

EAST INDIA (CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY
KING EDWARD THE VII.).

ACCOUNT

OF THE

DURBAR HELD AT DELHI,

1st JANUARY, 1903.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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No. 1.

Letter from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India, No. 58, Foreign Department, dated Simla, the 7th May, 1903.

We have the honour to furnish Your Lordship, for the information of His Majesty's Government, with an account of the celebrations held at Delhi in December and January last in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty the King, Emperor of India. Copies of the official programmes are enclosed, and, as Your Lordship is aware, a commission to write an official history of the proceedings has been entrusted to Mr. Stephen Wheeler. As a narrative, therefore, this despatch is intentionally brief, and it relates more particularly to the political aspects of this great event.

2. It was in November, 1901, that the intention to hold an Imperial Durbar with the above-named object was first publicly announced. The occasion was the notification of the issue of invitations by His Majesty the King-Emperor to a limited number of Indian Chiefs to attend his Coronation in England; and it was at the same time explained that in order to afford the remaining Chiefs, who could not be present in London, an opportunity of testifying their loyalty to his Throne and Person, His Majesty had instructed the Viceroy to hold a celebration in India at a date subsequent to the English ceremony. In February, 1902, a Proclamation was published in the "Gazette of India," naming Delhi as the place, and the 1st January, 1903, as the date of the proposed gathering: and this was followed by invitations to attend, addressed by His Excellency the Viceroy, to the heads of Local Governments and Administrations, and to the Ruling Chiefs of India. In September, 1902, the news was made public that His Majesty had graciously deputed His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to represent the Royal Family upon this momentous occasion; and the utmost satisfaction was everywhere expressed at this evidence of the warm personal interest taken by His Majesty in the approaching ceremony, and at the high compliment to India which the choice implied.

3. Throughout the summer, and still more after the successful celebration of His Majesty's Coronation in London on 9th August, 1902, our preparations for the forthcoming event in India continued apace; and before the end of the year they had reached so advanced a stage that the most important functions had been several times rehearsed on the spot, and there remained only the arrival of the principal actors on the scene, and the occurrence of favourable weather, to ensure the triumphant realisation of our plans.

4. By the 27th December the principal Ruling Chiefs of India, many representatives of foreign Powers, the leading officials of our Government, and a strong force from the Indian Army had assembled at Delhi, and on the 29th of the month, the ceremonies were inaugurated by the State Entry of His Excellency the Viceroy and Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. His Excellency arrived shortly in advance of Their Royal Highnesses. He was met at the station by the Ruling Chiefs, foreign representatives, and leading officials, and, attended by them, he received Their Royal Highnesses, who had journeyed direct from Bombay. The route of the Entry lay through the principal streets of the city. Preceded by their escorts, the Imperial Cadet Corps, the Viceroy's Body Guard, and their respective staffs, His Excellency and Their Royal Highnesses headed the Procession on magnificently appointed State elephants. Then followed 51 Ruling Chiefs similarly mounted, and riding two abreast, His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Hesse, whose presence at Delhi, as the guest of the Viceroy, was heartily welcomed as an additional evidence of the

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interest of the Royal Family, the Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, and Chief Commissioners of every province of the Indian Empire, and the Commander-in-Chief, each with his escort, the Members of the Viceroy's Council, the Lieutenant-General Commanding Bengal, and Chiefs from Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier, while the elephant retinues of the Chiefs brought up the rear. In this order the procession slowly passed under a cloudless sky through the avenues of the city. The Ruling Chiefs who did not join in the Procession were accommodated in a suitable stand in front of the Town Hall. The galleries of the Jumma Musjid had been placed, by the courtesy of the Managing Committee, at the disposal of the Viceroy for the accommodation of English and European guests. The streets were lined throughout their entire length by troops, and behind the troops there was an immense concourse of spectators. It would be safe to say that no such crowd of persons has ever before been assembled at Delhi. Traffic had been suspended from an early hour, and for four miles the streets, the mosques, the temples, specially erected stands, and every roof and balcony commanding a view, were thronged. Portraits of Their Majesties and loyal mottoes were freely displayed in the native quarters. The brilliance of the spectacle was only equalled by the order and enthusiasm that prevailed. The welcome accorded to Their Royal Highnesses was particularly marked, the affection with which their former stay in this country is remembered enhancing the cordiality of the greeting which all classes were eager to pay to such illustrious representatives of the Royal House. After nearly two hours the Procession, which had passed out of the city, reached its destination in the various Camps, and dispersed.

5. Continuing with the chronological order of events, on the 30th December the Viceroy opened an Exhibition of Indian Art in the Kudsia Gardens. The exhibits were contained in a handsome building specially erected in the Mogul style, and the collection and arrangement had been carried out with great ability by Sir George Watt. The results exceeded our most sanguine anticipations. Unique specimens of ancient art, mostly chosen from the treasures of Native States, and now shown to the public for the first time, were exhibited side by side with a collection of the best art wares of the present day, the object being, as explained in the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy, a copy of which we enclose, on the one hand, to demonstrate the capabilities of indigenous art and, on the other hand, to raise the existing standard by a comparison with the best models of the past. Our sincere thanks are due to the many Chiefs and Native gentlemen who contributed to the loan collections, and who stimulated competition by the offer of rewards to the competing artisans. Many of the latter, together with selected Native officials from all parts of the country, were assisted to visit the Exhibition; and to the public at large, we are glad to say, it afforded considerable attraction. Forty-eight thousand persons paid for admission, and purchases to the value of Rs. 3,62,332 were made. As permanent results, we are hopeful that a much needed impetus may have been given to many deserving branches of Indian art, and that craftsmen and patrons alike will be encouraged to revive the ancient traditions, and to adapt them to the requirements of modern life.

6. Omitting the Durbar, to which we shall refer later, the next important event was the Grand Chapter of the two Indian Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire held on the night of the 3rd January in the Diwan-i-Am, or Hall of Public Audience, in the Palace Fort of the Emperor Shah Jehan. This magnificent structure had, without the smallest injury to, or alteration of, its own features, been enlarged by temporary additions to three times its original size, and had been connected for the occasion by a covered passage with the white marble Diwan-i-Khas, or Hall of Private Audience. So skilfully were these additions made under the supervision of Colonel J. W. Thurburn, R.E., Secretary to the Punjab Government in the Public Works Department, and Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram, Superintendent of Works, that a stranger could hardly distinguish the new building from the old—even in the blaze of light in which the ceremony was held.

The Chapter was attended by 11 Knights Grand Commanders of the Star of India, 15 Knights Grand Commanders of the Indian Empire, 14

Knights Commanders of the Star of India, and 16 of the Indian Empire, 41 Companions of the former, and 110 of the latter Order. It was by far the largest Chapter that has ever been held in India. Nearly 2,000 spectators were present. No less than 74 admissions or promotions in the Orders were made. Among those so honoured were the Chiefs of Charkhari, Cochin, Miraj (Senior Branch), Nabha, Shahpura, Sirmur, Sirohi, Tehri, and Travancore, the Khan of Dir, the Mirs of Hunza and Nagar, and the Mehtar of Chitral.

On the night of the 6th January, the Palace was again the scene of a State Ball, which, from the number of distinguished persons present, and the unique surroundings, has had no equal in this country. Most of the Ruling Chiefs attended, and in all more than 4,000 persons were present.

7. The 4th January being Sunday, Divine Service was celebrated at a specially arranged State ceremony, held in the open air, by the Metropolitan, assisted by the Bishop of Lahore. It was attended by His Excellency the Viceroy, Their Royal Highnesses, and all the officials and European troops present in Delhi.

8. On the 8th January, a Grand Review of the whole body of troops assembled was held on a level plain in the vicinity of the Camps. There were present about 34,000 troops of all ranks under His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Stands were erected for the accommodation of spectators, and many thousands also attended in carriages, on horseback, and on foot. His Excellency the Viceroy rode on to the ground at 11 a.m., with Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Connaught and the Grand Duke of Hesse, and took the salute as the troops marched past. The Review was in all respects a most brilliant success, and produced a marked effect on the many warlike classes present. The Imperial Service Troops were well represented, the Contingents from Alwar, Bhopal, Bikaner, Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha, Patiala, and Sirmur being led past the saluting point by their Chiefs or other members of the ruling family. The enthusiasm created by the appearance of Chiefs of all ages, from the youthful prince, who now occupies the Patiala *gadi*, to the venerable figure of the veteran Sikh Chief of Nabha, will long be remembered by both Chiefs and people, and must tend to strengthen the military ties that unite the different constituents of the Indian Empire.

At Lord Lytton's Imperial Assemblage in 1877, an improvised Review of the Retainers of Native Chiefs preceded the Military Review. On the present occasion a separate morning was set apart for the Retainers' Review, and this ceremony, which took place on the 7th January, was one of the most picturesque and interesting of the celebrations of the fortnight. Some 40 States sent contingents, and great trouble had been taken to give a faithful representation of the old fashioned arms and equipment that are now passing out of use.

9. Owing to the enormous extent of ground covered by the various Camps, and to the press of daily, and even hourly, engagements, it was impossible for His Excellency the Viceroy to receive and return the visits of the unprecedented number of Chiefs and nobles who were present at Delhi. In order, however, to provide an opportunity of meeting all these distinguished personages, and to enable them to meet each other, two parties were given by His Excellency for the Indian guests—one at the Kudsia Gardens on the afternoon of the 2nd January, for official guests other than Chiefs, and one for Ruling Chiefs on the evening of the 9th January, at the Viceroy's Camp.

On the latter occasion an Investiture was held, at which His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, as Great Master of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, invested the Nizam of Hyberabad with the Grand Cross of that Order, an honour which was intensely appreciated by His Highness, and the Maharaja of Kolhapur with the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order. His Royal Highness also presented gold medals to various Chiefs who had attended His Majesty's Coronation in England; and, by His Majesty's Command, His Excellency the Viceroy conferred the honour of Knighthood on several gentlemen.

10. Apart from official functions, the public rejoicings assumed various forms. Thus, on the 2nd January, there was an illumination of the city and a display of fireworks. A military assault-at-arms was held on the 3rd and the 5th January; and on most days there were numerously attended athletic contests, such as polo, football, and hockey, for which prizes were presented by the Viceroy. For the first time in Indian history might be seen on the same ground the game of polo, as still played in the remote mountain States of Hunza and Nagar on one side of India and Manipur on the other, and as borrowed from them and subsequently developed by the English both in India and in England. Concerts also were given by the military massed bands, numbering 2,000 performers, under the direction of Captain G. B. Sanford.

11. From careful enquiries made at the time, we estimate that in addition to the normal population of the city, which was returned at the recent Census as 208,000, not less than 173,000 persons were attracted to Delhi by the Durbar. These figures afford a striking contrast to the 68,000 who were reckoned as having been drawn to Delhi by the Imperial Assemblage of 1877. Lists of the individuals invited by Government, or attending officially, will be found among the enclosures to this despatch; but the following additional details will be of interest. Of the principal Ruling Chiefs 103 were invited and 100 attended. Minor Chiefs were, as a rule, not invited; and any, to whom, for financial reasons, the visit to Delhi might have proved burdensome, were excused. In view of the recent heavy calls that had been made upon some of the Chiefs, mainly in consequence of famine, we were careful to explain that there was no occasion for ostentatious display, and in a few cases we helped to relieve a temporary encumbrance by advancing the necessary funds.

Invitations to attend or to send representatives were also addressed to His Majesty the Shah of Persia and His Majesty the King of Siam, and to Their Highnesses the Amir of Afghanistan, the Sultan of Maskat, and the Maharaja-Dhiraj, of Nepal. These States were eventually represented by General Chowphya Surawongse, the chief personal Aide-de-Camp of the King of Siam, Colonel Muhammad Ismail Khan, the Amir of Afghanistan's Envoy with the Viceroy, the son and heir of the Sultan of Maskat, and the Prime Minister of Nepal. An invitation to depute a representative was also addressed, through His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tokio, to the allied Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The result was a Mission headed by General Baron Yasukata Oku, who, we have reason to believe, appreciated the military manœuvres which preceded the Durbar as highly as did the Indian Army his presence among them.

We also felt that the occasion was one in which it was eminently desirable that our fellow-subjects in the colonies of Australia and South Africa with whom we have so many connections, and who are certain in the future to be brought into much closer contact with India, should be afforded an opportunity of participating. The invitations which the Viceroy addressed to their Governments were responded to by the deputation of Sir Richard Baker, President of the Federal Senate, from the former, and Sir Richard Solomon, Attorney-General of the Transvaal, from the latter.

Their Excellencies Colonel Sir Eduardo Galhardo, K.C.I.E., Governor-General of Portuguese India, and Mons. Victor Lanrezac, Governor of the French Settlements in India, and the leading members of the Foreign Consular Body in India, also honoured us by assisting at the ceremonies as our guests.

Further, with a view to giving to the world at large a full, immediate, and unbiassed account of the celebrations, we invited the leading journals of the United Kingdom and India to depute their representatives to attend the Durbar as our guests; and we extended similar hospitality and facilities to any other influential journals which applied to us. We have every reason to be grateful to those who profited by our invitation, for the admirable accounts of our proceedings, which they circulated by telegraph and post to all parts of the world.

12. In inviting the attendance of the heads of Local Governments and Administrations, we intimated that they should be accompanied by a limited number of the members of their administration, leading officials, native noblemen and gentlemen, and heads of representative bodies.

All the Europeans thus invited were treated as the personal guests of the head of the province or administration to which they belonged, and were accommodated in the head-quarters or Central camp of the province. The Ruling Chiefs with the Political Officers attached to them were encamped in separate camps grouped territorially, and the native noblemen, officials and others were, for the most part, in separate Provincial camps, while some secured accommodation in the city and civil station of Delhi.

The Central Camps, including those of His Excellency the Viceroy, the various Local Governments and Administrations, the Commander-in-Chief and the Provincial Commands, and the Foreign and Press Camp, occupied a site historic in the annals of 1857, below the famous Ridge. The population of these camps alone, including followers, numbered over 13,000; and considerations of space and sanitation demanded the location elsewhere of the Provincial Camps with their 35,000 inhabitants, of the Military Camps with their strength of 56,000, and of the miscellaneous camps, which sheltered another 12,000. The most convenient sites were selected, but, even so, they extended over an area of 40 square miles, while the remaining 57,000 of additional population found quarters in the city and civil station. A map, showing the location of the different camps, with the railways and roads, is one of the enclosures with this despatch.

13. It will be readily understood that an encampment of this size entailed elaborate preparations. Many thousands of tents had to be collected. Camp sites had to be levelled, and 40 miles of new roads were constructed. A 2' 6" gauge light railway, 7 miles in length, was built to connect the city with the Central Camp and the Durbar Amphitheatre, and carried 102,098 passengers from first to last, exclusive of 850 holders of season tickets; extensions were also made from existing main lines to facilitate the delivery of the heavy material for the Camp. The existing water-supply was supplemented by 72 reservoirs, 45 wells, and 38 miles of pipes; and 2,475 persons were employed as a special sanitary staff. Special telegraph, telephone, and postal services were organised; and the Central Camp, the Fort, and the principal streets of the city were lighted by electricity, plant which had already been ordered by our Military Department for the lighting and ventilation of barracks, being utilised for the purpose. The food-supply was catered for partly by private enterprise, and partly by the Supply and Transport Department. For the Durbar itself a temporary Amphitheatre in white and gold was erected, according to a plan prepared by the Viceroy, with the assistance of Sir Swinton Jacob. This structure, which turned out to be pre-eminently well adapted for its purpose, and which was also utilised for the Retainers' Review and the military assault-at-arms, was designed exclusively in the Indo-Saracenic, or Mogul, style, every detail being copied from buildings at Delhi or Agra. It was erected on approximately the same site as Lord Lytton's Amphitheatre in 1877; but it was entirely different in size and shape, and it held three times the number of spectators, since it provided seating and standing accommodation for no fewer than 16,000 persons. A plan of the Amphitheatre, showing the seating arrangements, is enclosed.

The whole of the arrangements were under the supervision of a Central and an Executive Committee. The former was the initiatory and controlling authority, and its decisions were carried out by the Executive Committee or by the Government Department concerned. Thus, the Home Department undertook the control of the Police arrangements, the Military Works Department, that of the electric installation, and the Military Department, that of the markets managed by the Supply and Transport Corps, while the control of ceremonies remained with the Foreign Department.

To make provision for the peace and the maintenance of good order at the Coronation Durbar, and to provide a simple and speedy procedure for dealing with the various petty offences that were likely to occur in the

camps, a short Act, called the Delhi Durbar Police Act, 1902, was passed by the Punjab Legislative Council, and of this we enclose a copy.

In other ways we received valuable assistance from the Punjab Government, which deputed its Sanitary Commissioner to take charge of the Sanitation and Conservancy of the Camps, its Inspector-General of Police to control the Police arrangements, and its Chief Engineer to supervise the buildings, water-supply and roads. The further special agency included a Camp Officer in executive charge of each Camp; a Special Magistrate for the Central Camp, and one for each group of Provincial Camps; an Executive Sanitary Officer, a Health Officer, and a Plague Officer; a Railway Officer for the construction and management of the light railway; and a staff of Attachés to attend to the details of the various ceremonies, and to the reception of the Chiefs.

14. How successful were the exertions of all these different agents, and how fortune waited upon their enterprise, may be illustrated by the fact that, so far as we are aware, among the vast crowds temporarily assembled at Delhi, with few of the advantages offered by great European cities, not a single serious accident occurred. The proceedings were also favoured with the most agreeable weather, rain only falling upon a single night, and then only in sufficient quantity to lay the dust, and to add greatly to the comfort as well as to the spectacular effect of the great Military Review. Though the temperature was cold at night in the concluding weeks of December, it continued to get warmer every day, and throughout the fortnight of official celebrations may be said to have been perfect.

15. From this description of the preliminaries, we now pass to an account of the Durbar itself. Of the picturesque side of this memorable gathering we need say but little. The long lines of troops, the wide plain filled with a multitude of all races of the Empire, the great assembly in the Amphitheatre, where the Chiefs, Governors, Colonial and foreign representatives, and leading officials occupied seats on either side of the Viceroy's Dais, the emotion stirred by the entry of the small band of Mutiny heroes; these have all been described in the columns of the Press. Similarly full justice has there been rendered to the combined magnificence and variety of a display which brought together, in their national dresses or garbs of State, figures so widely separated by race and residence as the Arab Sheikhs of the Aden Protectorate, the Baluch and Pathan Chieftains of the Indian border, the heirs or representatives of the States of Nepal, Sikkim, and Maskat, and the picturesquely clad Shan Chieftains from the Salwin and the Mekong. To Muhammadans the day was the anniversary of the Id-ul-Fitr, and to allow of their devotions, the Durbar was fixed for noon. Punctually to the hour His Excellency the Viceroy drove into the arena escorted by his Body Guard and the Imperial Cadet Corps, and ascended the Dais, whither he had been preceded, in a separate procession, by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The Herald then advanced on horseback accompanied by his trumpeters, and by command of the Viceroy read aloud the Proclamation, announcing the Coronation of His Majesty the King, Emperor of India. On the conclusion of the Proclamation, the Royal Standard was unfurled to the sound of the National Anthem and an Imperial Salute of 101 guns. His Excellency then addressed the Assemblage, gathered, as he said, that day to symbolise and give expression to the united loyalty of the Empire to His Majesty's mighty and benevolent rule. The announcement of the gracious message which His Majesty had desired to be conveyed to his Indian people was received with enthusiastic cheering, and repeated applause greeted the Viceroy's references to the Princes and peoples of India, to the great future lying before the country, and to the favours which the Government desired to associate with the occasion. Translations of His Excellency's speech in Urdu had been distributed to the Ruling Chiefs and Native gentlemen on their arrival at the Amphitheatre, so that they might more readily follow the proceedings.

At the conclusion of the address, of which copies in English and Urdu are included in the enclosures to this despatch, three cheers for His Majesty

were given by the audience, and repeated with overpowering effect by the troops and spectators outside. The Ruling Chiefs were then presented to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. This proceeding, which was, in reality, a reversion to the time honoured practice of Indian Accession Durbars, had been introduced by the Viceroy and specially explained by him to the Chiefs, in order to enable them to play a personal part in the proceedings, and to testify individually their sentiments of loyalty and devotion to the Throne by tendering to the Representative and to the Brother of His Majesty with their own lips the congratulations and heartfelt vows of attachment evoked by the moving character of the scene, in which they thus became chief actors instead of mere spectators. The suggestion was cordially welcomed by the Chiefs as soon as they realised its import. The whole of them came forward, without exception, attended in some cases by a son or a Minister, and in accents of unmistakable pleasure and sincerity offered their dutiful and loyal congratulations to His Majesty on his accession to the Throne, and expressed their satisfaction at being present at the great and notable solemnity held to proclaim the fact to the Princes and people of India. This ceremony, which was, perhaps, the most impressive feature of the Durbar, brought the latter to a close.

16. On the evening of the same day a State Dinner was given by His Excellency the Viceroy in his Camp to the principal official guests, and the health of His Majesty the King-Emperor and of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught were proposed by His Excellency, and enthusiastically received. We enclose copies of the speeches made by the Viceroy on this occasion and of the Duke of Connaught's reply.

17. His Excellency the Viceroy and Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught left Delhi on Saturday, the 10th January, the same ceremonies being observed at their departure as on their arrival.

18. There thus came to an end the most imposing ceremony, or rather series of ceremonies, that has ever been held in India in British or, perhaps, in any times. The conception of the Durbar, the control of the arrangements and supervision of the thousand and one details which were essential to success, were the work of the Viceroy, who made himself responsible for the entire undertaking, and visited Delhi no fewer than four times in the nine months preceding the Durbar. As regards the policy which underlay the conception and inspired the execution of a scheme with which we regard it as a privilege to have been associated, we cannot better describe it than in His Excellency's own words during the recent Budget Debate on the 25th March, 1903:—

"But to me, and I hope to the majority of us, the Durbar meant not a 'panorama or a procession. It was a landmark in the history of the people, 'and a chapter in the ritual of the State. What was it intended for? It 'was meant to remind all the Princes and peoples of the Asiatic Empire of 'the British Crown that they had passed under the dominion of a new and 'single sovereign, to enable them to solemnise that great and momentous 'event, and to receive the Royal assurance and greeting. And what was 'its effect? They learned that under that benign influence they were one, 'that they were not scattered atoms in a heterogeneous and cumbersome 'mass, but co-ordinate units in a harmonious and majestic whole. The 'scales of isolation and prejudice and distrust fell from their eyes, and from 'the Arab Sheikhs of Aden on the west to the Shan Chiefs of the Mekong 'on the borders of China, they felt the thrill of a common loyalty and the 'inspiration of a single aim. Was there nothing in this? Is it nothing 'that the Sovereign at his Coronation should exchange pledges with his 'assembled lieges, of protection and respect on the one side, of spontaneous 'allegiance on the other? Is it nothing that the citizens of the Empire 'should learn what that Empire means? Even if we take the rest of India, 'which could not be present at Delhi, but held its own rejoicings in its own 'place, is it nothing to lift an entire people for a little space out of the 'rut of their narrow and parochial lives, and to let them catch a glimpse 'of a higher ideal, an appreciation of the hidden laws that regulate the 'march of nations and the destinies of men? I believe that the Durbar.

"more than any event in modern history, showed to the Indian people the path which, under the guidance of Providence, they are treading, taught the Indian Empire its unity, and impressed the world with its moral as well as material force. It will not be forgotten. The sound of the trumpets has already died away. The Captains and the Kings have departed. But the effect produced by this overwhelming display of unity and patriotism is still alive, and will not perish. Everywhere it is known that upon the throne of the East is seated a power that has made of the sentiments, the aspirations, and the interests of 300 millions of Asiatics a living thing, and the units in that great aggregation have learned that in their incorporation lies their strength. As a disinterested spectator of the Durbar remarked, 'Not until to-day did I realise that the destinies of the East still lie, as they always have done, in the hollow of India's hand.' I think too that the Durbar taught the lesson not only of power but of duty. There was not an officer of Government there present, there was not a Ruling Prince, nor a thoughtful spectator, who must not at one moment or other have felt that participation in so great a conception carried with it responsibility as well as pride, and that he owed something in return for whatever of dignity or security or opportunity the Empire had given to him."

19. The feelings of loyalty and devotion to the Throne, and of pride in the might of an Empire, of which they realised that they were integral parts, were clearly testified by the remarks made by the Chiefs as they tendered to the Viceroy and His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught their felicitations and assurances of homage to the Crown. Sometimes a Chief had rehearsed a short speech, but the power of the moment was upon him, and his formal utterance melted into a simple but heartfelt and obviously sincere expression of the pride and pleasure that he felt in assisting as a partner in the toils and joys of Empire, and in tendering his congratulations to the Sovereign. Could any studied oration have been more eloquent than the few words of the aged Raja of Nabha?

"Now," said he, "I can die in peace, as I have discharged the three duties of a true Sikh,—I have lived according to the precepts of the Gurus, I have aided the State with my sword, and now I have paid my personal homage to my Sovereign."

Her Highness the Begam of Bhopal, who took her place, veiled, among the other Chiefs, presented a written address in which, after referring to the auspicious circumstance in the eyes of Muhammadans that the Durbar should coincide with their Id,

she, "as the well-wisher and sincere admirer of the British Paramount Power," assured Government, "on this historic occasion, not only of the fidelity, devotion and affection of myself, my sons, my people and of the women of my State, but also of the loyalty of the whole Muhammadan population of India, for faithfulness and obedience to the Ruler are both strictly ordained by the Muhammadan religion."

We could multiply such quotations from every speech made that day, but as these will be collected in the Official History, we will only now refer to an address subsequently delivered by His Highness the Nizam on his return from Delhi to Hyderabad, in which he said:—"It was a source of great pleasure to me that I was enabled to take my part in the Coronation Durbar of His Majesty the Emperor of India (may his generosity last for ever), and after the custom of my ancestors to show, in a simple, straightforward, and soldierly manner, by word and deed, my historical friendship and loyalty. * * * I also count this journey particularly fortunate in that it enabled me to meet at Delhi my contemporary Chiefs and high officers."

20. We trust we have brought home to Your Lordship the extent to which the ceremony of the Durbar was regarded by the Ruling Chiefs and by those who took part in it as a solemn and almost religious observance, and also as a great ceremonial of Imperial and awe-inspiring significance. The occasion was wholly dissevered from the ideas or associations of an ordinary Durbar. It was felt that this was the Sovereign's Durbar, held by his orders for the celebration of the most auspicious event in his reign. Accordingly it was the message of the Sovereign that excited the loudest

applause at the Durbar. Every mention of his name evoked a similar demonstration, while the reception accorded to his Royal Brother was pregnant with the same lesson. No one who was present can have failed to carry away the conviction that the most potent force in the union of Great Britain with India is the veneration and affection that are entertained for the Throne.

If such was the immediate effect of the ceremony on those Princes and Chiefs of India whose lives had been passed under the immediate hegemony of the British Government, its influence upon those who have more recently come under our sway, or who are not so intimately connected with our rule, was even more marked. The Afghan Envoy at the Durbar enquired if the representatives of foreign Powers were present, for, said he, this assembly, resembling the final gathering at the Day of Judgment, could only bring home to them the futility of opposing a Power, which could thus assemble without force or compulsion, but simply by the ties of loyalty and affection, an entire universe of peoples and creeds. Much the same ideas were expressed by the Prime Minister of Nepal; while the representatives of the distant Gilgit tribes laughed when they thought of the day when they had attempted to pit their puny strength against even a feudatory of such a Power.

The effect of the display of military power at the Review was no less remarkable, and undoubtedly impressed the representatives of foreign Powers who were present. We attach special importance to the impression caused by the eagerness of the Chiefs to appear in public at the head of their troops as feudatories of the Empire. The interest taken by the Chiefs as a body in the contingents of the Imperial Service Troops was noticeable and cannot fail greatly to promote this most useful and patriotic movement. Their appearance on parade was highly creditable, so much so, indeed, that the Baluch Chiefs remarked that they only differed, if at all, from the regular army in the greater perfection of their equipment and drill.

We believe that these impressions were no mere transient phases of sensuous emotion, but that the striking incidents, of which they were the privileged spectators, and the general sense of well ordered power and popular contentment, of good governance on the one hand and identity of interest on the other, which marked the whole proceedings, will continue to produce their effect on all who were there present long after the Delhi Durbar has passed away, save as the treasured memory of a splendid and ennobling scene.

21. There is still another sense in which, as His Excellency anticipated, the Durbar has achieved a most beneficial result, and has had a far-reaching effect. The growing power of the railway, of the press, and other means of communication, has done much to bring the different parts of India into contact with one another, and to obliterate their divergences: but on no previous occasion have so many of the Chiefs and nobles and representative persons of India of all races and religions had an opportunity of meeting together, not for an hour or a day, but for a period of weeks. Much was done by the friendly exchange of ideas at social gatherings and official functions to break down the barriers of ignorance or distrust which have tended to keep different classes and individuals apart, and have proved a serious obstacle to the cohesion of the body politic. That the Chiefs themselves thoroughly appreciated the opportunities afforded is clearly shown by the remarks of His Highness the Nizam already quoted, and by messages of a similar character which have reached the Viceroy from many other quarters. Nor is it the Chiefs alone who benefited in this way. Advantage was taken of the occasion by our civil and military officers of different Provinces who were assembled for the Durbar, and who are precluded by their duties at ordinary times from meeting, to discuss together many matters of the highest administrative importance, and to compare ideas on points of policy or practice in a way which, within the narrow limits of their own Provinces, would have been

impossible. We are confident that there was not an officer present, British or Indian, who did not feel a sense of pride at serving the Government of an Empire so vast and beneficent, or who did not carry away with him the stimulus of an added zeal to give of his best to the service of his Sovereign and country.

22. But the Durbar did not produce its effect only on those who were able to attend. We have reason to believe that the great mass of the people of India, whether in British territory or in the States under His Majesty's protection, were profoundly impressed by the report of the ceremonies that took place, and that their imaginations were not untouched by the great idea of which these were but the outward form. Local celebrations were held everywhere throughout the country on the same day; and even the humblest participant can hardly have failed to entertain some conception of a national unity achieved under the firm but kindly sway of the British sceptre, and carrying with it the privileges of common citizenship in a world-wide Empire. In other ways, too, the event was brought home to the minds of the populace. By an act of grace 16,188 prisoners were released from British Indian jails, and similar clemency was shown in the majority of the Native States. Nor must we omit to mention in this connection the impetus which was given to internal trade, more especially in the Native States, by the requirements of an assembly on so vast a scale as that recently held, and for those of the very numerous local celebrations.

23. Upon the effect of the Durbar beyond the limits of India, we are not in a position to pronounce with authority, but from the references to it contained in the newspapers of all countries, we are entitled to believe that it was very great, and that the outside world has thereby been enabled to form a more correct idea of the scale and polity of our Indian Empire, to judge of the difficulties that have been met and surmounted in its creation, and to realise the power and prestige which must attach to the State, that for the first time in history has not only succeeded in moulding into a single whole the scattered and often warring atoms, which hitherto formed the congeries of countries and peoples included within the Indian continent, but has also by the justice and high purpose of its administration infused the entire mass with a spirit of devotion to a common Sovereign.

24. Of the honours, favours, and concessions, by which the occasion was marked, a complete list will be found in the Gazette Extraordinary of the 1st January. We have already alluded to the promotions in, and appointments to, the Orders of the Bath, the Star of India and the Indian Empire, and to the honours of Knighthood conferred by His Majesty. His Majesty was graciously pleased also to award 15 Kaiser-i-Hind Medals of the 1st class, and 18 of the 2nd class. Further honours, reserved for Chiefs only, consisted of the addition of 2 guns to the permanent salute of the Nawab of Janjira, the grant of permanent salutes of 9 guns to the Sawbwas of Keng Tung, Mong Nai and Hsi Paw, who are the three principal Shan Chiefs, and the grant of personal salutes of 9 guns each to the Chiefs of Bhor and Danta and to Nawab Sir Amir-ud-din Ahmad Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Loharu.

The British officers of the Indian Army were intensely gratified by the grant to them of that designation, while the Native officers equally appreciated the announcement that six of their number would be annually appointed as orderly officers in attendance upon His Majesty. Other favours to the Army included the addition of 20 appointments to the first class and 60 to the second class of the Order of British India, the grant of honorary rank, on retirement, to Native officers in possession of that decoration, the grant of extra meritorious service medals and extra long service and good conduct medals, with gratuities in each case, money grants to all British and Native Corps, the grant of special privileges to the Native Mountain Artillery, and the release or mitigation of punishment of various classes of military offenders. His Highness the Raja of Nabha

received the honorary rank of Colonel of the 14th (Ferozepore) Sikh Infantry, and His Highness the Maharao of Kota the honorary rank of Major in the Deoli Irregular Force, whose headquarters adjoin his State.

Various civil titles were conferred by His Excellency the Viceroy, on distinguished Native gentlemen, and in six very special cases grants of land or *inams* were bestowed. We have already alluded to the release of prisoners in British India. In the Viceroy's speech, in addition to certain measures of financial relief to those Native States which had suffered from famine, was foreshadowed the very considerable reduction of taxation that was definitely announced in the Budget three months later, and that will always be associated by the people with the year of His Majesty's Coronation.

25. We should be guilty of an inexcusable omission if we did not acknowledge the devotion and ability with which the many duties connected with the Durbar were discharged. From first to last the preparations proceeded rapidly and harmoniously, every programme for the Durbar fortnight was carried out without a hitch, and the difficult task of winding up the Camp was expeditiously and satisfactorily performed, the final meeting of the Committees being held on the 10th April.

Where all did so well, it is difficult to particularise; but the following names appear to call for particular notice. Our cordial thanks are due to the Central and Executive Committees. Of the former, we must specially mention Sir Hugh Barnes, the President, and Major-General G. Henry; and of the latter, Captain A. D. Bannerman, the Secretary, and Major H. Hudson. Mr. Gordon Walker and Major M. W. Douglas combined their membership of these Committees with other arduous duties as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Delhi; similarly Colonel H. F. Lyons-Montgomery of the Executive Committee was also the Officer of the Supply and Transport Corps, who was responsible for the very complete Commissariat arrangements.

To Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Bamber, as Sanitary Commissioner, and Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Thornhill, as Executive Sanitary Officer, is chiefly due, under Providence, the immunity of the Camp from any serious outbreak of disease, though plague was rife over the greater part of the Continent, and, but for the precautions taken, there would certainly have been danger of cholera. From the time the Camp was started in July, 1902, there were altogether ten cases of plague, of which nine were imported, but the arrangements effectually prevented the disease from taking hold.

Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram was in executive charge of the numerous public works, including the building of the Amphitheatre, the structural additions in the Fort, the construction of roads, and the provision of the water-supply. The electric installation for the Fort was undertaken by Messrs. Osler & Co., and that for the Central Camp by Messrs. Kilburn & Co. The latter included 100 arc lights, and more than 8,000 incandescent lamps disposed among the various tents. We can pay no higher compliment to the efficiency of the work done by the firm under the supervision of Major A. M. Stuart and Captain C. O. Halliday, R.E., than to say that during the month for which the light was employed there was not a single failure.

The postal arrangements included 16 special offices and numerous pillar boxes, and were satisfactorily carried out by Rai Bahadur Daulat Ram, C.I.E., under the supervision of the Postmaster-General of the Punjab. The Telegraph Department, under Mr. O. Lees, opened 11 telegraph offices and a telephone exchange with 25 branches to the more important camps; it gave general satisfaction, the facilities afforded to the Press being, we understand, particularly appreciated.

The Punjab Police under the orders of Mr. C. Brown, the Inspector-General, added to their well-earned reputation by the excellence of their arrangements for the regulation of traffic and the prevention of disorder and crime. Their powers of suppression were never called into action, as disorder and crime were non-existent.

The light railway constructed and managed by Captain H. A. L. Hepper, R.E., proved of the greatest service. The efforts of the main lines to meet the very heavy traffic incidental to the Durbar also deserves recognition. Crowding and some delay were inevitable, and the difficulty of preventing these was enhanced by the awkward and confined situation of the Delhi main station, into which most of the traffic had perforce to be brought. The experience gained will doubtless lead to improved arrangements on any future occasion of the kind, while the remodelling of the station on the present occasion has been a great advantage to what has now become the centre of the Indian railway system.

We have already alluded to the striking success with which the programmes of the various ceremonies were carried out. Sir Hugh Barnes was in immediate charge of all matters of ceremonial. Of the staff which ably assisted him, he has specially brought to our notice the name of Mr. R. Hughes-Buller, of the Indian Civil Service. The ticket arrangements were successfully undertaken by Mr. W. E. Jardine, also of the Civil Service.

Of the amusements provided for visitors, the Club and the Polo Tournament, organised by Colonel the Honourable E. Baring, Military Secretary to the Viceroy, were deservedly popular.

Interesting notes by the officers in charge of the various branches of the arrangements are included among the enclosures with this despatch.

26. As regards the expenditure from public revenues on the Durbar, we are not yet in a position to give final figures for certain of the heads included in the actual cost. Our most recent calculations were stated in paragraphs 138 to 140 of Part II of the Financial Statement for 1903-04, where it was shown that the aggregate net charge to Imperial Revenues seemed unlikely to exceed Rs. 12,61,000, while the net charge against Provincial Revenues was estimated at Rs. 14,83,000: or a total under the two headings of about £180,000. It is possible that the credit side of the account may be increased by further recoveries, and a close scrutiny of the charges debited to the Durbar, which has been taken in hand, may show that some items ought properly to be debited to ordinary heads of expenditure. On the other hand, some difficulty has been experienced in distributing the total military expenditure, which has shown a considerable excess over the original forecast, between the Durbar and the manœuvres that preceded it; and we have not yet completed the enquiries which will enable us to apply a fair and reasonable principle of division.

27. In accordance with His Majesty's Command special gold and silver medals were struck in honour of the occasion, the head of His Majesty being depicted on the one side, and a suitable inscription in the Persian character on the other. We are now engaged in distributing these medals to the principal official participators in the Durbar, and to selected officers and men of the British and Indian armies who were present. The gold medals are for presentation to the Ruling Chiefs and a few high officers of Government. The total of the silver medals is about 2,500.

28. In a supplementary despatch we propose to send, for Your Lordship's information, copies of reports which we have called for from the various Local Governments and Administrations as to the local celebrations of the Coronation that were held throughout India on the same day as the Delhi Durbar, viz., 1st January, 1903.

We have, &c.,

CURZON.
KITCHENER.
T. RALEIGH.
E. F.-G. LAW.
E. R. ELLES.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.

No. 2.

BY THE KING-EMPEROR.

A ROYAL PROCLAMATION

For appointing a day for the celebration in His Majesty's Indian Dominions of the Solemnity of the Coronation of His Majesty.

EDWARD R. I.

Whereas upon the death of our late Sovereign of happy memory, Queen Victoria, upon the twenty-second day of January in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one, We did ascend the Throne under the style and title of EDWARD VII, by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India;

And whereas, by Our Royal Proclamations bearing date the twenty-sixth day of June and the tenth day of December in the Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one in the First Year of Our Reign, We did publish and declare Our Royal intention, by the Favour and Blessing of Almighty God, to celebrate the Solemnity of Our Royal Coronation upon the twenty-sixth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and two;

And whereas, by the Favour and Blessing of Almighty God, We were enabled to celebrate the said Solemnity upon Saturday, the ninth of August last;

And whereas it is Our wish and desire that the fact of the celebration of the said Solemnity should be publicly announced to all Our loving Subjects within Our Indian Dominions, and that opportunity should be given to Our Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, and Heads of Administrations, to the Princes, Chiefs, and Nobles of the Native States under Our Protection, and to the Representatives of all the Provinces of Our Indian Empire, to take part in the said ceremonial:

Now We do, by this Our Royal Proclamation, make announcement thereof, and We do hereby charge and command Our right, trusty and well-beloved Councillor, George Nathaniel, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Our Viceroy and Governor-General of India, to hold at Delhi on the first of January, one thousand nine hundred and three, an Imperial Durbar for the purpose of declaring the completion of the said Solemnity of Our Coronation; and We direct that at the said Durbar this Proclamation shall be read for the information of all whom it may concern.

Given at Our Court at St. James, the first day of October, one thousand nine hundred and two, in the Second Year of Our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING-EMPEROR.

No. 3.

Speech delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy at the Delhi Durbar on 1st January, 1903.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, PRINCES, AND PEOPLES OF INDIA,—Five months ago in London His Majesty King Edward VII, King of England and Emperor of India, was invested with the Crown and sceptre of the

English Kings. Only a few representatives of the Indian Empire had the good fortune to be present at that ceremony. To-day His Majesty has by his royal favour afforded an opportunity to all his Indian people to take part in similar rejoicings, and here, and elsewhere throughout India, are gathered together in honour of the event the Princes and Chiefs and Nobles, who are the pillars of his throne, the European and Indian officials who conduct his administration with an integrity and devotion to duty beyond compare, the Army, British and Native, which with such pre-eminent bravery defends his frontiers and fights his wars, and the vast body of the loyal inhabitants of India, of all races who, amid a thousand varieties of circumstance and feeling and custom, are united in their spontaneous allegiance to the Imperial Crown. It was with the special object of thus solemnising his Coronation in India that His Majesty commanded me, as his Viceroy, to convene this great Durbar, and it is to signify the supreme value that he attaches to the occasion that he has honoured us by deputing his own brother, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, to join in this celebration.

It is 26 years since, on the anniversary of this day, in this city of Imperial memories and traditions, and on this very spot, Queen Victoria was proclaimed the first Empress of India. That act was a vindication of her profound interest in her Indian subjects, and of the accomplished unity of her Indian dominions under the paramountcy of the British Crown. To-day, a quarter of a century later, that Empire is not less but more united. The sovereign to whom we are met to render homage is not less dear to his Indian people, for they have seen his features, and heard his voice. He has succeeded to a throne not only the most illustrious, but the most stable in the world; and ill-informed would be the critic who would deny that not the least of the bases of its security—nay, I think, a principal condition of its strength—is the possession of the Indian Empire, and the faithful attachment and service of His Majesty's Indian people. Rich in her ancient traditions, India is also rich in the loyalty which has been kindled anew in her by the West. Amid the crowd of noble suitors who, through all the centuries, have sought her hand, she has given it only to the one who has also gained her trust.

Nowhere else in the world would such a spectacle be possible as that which we witness here to-day. I do not speak of this great and imposing assemblage, unparalleled as I believe it to be. I refer to that which this gathering symbolises, and those to whose feelings it gives expression. Over 100 rulers of separate States, whose united population amounts to 60 millions of people, and whose territories extend over 55 degrees of longitude, have come here to testify their allegiance to their common sovereign. We greatly esteem the sentiments of loyalty that have brought them to Delhi from such great distances, and often at considerable sacrifice; and I shall presently be honoured by receiving from their own lips their message of personal congratulation to the King. The officers and soldiers present are drawn from a force in India of nearly 230,000 men, whose pride it is that they are the King's Army. The leaders of Indian society, official and unofficial, who are here, are the mouthpieces of a community of over 230 million souls. In spirit therefore, and one may almost say, through their rulers and deputies, in person, there is represented in this arena nearly one-fifth of the entire human race. All are animated by a single feeling, and all bow before a single throne. And should it be asked how it is that any one sentiment can draw together these vast and scattered forces and make them one, the answer is that loyalty to the sovereign is synonymous with confidence in the equity and benignity of his rule. It is not merely the expression of an emotion, but the record of an experience and the declaration of a belief. For to the majority of these millions the King's Government has given freedom from invasion and anarchy; to others it has guaranteed their rights and privileges; to others it opens ever widening avenues of honourable employment; to the masses it dispenses mercy in the hour of suffering; and to all it endeavours to give equal justice, immunity from oppression,

and the blessings of enlightenment and peace. To have won such a dominion is a great achievement. To hold it by fair and righteous dealing is a greater. To weld it by prudent statesmanship into a single and compact whole will be and is the greatest of all.

Such are the ideas and aims that are embodied in the summoning of this Coronation Durbar. It is now my duty to read to you the gracious message which His Majesty has desired me to convey to his Indian people:—

“It gives me much pleasure to send a message of greeting to my Indian people, on the solemn occasion when they are celebrating my Coronation. Only a small number of the Indian Princes and representatives were able to be present at the Ceremony which took place in London; and I accordingly instructed my Viceroy and Governor-General to hold a great Durbar at Delhi, in order to afford an opportunity to all the Indian Princes, Chiefs, and Peoples, and to the Officials of my Government, to commemorate this auspicious event. Ever since my visit to India in 1875, I have regarded that Country and its Peoples with deep affection: and I am conscious of their earnest and loyal devotion to my House and Throne. During recent years many evidences of their attachment have reached me: and my Indian Troops have rendered conspicuous services in the Wars and Victories of my Empire.

“I confidently hope that my beloved Son, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess of Wales, may before long be able to make themselves personally acquainted with India and the Country which I have always desired that they should see, and which they are equally anxious to visit. Gladly would I have come to India upon this eventful occasion myself had this been found possible. I have, however, sent my dear Brother, the Duke of Connaught, who is already so well known in India, in order that my Family may be represented at the Ceremony held to celebrate my Coronation.

“My desire, since I succeeded to the Throne of my revered Mother, the late Queen Victoria, the First Empress of India, has been to maintain unimpaired the same principles of humane and equitable administration which secured for her in so wonderful a degree the veneration and affection of her Indian Subjects. To all my Feudatories and Subjects throughout India, I renew the assurance of my regard for their liberties, of respect for their dignities and rights, of interest in their advancement, and of devotion to their welfare, which are the supreme aim and object of my rule and which, under the blessing of Almighty God, will lead to the increasing prosperity of my Indian Empire, and the greater happiness of its People.”

Princes and Peoples of India, these are the words of the sovereign whose Coronation we are assembled to celebrate. They provide a stimulus and an inspiration to the officers who serve him, and they breathe the lessons of magnanimity and good will to all. To those of us who, like my colleagues and myself, are the direct instruments of His Majesty's Government, they suggest the spirit that should guide our conduct and infuse our administration. Never was there a time when we were more desirous that that administration should be characterised by generosity and lenience. Those who have suffered much deserve much; and those who have wrought well deserve well. The Princes of India have offered us their soldiers and their own swords in the recent campaigns of the Empire; and in other struggles, such as those against drought and famine, they

have conducted themselves with equal gallantry and credit. It is difficult to give to them more than they already enjoy, and impossible to add to a security whose inviolability is beyond dispute. Nevertheless, it has been a pleasure to us to propose that Government shall cease to exact any interest for a period of three years upon all loans that have been made or guaranteed by the Government of India to Native States in connection with the last famine; and we hope that this benefaction may be acceptable to those to whom it is offered. Other and more numerous classes there are in this great country to whom we would gladly extend, and to whom we hope before long to be in a position to announce relief. In the midst of a financial year it is not always expedient to make announcements, or easy to frame calculations. If, however, the present conditions continue, and if, as we have good reason to believe, we have entered upon a period of prosperity in Indian finance, then I trust that these early years of His Majesty's reign may not pass by without the Government of India being able to demonstrate their feelings of sympathy and regard for the Indian population by measures of financial relief, which their patient and loyal conduct in years of depression and distress renders it especially gratifying to me to contemplate. I need not now refer to other acts of consideration or favour which we have associated with the present occasion since they are recorded elsewhere. But it is my privilege to make the announcement to the officers of the Army that henceforward the name of the Indian Staff Corps will cease to exist, and that they will belong to the single and homogeneous Indian Army of the King.

Princes and Peoples, if we turn our gaze for a moment to the future, a great development appears with little doubt to lie before this country. There is no Indian problem, be it of population or education or labour or subsistence, which it is not in the power of statesmanship to solve. The solution of many is even now proceeding before our eyes. If the combined arms of Great Britain and India can secure continued peace upon our borders, if unity prevails within them, between princes and people, between European and Indian, and between rulers and ruled, and if the seasons fail not in their bounty, then nothing can arrest the march of progress. The India of the future will, under Providence, not be an India of diminishing plenty, of empty prospect, or of justifiable discontent; but one of expanding industry, of awakened faculties, of increasing prosperity, and of more widely distributed comfort and wealth. I have faith in the conscience and the purpose of my own country; and I believe in the almost illimitable capacities of this. But under no other conditions can this future be realised than the unchallenged supremacy of the paramount power, and under no other controlling authority is this capable of being maintained than that of the British Crown.

And now I will bring these remarks to a close. It is my earnest hope that this great assemblage may long be remembered by the peoples of India as having brought them into contact at a moment of great solemnity with the personality and the sentiments of their sovereign. I hope that its memories will be those of happiness and rejoicing, and that the reign of King Edward VII, so auspiciously begun, will live in the annals of India and in the hearts of its people. We pray that, under the blessing of the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, his sovereignty and power may last for long years, that the well-being of his subjects may grow from day to day, that the administration of his officers may be stamped with wisdom and virtue, and that the security and beneficence of his dominion may endure for ever.

Long live the King, Emperor of India!

