, and it was extremely dangerous, if he might be allowed to use that expression, to allow any personal interests to become mixed up with what really were largely those of Government. With regard to the general principles of allowing their representatives to take their seats at the Council, he fully agreed. He thought that all local self-government should eventually be in the hands of the people, but in a country like this it must be allowed to develop itself gradually, so that people might be trained to take the management of their own affairs into their own hands; and therefore it seemed to him that, in the case of a town like Bezvada, it would be a very good thing in the first place, after the Council had been started, and had been now working for four years, gradually to introduce the system they desired. He would, therefore, view with favour any scheme to place six new members on the Council to be elected by themselves (applause). He hoped that that would satisfy, in the first instance, their aspirations, and that these gentlemen who took their places on that Council would show that energy and devotion to public business which Government required from all those who were Councillors. He must add a slight warning. Government was as anxious as any Government could be to see that this Municipal form of government should be extended and developed all over the country. He was bound to tell them, as head of the Government, that it had noticed with a great deal of disappointment the laxity, he might say, and more than want of care displayed by Councillors in the performance of their public duties, and it had been found necessary for Government in its general review of the Municipal administration at this Presidency to call attention to that fact, and warn Councillors to see that a decided improvement should be effected. He only hoped that such a falling off in the duties of public men as Municipal Councillors would not be seen in Bezvada, and that they might be able gradually to increase the number six to a still larger number. He looked forward to the day—but he did not say that the time had yet arrived—when they could have an elected Chairman. As he had said before, the interests of the Government at Bezvada were so large that the experiment should be tried cautiously, and at present he did not think he could recommend to Government the adoption of the suggestions in that direction. The address stated that when the town was first constituted a Municipality the public were given to understand that the Council would consist of twenty-one representative members. He failed to trace any record in Government offices which showed that Government at all events held out any such hope. It was also stated that they did not wish to be grievance-mongers, and without saying it very definitely they said that the taxation was very heavy, and the returns comparatively small. He was very sorry to hear that these were their feelings. As far as he could ascertain, the taxation of the Bezvada Municipality was by no means as heavy as it was in others; and, as far as he could make out, the returns were in all matters as good as in a good many others, and better than in most, and except in the matter of education, Government did not consider there had been any falling off in the work of the Municipal Council there. He was sorry to see that they brought that forward, though they did not make any very definite statement as to the way in which they found the Bezvada Municipality short of work. He hoped that when the new members were elected any shortcomings would soon disappear. They also asked that Municipal Councillors should not be allowed to sit as Honorary Magistrates. He was afraid he could not promise to alter a system which was universally prevalent in the country. Unless it could be shown that such a procedure produced any injustices to, or worked any hardships on, any particular individual, or any great number of individuals, he did not think Government was prepared to alter what had been found to work harmoniously and efficiently in every-day life. The next point was about water. They wished the Kistna to be tapped by means of wells; and Mr. Spring was going to make an experiment which he hoped, if successful, they, as a Municipality, would be able to take up and extend. Naturally they would be expected to bear whatever might be their share of the expenditure. As regards the subject of extension of a branch line of railway to Masulipatam, he was not prepared to say yet that the Government of India would take the matter up. As far as they had gone, they had pressed the matter on its attention; and if at any time the Government of India should not show any willingness to help them, the Madras Government would do its best to do something to push that railway on, which was a most important one. As regards the separation of the revenue and magisterial functions, that scheme was not yet ready to be put forward. It had received the sanction of the Secretary of State, and he thought they would soon be able to introduce it. He quite sympathised with them in its wishes on the subject (Applause). As regards the subject of Forest Laws, he said that the Government had told the Collectors of all districts to meet as much as possible the wishes and requirements of the ryots in the matter of working the Forest Laws; at the same time, it was a

matter of huge national importance that their forests should be preserved. By such preservation of the forests, which were their great property, he looked forward to the day when fuel and fodder might be supplied very cheap, and a large income might be derived, so that a large proportion of taxation which pressed heavily on the people might be abolished. Therefore they must not press the Government to throw away that great prize which was before them, though he thought it was quite right that they should call the attention of Government and Collectors whenever they thought that the Forest Laws were worked with rigour. He was sure that Mr. Arundel would be only too anxious, if he possibly could, to meet their wishes in that direction. Mr. Arundel told him that down the hills certain places were open to cattle, and that where the presence of cattle was absolutely fatal to trees there growing, every one who liked to go and cut grass was allowed to do so free of charge. He thought that the Collector had done in the immediate vicinity of the town all he could to meet their wishes in the matter. In certain places he was bound to say that if the forests were thrown open there would be in course of time neither fuel nor fodder, so that they would be eating up the whole of the fodder of the district, and thus destroying all chance of preserving, as they much wished to preserve, those animals which were valuable for breeding and working purposes. In such hard times as the present, if cattle were allowed in indiscriminately, in a very short time there would be nothing alive. Therefore he hoped they would understand that the Government in this matter was simply doing its duty, and watching the interests of the people at large. In conclusion he thanked the members of the Vijayavada Sabha for the kind words they had used regarding himself and hoped that the gentleman who had presented the address of the Gudivada public would take back with him the assurance of the pleasure he had had at hearing their representations and tell them as regards the railway—the particular point they brought forward—that he hoped Government would do everything to see that that line was completed (loud applause).

Municipal Address at Anantapur.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors and Residents of Anantapur, are glad to avail ourselves of this opportunity of welcoming Your Excellency to our town and expressing our sincere gratitude for the kindness of heart with which Your Lordship braves the heat of the scorching summer sun to alleviate the suffering of the starving poor. It is no small consolation and encouragement to such people to see with their own eyes that, unmindful of personal comfort and under pressure of enormous business, the noble representative of their Gracious Sovereign works for their common good harder than they themselves toil for their daily maintenance. We do not wish to take up Your Excellency's precious time by recounting the various difficulties and troubles of our little Municipality. Most of them have already been brought to Your Excellency's notice officially, and we are sure Government would do its best to help us out of at least some of them. But these dwindle into insignificance when we are face to face with the grim famine bringing in its train distress, disease and death. We would therefore mention, with Your Lordship's permission, one or two points which are connected with the famine relief of this district and which, in the general opinion of the townsmen, are feasible and beneficial under the present circumstances. Your Lordship has no doubt observed that since January last the prices of food-grains in the district have been pretty stationary though very high. This is perhaps due to a large importation of grain from other districts and to the prudent foresight of rich ryots who stored up the produce of their lands in anticipation of an unfavorable season. We would have had cheaper prices ere long, had the charges of transit been minimised by opening the new railway for through traffic without unnecessary delay. Yet the condition of labourers has not improved to any appreciable degree. We fear it will grow worse if the next monsoon does not set in sufficiently early and thereby give an impetus to the suspended agricultural operations. There is not much scarcity of food, but want of useful employment is keenly felt. Your Excellency knows that the majority of the population leads a hand-to-mouth life, depending for daily maintenance on the wages of daily labour. If, as at present, the labourer has no work in the fields and does not get any wages, his distress does not cease with the fall in the prices of grains. He must get money to buy his food, be it cheap or dear. The relief works now opened to help him do not sufficiently pay him for his subsistence. The prescribed famine wages of this district are low. There have been of late strikes of famine coolies. Some of them say they would rather die of starvation than do for one anna and a half a day as much work as they used to do for 3 or 4 annas a day. This is no doubt a foolish idea, but if it gets hold of a large mass of ignorant coolies, the result would be disastrous. We would therefore venture to suggest the desirability of either raising the rates, say to two annas per day, or lightening the task assigned to each famine cooly. The present state of the season threatens to create, if it has not already created, a water famine in many parts of the district. There are many large villages with populations varying from 1,000 to 3,000 that depend for their water-supply mainly on one or two wells giving scarcely a bucketful of water at a time. The soil in many villages is so hard and rocky that it is impossible to dig deeper than a yard or two without the help of the costly and dangerous dynamite and professional skill. The Local-Boards are trying to assist the villagers. But unless a larger expenditure

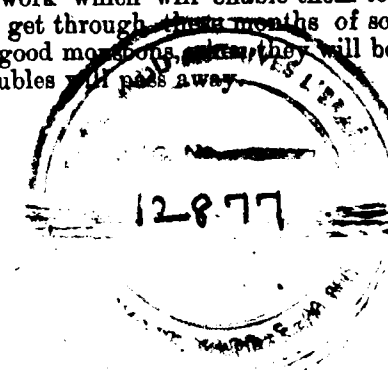
is incurred and Engineers or Overseers are sent out for digging or deepening drinking-water wells, the present distress would assume the most serious aspect. The work should be done departmentally, as the unskilled labour of villagers would be of no avail. Another question we would submit for Your Excellency's consideration is that of feeding the large tanks of Anantapur and Singanamala by means of a channel from the Pennar. This is known as the Bookacherla Project. The work is large enough for purposes of the famine relief. It would provide employment to a very great number of coolies for a considerable time. It would be a source of unfailing supply to numerous minor tanks as well. The general condition of the district would materially improve, as large areas now lying waste would be brought under wet cultivation. We think any amount of money spent on this project would not be spent in vain. We beg to conclude with most heartily welcoming and thanking Your Excellency, and with a fervent prayer to the Almighty that He may shower His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock.—Anantapur, 26th April 1892.

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you for the kind words of welcome you have addressed me on coming to Anantapur again, the second time I have had the pleasure of paying you a visit. The first time I came here with the view of consulting Mr. Underwood and the officers of the district as to the works which might be considered necessary to be opened in the event, as was clearly proved, of labour being found necessary to be kept going during this present time of scarcity and distress, in consequence of the failure of the recent monsoons. The work which was then laid out for Anantapur I believe has proved to be amply sufficient for the requirements of the people. At the same time I must observe that we believed that a larger number would come forward in this particular district than we have found now apparently anxious to avail themselves of the opportunities we have given them of finding work at Government relief-works.

You point out in your address that you consider that a good deal of hanging-back has taken place on the part of a great many of the labouring population in consequence of the smallness of the Government wage. Well, I can only say in regard to this that Government are naturally not inclined to give any larger wage than what is found to be absolutely proper for the maintenance and support of the cooly who comes forward to ask for work. This is a question which has naturally occupied the very closest attention of Government; and I do believe myself that the amount of wage which the Government gives to each individual is amply sufficient to keep him in health and strength during the time he is on the work. I have had the opportunity of seeing in different parts of the Presidency, in very large numbers, coolies on relief works. I have given this particular subject my closest attention, and I have found, I may say almost in every case, that where gangs are being worked upon third-class wages they have been supported for months together in a manner which we consider as perfectly satisfactory. The condition of such coolies is in all respects everything one can wish. We do not wish of course to compete in any way with the open market labour, and we are obliged to restrict our wage actually and simply to the amount we find to be sufficient to keep the coolies in proper health and in proper strength. Beyond that I do not think Government should go. You yourselves suggest that the rate should be fixed at 2 annas. If the prices of grain should rise—as it is quite possible to imagine that they may—the wage given would amount to 2 annas or even more; but at the present time we find that the wage given is sufficient.

You point out that a great amount of work is necessary now to be found for the labourers at this particular time of the year; but I am surprised, when I come to this particular district, to find that on two large works close by this particular part, where the employers of labour—the Railway Company—are offering very much higher wages than the Government offer on their works, up till now labourers will not come forward! In Pamidi, which is only 13 miles from here, which is in the middle of what we may consider an affected tract, so much as 4 annas or 5 annas can be earned by a man a day, and 2 annas by a woman by 9 o'clock in the morning, and yet labourers cannot be had. This makes me think that it is quite possible that the necessities of the labouring classes are not quite as great as you point out. This morning I was down at the bridge about three miles from here on the new railway, and the contractor told me that he offered 4 annas for a man and 2 annas for a woman, and that he could not get labourers. The demands of the distressed in this particular district do not seem to be very great, otherwise they would have come forward and testified by their numbers their willingness to accept the wages this work offers. Therefore I can only come to the conclusion that the amount of distress in the Anantapur district cannot be so severe as is represented to be in some quarters; at the same time, I must say that my information leads me to believe that in the south of the district distress is greater than it is in this particular part. We expect to find before very long that larger numbers will come to the works there; and here again I believe that if they will come forward and do an amount of work which will enable them to get third-class wage, they will find themselves perfectly able to get through these months of scarcity and hardship till I hope, by God's blessing, we shall get good monsoons, when they will be able, I believe, to resume their natural avocations and their troubles will pass away.



Among other things you mention in your address there is a suggestion that the task assigned to each famine cooly should be lightened. I would like to point out that the amount of labour asked for from each famine cooly is only one-half of the amount which is considered as an ordinary day's work by an ordinary cooly in better times; therefore I do not think that you can very well say that the Government is asking for a very large sacrifice of labour on the part of the cooly, when he is only asked to do one-half of the amount of work. That task has been decided upon after close consultation with all the authorities concerned, and after very carefully watching the condition of the coolies. You point out that the scarcity of water is very much felt in great many parts. Well, I am afraid your remarks are only too true. The Local Boards are naturally entrusted with this work, and I expect, if they find in any locality that the difficulty of raising water is beyond the means, that they will make some representations to the Collector, so that Government may be informed of them to see whether the assistance required is one that may be most legitimately asked for and most properly met on the part of the Government. The first move in this matter should be made by the Local Boards, which are entrusted with this particular duty. As regards the channel you ask to be brought forward from the Pennar river to fill the tanks not only here but also in Singanamala, from the information I have received up till now I gather that this project has been condemned by the Chief Engineer, not so much on account of the actual difficulty of the work concerned as of the abstraction of water from the river which is now taken up not only in Nellore, but in various other places; and if an outlet were constructed in the place you point out, these people who are now deriving water for irrigation and other purposes from this river there, will be deprived of the water they now enjoy. However, I will have this point looked into, and if it is found feasible to carry out this work, I will see that proper steps are taken; but I am afraid I cannot encourage you very much from what I have already learnt on the matter. I do not know about the engineering part of the question, but shall be able to send you a correct answer as to what the Engineers have to say on the point.

I think these are the different points which are brought to my notice, and I hope I have been able to satisfy you in all these various matters. Government is as anxious as you are to see that everything that can be done for the alleviation of the distress of the people is being done, and any mistakes that are being made I believe we shall be able to detect. The subject is receiving the most anxious and careful attention of Government. We have various works in the various districts which are carefully supervised and watched; we hear everything about them every week; and the amount of work that is done is very carefully watched, and you may depend upon it that if we are found in any way falling short of efforts to keep the people not only alive, but in a proper condition of health, that matter will most certainly be attended to and, if necessary, proper alterations and modifications will be made. In conclusion, I beg to thank you very much for the kind manner in which you have received me on this occasion, and hope that the next time when I come round to Anantapur it will be at a time when all the present symptoms of trouble will have passed away and when I may have the pleasure of congratulating you on a more propitious season (loud applause).

His Excellency's Speech at Distribution of Prizes of the American Mission Middle School, Madanapalle.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The distribution of prizes being over, it remains for me to express to you the very great pleasure I feel in having had an opportunity to take part on this interesting occasion of the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the arrival of this mission in this country. From the report just read, I see there are 56 pupils on the rolls, receiving good and sound instruction within the walls of their school. I am particularly gratified to find that not only is there provision made for the literary education of the children attending these schools, but their mental training is also looked to. Another satisfactory feature in the management of this particular institution is the arrangement made for imparting a knowledge of technical branches, so that it may be said that here the two kinds of instruction necessary for a boy to acquire are going together hand-in-hand; so that not only are provided opportunities here for raising the tone and the intelligence of the pupil, but also to fit him out for higher spheres of life. I am much pleased with the appearance of these boys, who are bright and cheerful over their prizes. I beg once more to repeat my thanks for the honour you have done me in making me preside on this extremely interesting occasion.—28th April 1892.

Address at Madanapalle High School.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the teachers and the pupils of the Madanapalle High School, beg most respectfully to approach Your Excellency with this our humble welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our school.

We welcome Your Excellency first as the Chancellor of the University that has acquired the rare honour of having been the first to confer on duly qualified teachers the Degree of Licentiate in Teaching, which has tended to raise the dignity of the hitherto neglected, and at the same time holy, profession of Teaching.

Next we welcome Your Excellency as the President of the Council of Fort Saint George that has recently effected many salutary improvements in matters educational, such as the present Educational Rules, the transference of the Training Institutions from the management of the Local Boards to the direct control of the department, the present Fee Notification, and the formation of a standing Text-Book Committee.

Once more we welcome Your Excellency as the representative in this Presidency of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress Victoria, who gave Her Royal Consent to the famous Educational Charter of India, viz., Sir Charles Wood's Despatch of 1854.

At the same time, during Your Excellency's Chancellorship many improvements have also been effected in the constitution of the University and the bye-laws relating to its Examinations. All these have tended to better immensely the quality and tone of training of the younger generation in the schools of our Presidency.

All the above reforms introduced during Your Excellency's administration obviously testify to the deep interest which Your Excellency has been taking in the education of the people confided to Your Excellency's charge.

It therefore gives us pleasure to acquaint Your Excellency with the educational concerns of this small town of Madanapalle, which is slowly becoming an important place by the introduction of railway and telegraphic communications.

We however believe that Your Excellency is already aware that this district, as a whole, is one of the most backward parts of this Presidency. In the whole district there are but two important localities, viz., Cuddapah and Madanapalle, which have been maintaining institutions up to the Matriculation standard, and of these the High School at Cuddapah is the only institution that is supported by a public body. Our little town cannot boast of a High School maintained either by Government or by the Local Fund Board, and the little that is being done now to promote secondary education is due to the earnest efforts of some philanthropic gentlemen. While these gentlemen are very anxious to encourage education in every way, and appreciate the lessons of self-reliance, they cannot but regret that the general public have not as yet reached that stage of enlightenment where they might lend a helping hand to the cause of education. It is therefore very desirable that the only institution now in existence at Madanapalle should be placed on a safer footing. We have reached a crisis in the educational history of the town where private effort alone cannot do all that is necessary. We therefore earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to devise such means as may be necessary to guarantee the stability of the present institution.

We further beg to state that the school is at present located in two buildings; the three Lower Secondary classes in this Government building and the three Upper Secondary classes in a rented building opposite to the Sub-Collector's office at the other end of the town. It is therefore necessary for the convenience of all concerned with the school that the present building should be extended so that the whole school may be located here.

We most respectfully pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to accord sanction for the extension of this Government building.

In conclusion we beg most respectfully to submit our hearty thanks to Your Excellency for honouring our school with a visit, and earnestly pray to God for the long life and prosperity of Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock.—29th April 1892.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency assured them of his sympathy and promised to give the subject his consideration when it came up.

Address of the Townspeople of Madanapalle.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the townsmen of Madanapalle and neighbouring places, most respectfully beg to assure Your Excellency that it gives us very great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency to our parts as the representative of our beloved Queen-Mother, whose benign rule has ensured the safety of our lives and property, has raised our condition intellectually, socially and morally, and has showered on us a thousand and one blessings such as we never enjoyed under any other rule. Being grateful for the innumerable benefits that we have derived from British rule, and proud to be the subjects of a Sovereign whose Empire is founded not upon military valour and military power, but upon the loyal feelings, love and affection of the millions of Her Majesty's subjects, we have found it impossible to look upon the domestic calamities and sorrows of our Queen as not our own, and we therefore most sincerely deplore the death of Her Majesty's Grandson, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale; and if human condolence can be of any avail, we sincerely assure Your Excellency that the hearts of the loyal people of these parts now pulsate with the heart of Her Majesty, and that we mourn the loss as deeply as all other faithful subjects of Her Majesty.

To Your Excellency we are very deeply thankful for honouring us with this visit; for we hope that this tour of Your Excellency will be productive of results beneficial to the suffering people of the sub-division. We wish we could give a more joyful welcome and a better report of our condition on the present occasion; but at this unfortunate moment we are in the midst of one of those bitter experiences so common in this country at the end of every ten years or so, the prevention of which has been a serious problem both for the Government and the people to solve. We are entirely at the mercy of the capricious, uncertain, tantalising monsoons, and the failure of even a single harvest causes not a little anxiety and misery to our ryot population. All the irrigation works of our parts are only rainfed, and all our food-crops cannot thrive without timely rainfall. What is most deplorable this time is the fact that a severe famine has overtaken us before our people have had time to recover from the effects of the terrible famine of 1876-77, which had caused the greatest loss of life in this district and contributed largely to the desertion of whole villages and hamlets, and which would have led to the extermination of a still greater portion of our population had it not been for the most willing help that our benign Government, under the presidency of His Excellency the Duke of Buckingham and Chaudos, had rendered and for the most loving paternal care exercised by it. This time also we have the satisfaction to see that the Government is as ready as ever to come to our help, and one of the unmistakeable proofs of this readiness is the visit of Your Excellency at this time of the year, when the solar heat is unusually powerful, and when travelling must be most trying, intolerable and enervating. Not only this, we are also thankful to the chief Administrative Officers, and we are glad that our Sub-Collector and Collector have been doing their best to mitigate misery and suffering. We are also conscious that our authorities recognised the existence of distress here in due time, and we are also alive to the difficulties of organising proper relief works in affected parts. Therefore, it is no small satisfaction to us to find that while the authorities are not to waste the tax payers' money without advantage to the country, they have not been sparing any pains to save the people from impending starvation.

With regard to the effects of the Great Famine of 1876-77 in this district, we most respectfully beg to invite Your Excellency's kind attention to the Census figures of 1871 and of 1881. According to the Census figures of 1871 our district exhibited a population of 1,351,194, but in the subsequent Census we had only a population of 1,121,038, the loss being 239,156. That the sub-division of the district, consisting of the four taluks of Madanapalle, Kadiri, Ráya-chóti, and Váyalpád, must have suffered most terribly, goes without saying, for we had no railway communication at the time and all our people lived in out-of-the-way places.

But now, under Your Excellency's Government, we rejoice to find that the great civilizer of mankind, the Steam-engine, has now been doing us excellent service by facilitating the transport of grain and maintaining a constant grain-market. During the progress of these railway works, many of the laboring classes had lucrative employment, and since the completion of these works, grain trade has been rapidly increasing. This we regard as one of the greatest blessings conferred on us by the Government. We feel also deeply thankful for the proposed extension of the telegraphic line from Chinnatippasamudram to Madanapalle. But with regard to railways, there is yet another want which we humbly beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice. We have as yet had no railway line to communicate with the adjacent parts of Mysore, which produce very large quantities of ragi, the staple food-grain, and therefore it will certainly be a very great boon if a railway line from Chinnatippasamudram or Kuruvalakota should pass through the towns of Madanapalle and Punganúr and join the Madras Railway line at Kolar Road Station or some other station close by. We hope there are not many engineering difficulties, and pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to sanction its construction at an early date, so that it may also serve as a relief work to all classes of laborers.

With regard to the relief works, we attach the greatest importance to the principle of providing labour to the suffering people near their own homes, and also to the principle of spending money on reproductive works. There are, we believe, a very large number of minor irrigation works in this sub-division, and they may be selected in preference to road works. We understand that the importance of this principle has already been sufficiently appreciated by the Government, but what we now wish to submit for the kind consideration of Your Excellency, is a general complaint here and there, that the rates allowed for these works are much less than the rates given in ordinary times. No doubt there is now a keen competition among laborers, but as the cost of living is much higher at the present time, it is earnestly hoped that the rates may not be curtailed in the case of works given on contract, since the contractors, who are in many cases the village officers, would try to reduce the wages even lower than those prevailing in Government relief works; the consequences of such a curtailment would lead to the undesirable increase of numbers on works conducted under direct Governmental supervision, and it will also be not strictly reasonable on the part of Government to expect to get their works done at a lower cost during famine than during ordinary times. Contract labour in these cases saves the trouble of constant supervision and leaves the workmen and their employers to arrange their own terms, and the Government will be, to a great extent, relieved of the responsibility of opening relief kitchens in these places, as the workmen being paid their normal or somewhat reasonable rates, can take care of themselves, their children and also their helpless dependants. But if the contract rates are reduced, the work will not only be not attractive to contractors, but the effect will also be to induce labourers to flock to relief works in great numbers.

With regard to relief works, the general complaint is that the wages given are very low. We do not advocate the principle that the Government should spend public money extravagantly. But what we beg to submit for the consideration of Your Excellency is, the wages paid to coolies might at least give them their ordinary subsistence. We are aware of the numerous difficulties of setting tasks to the people, of measuring them and apportioning wages according to these measurements. But considering that weak women, nursing mothers, and also delicate children have to come from long distances and are to work in the heat of the sun all day, considering also the fact that only those who cannot find any other sort of works under private employers come to Government relief works as the last resort to save their lives, we would earnestly bring to Your Excellency's notice the necessity of devising some sort of plan or system by which the minimum wages of labourers *actually disbursed* may not fall below what is indispensable for the necessities of life. We trust that the cases of nursing mothers, little children, and very old and incapable persons will receive sufficient attention.

There is another point which is as important as the wages of labourers. At present there are no resting sheds for the coolies at the works now under Government supervision. In the case of coolies who come from great distances, and also in the case of all ordinary coolies wishing to take rest for a few hours after their work is done, resting sheds in or near the site of work are, we believe, absolutely necessary.

In the matter of granting loans for digging wells, it gives us very great pleasure to inform Your Excellency that our popular Sub-Collector, Mr. J. N. Atkinson, has made very creditable progress in the disposal of applications. Had it not been for this circumstance, the condition of the people would have been much worse. These well works are giving employment to many able bodied men and women, and have done much to discourage coolies from resorting to Government relief works in great numbers. They have also brought under cultivation many lands, which it would have been impossible to cultivate at this time of the year by any other means. But there is, as yet, one obstacle to the free extension of cultivation under wells. The great waste of cattle power involved in raising water from deep wells has been a discouraging circumstance to ryots to undertake cultivation under wells. If some kind of efficient pumps or other appliances calculated to economise cattle power could be introduced and their efficacy demonstrated by Government, it will give a fresh impetus to the digging of wells on a larger scale than hitherto. These appliances to be attractive must be not only cheap, but their mechanism must be most simple. Government may also undertake to dig some wells as famine works and use pumps or other appliances so as to convince the people of their special value. We would also make one other suggestion respecting this subject, viz., that Government should remit the loan advanced in all cases where the work fails from causes over which the ryot has no control.

Next in importance to relief works, and all manner of giving relief to famine-stricken people, stands the question of granting remissions for lands left waste. During the last three years the agricultural outlook has been throughout of a gloomy character; and this year we are in the midst of a famine which threatens to cause serious suffering and much alarm. If the next monsoon should, unfortunately for us, fail, then the result would be most disastrous to the country, and would cause no small amount of anxiety and trouble to our benevolent administrators. It will, therefore, be necessary to grant remissions on a large scale for lands left waste and we would suggest that Your Excellency will be pleased to order remissions being granted on dry lands *also*, of ryots who, through no fault of their own, have had to leave their lands uncultivated.

One exceptional feature of the present distress is the want of drinking water for men and animals. This water famine is unprecedented. All the best wells, springs, and channels have failed; and unless something is done to provide deep wells for all communities in towns and villages, the suffering will be immense. In this connection we regret very much to inform Your Excellency that the cattle of many villages are being taken under the scorching sun to distant lands for want of water and fodder. It would, therefore, be desirable to provide some wells for the use of cattle and men in places where they are most needed, and this, we beg to suggest, may be undertaken as a relief work.

With regard to forest administration, our ryots complain very bitterly of the undue severity of the Forest Laws. We most respectfully beg to submit, for the kind consideration of Your Excellency, that many of the hills and jungles now constituted into reserved forests are devoid of vegetation. They contain no forest trees nor any timber worth preserving nor any large quantity of fuel. Hence the reservation of such places has been felt to be a great hardship by the ryots. To live in the close proximity of forest reserves has become very troublesome; for it is often complained that the slightest straying of cattle in or near the reserves is sure to involve the neighbouring ryots in prosecutions under the Forest Law. In our humble opinion it is necessary to release some of the hills and jungles that have been reserved and to place them at the disposal of the ryots either for grazing or other purposes, and also to relax some of the forest rules.

We may also bring to Your Excellency's notice the high rates of seigniorage that are being now charged for grazing cattle in reserved jungles and also for leaves. Considering the extreme

poverty of the ryots of these parts, considering also the fact that the majority of our population have only a hand to mouth existence, we earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to reduce these rates.

No doubt it is very good to reserve fine and productive forests. There seems, however, to be a tendency to show an increase in the acreage of reserved forest year after year, and this causes the reserving of almost all the hills at some time or other to the great detriment and inconvenience of the public.

The ryots of the town of Madanapalle and the surrounding villages are put to great inconvenience by the reserve of Madinikonda which is the only hill near Madanapalle that has any fodder during the hot weather. The recent destruction of several cattle by cheetahs in that hill amply testifies to the loss and danger that may be caused to the inhabitants of the town by reserving it. We therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to order this and similar hills to be removed from the category of reserved forests.

With regard to matters "Medical," we are very glad to inform Your Excellency that we have a very useful Local Fund dispensary presided over by Mr. T. Ward, a Medical officer of no less than thirty years' experience and skill, whose amiable qualities have endeared him to all classes and whose benevolent influence has done much to popularise the institution. We learn that the funds for the supply of medicines to the public are insufficient to meet the wants of the people and we therefore solicit Your Excellency to order sufficient pecuniary help being rendered to this most deserving institution.

We hear that, at the suggestion of our Local Fund Board, the Government has authorised the levying of house-tax in this town and also in some adjoining villages. We regret to inform Your Excellency that the time is most inopportune for levying it, as the people do now find it a serious problem to keep the wolf from the door. Considering the present state of the season, we would earnestly pray that the levy of the house-tax be postponed till prospects improved.

We beg to bring to Your Excellency's kind notice the proximity of the toll-gates to the towns, which necessarily causes great hardship to the agricultural classes. The Government has already noticed this tendency, but we pray that a distinct ruling be passed to the effect that gates shall not be established within certain limits of the town.

Of all the topics which deserve our careful attention, the subject of education stands foremost in the ground. We regret to inform Your Excellency that our district in point of education is one of the most backward parts of the Presidency; and in spite of the poverty of the people, some of the citizens have been endeavouring to the best of their power to maintain a high school accessible to all the four taluks of the sub-division. The school has had no support whatever either from the Local funds or the Provincial funds. During the last four years, that is ever since the abolition of the only First-grade Middle school in the whole district, which was under the direct management of the Local Fund Board, Madanapalle, the amount spent by the Board on secondary education in the sub-division amounted to Rs 67. Considering the educational wants of the sub-division, this sum is exceedingly small. We are fully aware that Your Excellency takes a very deep interest in educational matters and as it is important that the school, now solely supported from fees and private subscriptions of a few philanthropic gentlemen, should be kept up in efficient working order, we earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to render such help as it may be in the power of the Government to do.

After four years' struggle and toil, we have at last been able to secure but one High school for the whole town; and in a place like this, where the general public have not so far advanced in enlightenment as to appreciate and work in the cause of education, Government help is indispensable. We therefore respectfully solicit that Your Excellency will be pleased to give sufficient encouragement to the present institution which is now entirely managed by a private body composed of educated and enlightened gentlemen. But if the school is to be permanently self-supporting and is not to depend upon the unaided individual efforts of a few of the members of managing body, and if the school is to be maintained in an efficient working order, we beg to submit that either the Government or the Local Fund Board will have to render substantial help and give it sufficient stability. We therefore implore that Your Excellency will be pleased to induce the Local Fund Board to maintain the school for ever. In this connection we beg to add that the Local Fund Board does not maintain any High school in the whole district, and that, therefore, it would be easy for it to undertake the upkeep of the present institution. We trust that this suggestion will meet at Your Excellency's hands a most sympathetic consideration.

As regards primary education, we are happy to see that it is receiving sufficient help and support from Your Excellency's Government. We most cordially thank Your Excellency for the progress that is being made in this direction. It, however, behoves us to state in this connection, that one community to which the benefits of primary education ought to be extended have not, as yet, been enabled to take advantage of it. This is no other than our Pariah community, which, we are sorry to say, still remains in the background of human progress and enlightenment.

We therefore crave Your Excellency to direct steps being taken to establish schools for the exclusive use of this most backward class.

We are also glad to inform Your Excellency that this town has a Muhammadan Primary School for the exclusive use of Muhammadan boys and girls. This useful institution is maintained by the Local Fund Board and has been making satisfactory progress.

With regard to female education we feel grateful to the American Missionaries for the upkeep of a caste girls' school in the town. We however feel bound to state that greater facilities will have to be given for the extension of female education in this country; and we therefore most humbly beg to suggest to Your Excellency the expediency of starting a few Government girls' schools on a sound and secular basis.

In conclusion we once more beg to cordially welcome Your Excellency to our parts, and feel very grateful for this visit, which is a rare honour done to us. We pray that the Dispenser of All Good will shower His choicest blessings upon Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock, and grant Your Excellencies long life and prosperity.—29th April 1892.

His Excellency's Reply.

After thanking the Deputation for the lengthy address and after acknowledging the condolences contained in the address in connection with the death of the Duke of Clarence, the Governor expressed himself pleased with the words of appreciation in which the people of Madanapalle spoke of the zeal and energy with which the District officers of Cuddapah worked to relieve distress. He was sorry that during the last famine the catastrophe was so immense, but now that they were provided with a railway and other facilities of communication, he hoped that the injury this time, in case the present distress deepened, would be far less disastrous. As regards the railway from Chinnatipasadram to join the Madras Railway at Kolar Road, or some other station, asked for in the address, the Governor said that Provincial Governments had no power to construct railways, but the power rested only with the Government of India; but from what he knew of the attitude of the Government of India in this respect, he was sorry he could not hold out any hope to them in that direction. With regard to the complaint that the contract labour gave the coolies very small wages, His Excellency said that the system of placing the headman of a village in charge of village relief works was that relief should be administered to deserving poor, as he would be able to detect the really deserving cases and bring them on the relief works. With regard to the question of wages, His Excellency said that if Government gave full wages it would upset the labour market and continued: "It was lately urged that the existing third-class wage is lower than that introduced in January 1877, at the instance of Sir Richard Temple. This, however, is incorrect. The third-class wages for men and for boys above 12 years of age and nursing mothers, who also get the man's wage, is in excess of the Temple wage by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of grain and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an anna. For women, including girls above 12 years of age, the third-class wages exceed the Temple rates by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of grain and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an anna. For girls and boys between 7 and 12 years of age, the third-class wage exceeds the Temple wage by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of grain and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an anna. As compared with the wage introduced by the Madras Government in May 1877, in supersession of the Temple wage, the present third-class wage for men, nursing mothers and boys above 12 years of age is equal to it, when prices are at 7-7 seers per rupee and better when they are dearer, but is lower when prices are cheaper than that sum. In the case of children between 12 and 7 years, as in the case of men, the third-class wage is equal when prices are at 7-7 per rupee, being better when they are dearer and worse when they are cheaper. In the case of women the present third-class wage is better than the highest wage given to women during the last great famine by $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of grain. It should be pointed out also that no gang is limited to the third-class rates and that every gang by increased exertion may now earn the second-class or even the first-class wage, both being largely in excess of anything that could have been earned during the past famine. The classification of a gang as a third-class gang instead of a second-class or first-class gang has no other effect than the favorable one of assuring to it a somewhat higher rate of pay for doing a third-class task than it would get if it did only that amount when classed as a first-class or a second class gang. With regard to resting sheds, they were now provided on large works and they would be extended to the smaller ones too as funds allowed:—Turning next to the subject of loans for digging wells, the Governor was pleased that they were able to speak so well of Mr. Atkinson. He said that after the present period of scarcity passed away Mr. Atkinson's administration of the district during this period would be long remembered by those wells, which he hoped were good barriers against future famines. In the matter of remissions, the local officers had power to grant remission, and he was sure that good deserving cases would be properly attended to by Mr. Wolfe-Murray during his jamabandi. As regards relaxing the forest rules, the Governor said that the protection of the forests was for the good of the people, and an indiscriminate opening of the forests would be productive of harm. As regards the levying of the house-tax, he said that their Board was the only one in the district that did not levy a house-tax, and that the many demands they were making on the resources of the Board, if to be met, must be met from increased funds. It was a tax which other places than Madanapalle paid, and they ought legitimately to pay too. As regards the removal of toll-gates to a sufficiently long distance from

the town to enable the ryots to carry manure without octroi duties, the Governor said that ryots used the roads as much as others, and it was only fair that they should pay for the use they made of the roads. As regards the Pariah question, the Governor said that he was glad that the long-neglected class were beginning to receive attention at the hands of their more cultured brethren. Any scheme that might be started to ameliorate their lot would have his sympathy and encouragement. He was glad also that the Muhammadan community were understanding the value of education and bestirring themselves to compete with their Hindu brethren. If they did not exert themselves and compete properly with them, they would be left behind in the roll. He then concluded by returning thanks to the people of Madanapalle for the reception they had given them, and wished them a happier and a more prosperous season.

His Excellency's Speech at Distribution of Prizes of American Mission School, Punganur.

GENTLEMEN,—I am sure you all here who are interested in this school must have listened with great interest to the report that has just been read by the headmaster. It tells of a year of a good many anxieties and of a good many troubles such as naturally befall any institution which attempts to raise itself above the standard of ordinary elementary education in this country, and to soar into higher and more elevated regions. Your school has just become a High school, and I am glad to hear from the report that in this particular school you passed no less than four at the last Matriculation examination,—a condition of affairs which I think, I must say, cannot but reflect credit on those concerned in its management. I must also say in passing that this is the second school of which I have had the opportunity of visiting and distributing prizes since I have arrived in this part of the country, both under the management of Mr. Chamberlain, and that I cannot help being struck at the admirable manner in which he and those who are working with him are carrying on this extremely good work; and I think he really deserves our best congratulations on the results he has been able to show. On arriving here, I am also pleased to note the great interest taken in the cause of education by your chief nobleman in this part of the country, the Zemindar of Punganur, and to find that here he not only assists most liberally by giving a large grant to the school but also does more by the example which he sets by sending his own sons to take part in the education which is imparted here (applause). I must say it has given me special satisfaction this afternoon, sitting in this chair as President of the meeting, to have given prizes to two of his sons (applause), and I congratulate them very much on the position which they have occupied in this school. I am glad to notice this, because I do not think it can be too sufficiently impressed upon all those in this part of the country what great advantages good education brings with it; and I am sure the Zemindar fully appreciates the advantages he can get here, and I trust that his good example will not be thrown away on those who are lower in station than he himself and who occupy different positions in society. Everybody is aware of the enormous advantages which education gives in this country, and finds how impossible it is to get on in any of the professions you may take up unless you receive sound education. It is a matter of congratulation to note the nature of education imparted here; and it is especially gratifying to me on coming here to find this good work going on and flourishing as it appears to be under the present system and under the present management. I beg to thank you, Sir, for the kind manner in which you have referred to me in the report, and I can only say that I shall have much satisfaction and pleasure in putting down my name on the books which I have had the pleasure to distribute as prizes (loud applause).—14th May 1892.

Address of the Inhabitants of Palmaner Town.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Palmaner Town and neighbouring places, beg to inform Your Excellency that we feel a great pleasure in welcoming Your Excellency to these parts, as the representative of Her Majesty, our well-beloved Queen, the Empress of India. Being loyal and grateful for the hundreds of benefits in various forms which we have been enjoying during Her Majesty's peaceful reign, we assure Your Excellency that the recent calamity in the household of Her Majesty which presses so heavily on Her Majesty's heart has rendered our hearts equally doleful, as if it were our own.

To Your Excellency we owe our hearty thanks for honoring us with this visit; for we feel confident from what we have heard and from what we have seen of Your Excellency's benign administration, that this visit of Your Excellency will be productive of many good results to the distressed millions. We are glad to inform Your Excellency that during the able administration of our popular Collector W. J. H. LeFanu, Esq., B.A. and Barrister-at-Law, we have lacked nothing that we could obtain from him. He has diffused love instead of dread among our ryot population. He has been always ready to hear the complaints of his ryots and he has been equally prompt in lending help to the distressed. Yet there are many things which it may not be in his power to grant, but which we should hope to obtain at the hands of Your Excellency.

The readiness with which Your Excellency has always held out the helping hand to the distressed has given us courage to explain our grievances and has inspired us with a hope that all our prayers will not pass unheeded.

We regret to say that we are entirely at the mercy of the capricious monsoons, and that all the tanks in our taluk are purely rainfed. Therefore the anxiety which a little delay in the rainfall causes to a ryot can be easily imagined. The distress which the deficiency of rain during last monsoon has caused is manifold and great. The tanks have been dry and cattle, which form the only property of a ryot in India, have been deprived of water and fodder. And we regret to say that the rigid rules of the Forest Department have only tended, at least at present season, to consummate these difficulties of our poor ryot population. A glance on either side of the road over the tank bunds over which Your Excellency has now to pass will convince Your Excellency of the truth of what has just been said.

To obviate the difficulties arising from the uncertainty of monsoons has been a problem for Government and the public to solve; and attempts were once made to solve this problem in 1866 and 1867 and again in 1883, during the presidency of Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, when it was proposed to lead a canal from the Kowdinniya river through the Punjani tank, after the construction of its bund, in Punganur zemindari, seven miles from this place, to several tanks. On the first occasion, that is in 1866 and 1867, a few thousand rupees were spent in finding out the level and course of the proposed canal, the vestiges of which still remain in the town of Palmaner to be seen even now. It was then found that it was feasible to lead a canal along the line then surveyed by the Engineering Department, and the old Pymash Records also would show that the water of the Punjani tank was once irrigating the lands of some neighbouring villages of Palmaner taluk as now prayed for. But the works were then stopped, as we learn, in the interests of the Zemindar of Punganur, within whose zemindari tract the proposed canal commences. On the second occasion when His Excellency Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff honoured this place with a visit in 1883, the same proposal was again moved. And His Excellency then replied that orders would be issued for the preparation of estimates for the construction of the proposed canal; and the then Collector of the district, Mr. Stokes, reinvestigated into the matter and reported to the Government that the canal would furnish 127 tanks with water, thereby increasing the revenue of this taluk between 35 and 40 thousands of rupees for a year and that the construction of a canal was very essential for the good of this taluk; but that the works could be postponed to a convenient future, if, at that time, Government could not afford to spare funds on account of the then existing war. Lands belonging to the zemindari in the vicinity of the tank are in such a high level that the water from the tank cannot be utilized for the irrigation of these lands. We respectfully beg to say that any objection on the part of the Zemindar on the score of any loss can be met with by a compensation by way of deduction in his peyshkist, which can be made good from the increase of the taluk revenue. We believe that this question of compensation was already put before the Zemindar by Mr. Stokes, the then Collector, and that the former might have given his consent. If this project were carried into effect, the people would have been relieved of anxiety on the score of tantalising monsoons; many dry cultivation grounds would be converted into wet cultivation grounds and many waste lands would be fit for cultivation and it would fetch far greater amount of revenue to Government, and the people would have been much happier. But the evil star which was hovering over the population of these parts has not allowed the project, which was partially carried into effect, to be completed.

We therefore earnestly pray Your Excellency that this request of ours for the construction of a canal be granted, and thus a boon be conferred on us. We respectfully beg to propose that the canal may be named "Lord Wenlock's Canal." We also earnestly pray that the rigidity of the Forest Rules be relaxed a little so that the cattle which die for want of fodder may be allowed to graze in forests, free of taxation, that the tax on the firewood be reduced, and that timber be supplied gratis to ryots for their agricultural implements, &c.

We are happy to say that we are now enjoying one of those boons which extremely facilitate the means of communication, namely, the telegraphic line; and we feel deeply thankful to Your Excellency for this extension of telegraphic line to this place. We also pray that the Railway communication be extended to these parts which would increase the facilities of trade. We have yet some hope that there are no obstacles for bringing railway through Palmaner, for it was found feasible that a line can run from Chittoor to Kolar road via Palmaner. We now pray that this our proposal might be fulfilled, by the extension of rail through this place, hitherto a secluded one.

We have one more request to make to which we hope that Your Excellency will deign to lend an attentive ear. The Munsif's Court was permanently stationed in this place till 1884. On the representation of Chittoor people, this Court was removed from Palmaner to Chittoor, to the great inconvenience of the people of these parts. On the representation and importunities of the people of these parts at a subsequent date, sanction was accorded by His Excellency Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, for the Court of Chittoor, to hold a sitting of 10 days every 2 months, in Palmaner. Railway communication having now been established between Vellore and Chittoor, the people of Chittoor can experience no inconvenience in case the Court of Chittoor be retransferred to Palmaner. We also learn that Kalahasti zemindari of this district has been

transferred to the jurisdiction of Chingleput district. Hence a necessity arises for certain changes in connection with the jurisdiction of Courts in this district. Under these circumstances, Palmanér would be the central position for the jurisdiction of a Court in the organisation. We therefore earnestly pray Your Excellency that the Munsif's Court may be permanently located at Palmanér, as it was once, for a long time.

We now beg respectfully to represent that we have asked only for four things and hope that they are not too extravagant to meet with Your Excellency's favorable consideration; and we ask them "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened" as the Scripture says.—*Palmanér, 16th May 1892.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for the kind words of welcome that you have received me with on my visit to this, your town, in my tour in this part of the country; and in the first place say to you how grateful I am as representing on the present occasion Her Majesty the Queen-Empress for the kind words of condolence which you offered for her, on the occasion of the deep loss sustained by Her Majesty and the whole Royal Family of England in the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. I am glad to find in this part of the country there is no sign of immediate scarcity or distress, and it has not been found necessary to do what we have done in other places—opening relief works for those who are not able to carry themselves through the present times and gain their livelihood during this particular period of scarcity and pressure. Your neighbours at Punganúr are not so well off as yourselves, and there are at present some 1,200 persons employed on the Government relief works. I have had the opportunity of inspecting them, and I am glad to be able to find that almost all are in good condition; and I have no reason to doubt that the works we have opened will enable them to get through the few weeks with ease and without difficulty until the south-west monsoon will remove their anxiety in this part of the country.

You allude to the exertions which your Collector, Mr. LeFanu, has always taken in meeting all your reasonable requirements and your wishes. I am glad to hear from you, you find in him a sympathetic friend who is always ready as much as he can not only to relieve the distress but to enable those who are willing to help themselves, to be able to work for their livelihood, by advice and assistance, and to do all that he possibly can to promote the welfare of this particular part of the district. You say there are certain points where his unaided powers will not enable him to give you all that you wish. You take the opportunity of my being here and press those particular points, hoping that I may be able to grant them to you. I find the first one you mention is the question of the canal, which you say will fill 127 tanks, and which it will be found possible to be put into execution, for the relief of your anxiety on the score of the scanty supply of water, on account of the rain being short. There is no doubt whatever these sorts of works are of enormous benefit when they can be executed, because you are no longer dependent on the rainfall, which is precarious in this part of India. You naturally look to works of this kind to relieve you from anxiety in occasional times of distress. At the same time I must point out that another good form which will obviate deficiencies of rainfall is found in the construction and in the extension of the system of wells. I only hope it may be found possible in this part of the country to do what we are doing in other parts, namely, wherever possible to make the ryots take advantage of this system, and let them come forward and ask Government to assist them with loans, which we find in other parts, are taken in great numbers by the people, thereby securing themselves against future scarcity or distress. Now, as regards this particular canal, I have not been able to ascertain very clearly from the records in the Collector's office what has been the actual position of affairs. Assuming that all that you have said is correct, there is no doubt that whatever may have gone before, the canal has not been constructed. I do not know myself what the actual reasons are that prevented this work from being carried out, but I will take immediate steps to ascertain the exact position of affairs. If it is found feasible, on investigation, and that the scheme is one which the Government might, with safety, carry out at a reasonable cost, I do not think we shall belong before we accomplish the work. You should understand that the Government cannot undertake it until we ascertain the actual position of affairs. You mention the fact of the Telegraph which is extended to your place being found extremely useful. I believe myself such a work as this is of enormous advantage to the people amongst whom it goes; and I hope it may be found to be a permanent institution. You then ask about a Railway. There is no doubt, as you say, Railways are of great benefit to the places where they go; but as regards your line, I am afraid at the present moment I cannot give you much encouragement. The Government of India, as you are aware, has been at great expense, and laid out a very large sum in extending railways over the worst parts of the Presidency. The last one is that which was actually opened between Villupuram and Guntakal, and that with the Bellary-Kistna line has gone right through the worst parts of the Madras Presidency. I am sure that on the present occasion it has done more than any other work, to alleviate scarcity, which exists at present. There is no doubt whatever that the steadying of prices and the fact they have not run up to any exaggerated extent, is entirely owing to the presence of railways here, because though we find up till now no very large importations of grain have taken place on this railway,

yet the very fact of their being here causes the prices to be steady,—and in fact they have begun to fall appreciably since the beginning of the year. But the Government of India are working, as you know, the East Coast line, which I hope will be some day finished, and which when finished will run right through to Calcutta from Madras, with the purpose of obviating famine in Ganjam and Orissa; and that railway will place another portion of the Presidency, so far as human ingenuity can do, out of reach of the dread consequences of famine. Having done so much, I do not know that it will be wise for you to ask them to make this particular line. You must know the Madras Government has not in itself the power of constructing any line, as it has not the power of the purse, but it is always open to the Government of Madras to represent to the Government of India that, in its opinion, a certain line is desirable. I believe the line which you mention is now in contemplation to be constructed by a Railway Company which will extend the line from Kolar gold fields up to Nellore and so to Bezvada. I do not know what the position of that company is, whether that will be able to effect it or not. But if it is successful, I have no doubt it will bring to you what you require. I am glad to find that if the company can find its way to make this line, this particular part of the country will benefit very much by it. You mention among other things that press hard upon you at the present time is the management of forests in this particular part of the country. I have got a memorandum which I think I had better read to you, as it will enable you, as it has enabled me, to know the exact position of affairs—

"(a) That the cattle, said to die for want of fodder, may be allowed to graze in forests without fees.

"(b) That the tax on firewood be reduced.

"(c) That timber may be supplied gratis to ryots for their agricultural implements. In regard to grazing, the accompanying memorandum has been issued as a standing circular for the guidance of the district officers. In this, provision has been made prescribing half the maximum of the seigniorage rates as per margin, as grazing fees for agricultural cattle—

						Per annum per head.		
						RS.	A.	P.
Buffaloes, bulls, cows	..	..	..	..	..	0	4	0
Bullocks and calves	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	0

"Non-agricultural cattle will, under these instructions, be allowed to graze when the requirements of the agricultural cattle have been satisfied, and full fees have been proposed to be charged in their case. These instructions have not been brought into force this year owing to the unfavorable character of the season, and, as usual, only half the fees have been levied this year in respect of all cattle last year when the distress was begun to be felt keen, i.e., about June, August. Free permits were, on the application of the divisional officers, issued to Tahsildars for distribution to deserving ryots, and about 20 permits fell to the share of Palmanér. This year the season has not yet taken such a turn as to necessitate the throwing open of the forests for free grazing. Already there are symptoms of a favorable south-west monsoon which, it is hoped, will obviate the necessity for adopting such a course. The next prayer of the memorialists is that the tax on firewood be reduced. The fees chargeable for firewood are as shown below:—

						Green wood.			Dead wood.		
						RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Cart load	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	0	0	5	0
Bullock load	..	..	..	..	..	0	4	0	0	1	0
Ass load	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	0	0	0	6
Head load	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	0	0	0	3

"There were four coupes under felling up to the end of the last official year, one worked departmentally at a distance of five miles to the south of Palmanér, and three let out to contractors under the coupe system of felling, one of these latter being situated at a distance of about four miles to the north-east of Palmanér. The contractors in all the coupes were bound to sell to ryots at rates not exceeding the seigniorage rates quoted above and to be responsible for right felling of the wood. To take the coupes that have been worked nearer the Cusba and its adjacent villages which the memorialists represent, there is the Musalimadugu reserve to the south of Palmanér, where departmental felling is carried on and firewood sold at Re. 1 a cart load at the coupe. It is, however, said that people do not resort to this owing to the distance (5 miles) and difficulty in carting the wood. The contractor of the Mehnoi coupe to the north of Palmanér says that only the sugarcane-growing ryots have purchased wood from his coupe in permits at rates ranging between 5 annas and Rs. 1-4-0 a cart load, that he has also opened an experimental depot at Palmanér for the benefit of the local public, but that there was no demand from the people in general for domestic consumption as the contractor did not and could not make retail sales in quantities less than a cart load. The contractor adds that with difficulty he has been able to sell about 25 cart loads here at Palmanér at Rs. 1-14-0 or Rs. 2 a cart load, that for purposes of cremation. The chief suppliers of fuel to the Palmanér public are the Koravers who bring firewood on asses exclusively from the Punganúr zemindari and Bangari Polliam forests within four miles distance. The seigniorage rates charged in these forests are considerably less and supervision over them must necessarily be so much so that these Koravers naturally prefer to

take wood from the zemindari forests. They sell at 3 annas an ass load (10 ass loads being equal to a cart load) which gives Rs. 1-14-0 a cart load. This is about the same rate which the contractor of Mehnoi has been charging for a cart load at Palmanér, but the Koravers selling in small quantities at the very door of the people and having their wood cut in small pieces fit for immediate use command the fuel market of Palmanér. Under these circumstances it will be impossible for Government or its contractors to compete with these Koravers unless the fees prescribed for dead wood is invariably charged for all wood that may be sold as firewood, or the fees prescribed for green wood are reduced in case of such wood set apart as useful only for fuel. This subject is now engaging the attention in connection with the orders passed on the memorials of the Arni people, and some satisfactory conclusion will be arrived at soon."

You also say that timber may be given gratis to the ryots. In this respect I am afraid I cannot hold out any hopes, in consequence of the difficulty of distinguishing between what is required for agricultural purposes and what is not. It is found almost impossible to make the distinction of exception for which you ask. But what the Government can do is to supply, through its district officers, this timber at as cheap a rate as possible. In connection with this matter I may point out that it is almost impossible in times of drought to throw open the reserved forests to all cattle indiscriminately. The greatest object of Government is to carry through better times the bullocks and the breeding cattle which the ryots should be anxious to have. If you throw open the reserved forests to every one of the cattle to the worthless and should animals which are never useful to anybody, fuel and fodder will entirely disappear in a short time, and also the agricultural cattle and breeding animals will perish altogether. Our only hope is that if we can devise some scheme by which we can carry through necessary and useful animals, so that when better times come the ryots may be enabled to go on with their ordinary operations. If you do not do this, I believe in a very short time no fuel or fodder will be available. At the same time it will be seen that the rates charged would not work hard upon the people, the charge being extremely low—4 annas and 2 annas. I do not know whether anybody who wishes to keep his useful animals alive will complain of the low charges now being levied. While on this subject I may mention that 450 cattle from Cuddapah district, on whom the owners were willing to pay full rates, were turned away for Palmanér grazing reserves in order to leave those reserves open and available for cattle owned by Palmanér taluk people.

The next point that we take up is the question of the Munsif's Court. As regards that, we must understand these Courts are fixed where there is a centre of population and where the means of communication appear to be best. What we have to look to in this connection is the greatest happiness for the greatest number. All I can ascertain is the population of Palmanér cannot be looked upon as such a centre as you would wish it to be looked upon. There is no doubt that the Munsif's Court near a railway affords much more facilities than in the far-off places. But I find you have certain privileges accorded in the matter of the Munsif's Court being held here for 10 days in 2 months. I do not know whether you wish to mention that that is not sufficient for your purpose. Is that so? (Those assembled ryots that they would like to have 20 days.) You know the question of the Munsif's Court will have to be taken up when the transference of Kálahasti to Chingleput district may come up for consideration. In that case the subject of the reorganisation of the Munsif's Court may be considered, and all I can say is, in that event, I hope your request may be found feasible. I cannot say more than that on the present occasion. As matters stand at present, I have to look at it from various considerations, and I cannot promise in this respect your prayer can be met with in full. In reference to these points you end with a quotation which, however appropriate it may be as regards spiritual matters, can hardly be looked upon as fit for the case as regards temporal matters. I am glad to have had the opportunity of hearing all that you have had to say. I hope I have given you to understand that all your various requests and prayers have been most carefully considered, and as far as the Government can act consistently with the requirements of the surrounding population, it will do its best to meet with your wishes and your requests. I beg to thank you very much for the address you have presented me.

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