

THE FIRST TOUR

OF

His Excellency
The Hon'ble Sir ARTHUR LAWLEY,
G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G.,

TO

COIMBATORE AND SALEM DISTRICTS.

SEPTEMBER 23rd to OCTOBER 4th, 1906.

MADRAS:

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1908.

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FIRST TOUR

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY THE HON'BLE SIR ARTHUR LAWLEY.

The Party accompanying His Excellency—

A. Y. G. CAMPBELL, Esq., I.C.S., *Private Secretary.*

Major G. C. GLYN, D.S.O., *Military Secretary.*

Captain E. L. POPHAM, *Aide-de-Camp.*

DETAILED

Month and Date.	Day.	Arr. or Dep.	Station.	Time.	
				A.M.	P.M.
1906.					
Sept. 23	Sunday ..	Dep.	Ootacamund ..	..	2-15
		Arr.	Coonoor ..	..	4-0
		Dep.	Do. ..	..	4-5
		Arr.	Méttupálaiyam ..	..	6-20
		Dep.	Do. ..	..	7-0
Sept. 24	Monday ..	Arr.	Coimbatore ..	..	8-49
				7-30	..
				7-45	..
				8-45	..
				10-0	..
					1-0
					1-30
					4-30
					6-30
					8-0
Sept. 25	Tuesday ..		Coimbatore ..	8-0	..
				8-30	..
				9-0	..
				10-0	..
					1-0

PROGRAMME.

Functions and Remarks.
Drive. Departure private.
By Nilgiri Railway (Ordinary) train.
Dinner at Méttupálaiyam Railway Refreshment Room (40 minutes).
By Madras Railway (Ordinary) train.
Remained in Saloon till daybreak.
Arrival public at the Station platform. District officials, District Board Members, Coimbatore Municipal Councillors and other gentlemen met His Excellency.
Inspected the Coimbatore Spinning and Weaving Mills.
Visited the Central Jail.
Breakfast.
Drove to Victoria Town Hall.
Presented Kaisir-i-Hind Medal to the Rev. Mr. Brough.
Received addresses—
1. Municipal.
2. Anjumanai Islamia.
3. Landholders.
Visited the Coimbatore College and received address from the students; visited the St. Michael's College, and returned to Collector's house.
Tea at Collector's house.
Laid the foundation stone of the Agricultural College and Research Institute.
Rode to see cultivated lands in the neighbourhood.
Returned to Collector's bungalow.
Dinner.
Laid the foundation stone of the new Municipal Hospital.
Visited the Stanes' High School.
Inspected the various public offices--District Court, Collector's Office, etc.
Breakfast.
Interview with Mr. T. Ramaswami Aiyangar.

DETAILED

Month and Date.	Day.	Arr. or Dep.	Station.	Time.	
				A.M.	P.M.
1906.					
Sept. 25	Tuesday ..	..	Coimbatore ..	..	2-0 5-0 6-30 8-0
Sept. 26	Wednesday.	Dep.	Coimbatore	8-0	..
		Arr.	Pollachi ..	10-0	.. P.M.
Sept. 27	Thursday..	Dep.	Pollachi ..	A.M.	..
		Arr.	Puthuthottam ..	..	P.M.
Sept. 28	Friday ..	..	Puthuthottam ..	A.M.	.. P.M.
Sept. 29	Saturday ..	..	Puthuthottam ..	A.M.	..
Sept. 30	Sunday ..	Dep. Arr.	Puthuthottam .. Pollachi ..	A.M. ..	.. P.M.

PROGRAMME—cont.

Functions and Remarks.
Luncheon. Opened the Gass Museum Attended entertainment at Rao Bahadur A. T. Thiruvengadasami Mudaliar's house. Dinner. Drive. Visited <i>en route</i> the Local Fund Elementary School at Kudichi, a village 4 miles from Coimbatore. (23 miles). Visited Vadagupaliam village and rode round some of the fields and inspected crops and irrigation wells. Drove to the foot of the hills (14 miles). Mr. J. S. Scot, District Forest Officer, and Mr. F. A. Hamilton join the party. Rode up the ghat as far as Attakatti (7 miles). Breakfast at Attakatti. After breakfast, rode up the ghat. Brief halt at the Forest Depot at Andaparai Shola. Mr. Windle and Mr. Congreve, Planters, met H. E. at the Paralai Estate. Rode round Mr. Windle's Estate (the Paralai Estate) to see rubber tapping. Several of the planters met H.E. at luncheon and after luncheon held an informal conference with H.E. on matters concerning their industry. Inspected the Stanmore Monica Estate and the Valparai Estate. Ride and drive.

DETAILED

Month and Date.	Day.	Arr. or Dep.	Station.	Time.	
				A.M.	P.M.
1906.					
Oct. 1	Monday ..	Dep.	Pollachi ..	A.M.	..
		Arr.	Podanur ..	10-0	..
		Dep.	Do. ..	..	5-7
		Arr.	Erode ..	..	7-13
		Dep.	Do. ..	..	7-54
		Arr.	Salem (Suramangalam Railway Station).	..	9-16
Oct. 2	Tuesday ..	..	Salem ..	8-0	..
				10-0	..
					2-0
					P.M.
					5-0
					8-0
					10-0
Oct. 3	Wednesday.	..	Salem ..	7-0	..
				10-0	..
				12 noon.	..

PROGRAMME—cont.

Functions and Remarks.
Drive. By Madras Railway (Mail) train. Dinner at Erode Railway Refreshment Room (41 minutes). By Madras Railway (Mail) train. Arrival private. Remained in Saloon till next morning.
Drove to the Town Hall. Arrival public. Received addresses from— 1. Municipal. 2. People of Salem. 3. Salem Muhammadan Educational Association 4. Mahajana Sabha of Vaniyambadi. Drove to Collector's house. Breakfast. Luncheon. Inspected weaving Institute
Garden Party by the Salem public in London Mission School compound. Dinner. Witnessed display of fire-works.
Drove to Hasthampatti and inspected the Central Jail and the District and Sessions Court; on return, inspected the Municipal Hospital, Government Lower Secondary Training School, Collector's Office (where His Excellency received two Deputations of Villagers), and Salem College. Breakfast. Interviews with— 1. Mr. J. Inglis, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department. 2. The Poligar of Bagalur. 3. M.R.Ry. E. S. Ramaswami Aiyar, Municipal Chairman. 4. „ M. Ravi Varma Raja, Head-quarter Deputy Collector.

DETAILED

Month and Date.	Day.	Arr. or Dep.	Station.	Time.	
				A.M.	P.M.
1906.					
Oct. 3	Wednesday.	..	Salem	..	..
				..	..
				..	..
					2-0
					4-30
		Dep.	Salem	..	5-0
		Arr.	Erode	..	5-43
				..	7-22
		Dep.	Do.	..	8-40
Oct. 4	Thursday ..	Arr.	Méttupálayam.	5-35	..
		Dep.	Do.	6-5	..
		Arr.	Coonoor	9-25	..
		Dep.	Do.	About 10-0.	..
		Arr.	Ootacamund ..	About 11-30.	..

PROGRAMME—cont.

Functions and Remarks.
Interviews with—
5. M.R.Ry. C. Vijayaraghavachariar Avargal.
6. „ P. Siva Rama Aiyar Avargal, Treasury Deputy Collector.
7. „ Syed Ismail Albeez Sahib, Secretary, Muhammadan Educational Association, and Head Clerk of the District and Sessions Court.
Luncheon.
Drove to Arisipalaiyam tank and inspected the oil-engine installation.
Drove to Suramangalam Railway Station.
By Madras Railway (Ordinary) train. Departure private.
Dinner at Erode Railway Refreshment Room (1 hour and 18 minutes).
By Madras Railway (Ordinary) train.
Tea.
By Nilgiri Railway (Ordinary) train.
Breakfast at the Coonoor Railway Refreshment Room.
Drive.
Arrival private.

PART I.

COIMBATORE.

DEPARTURE FROM OOTACAMUND.

HIS Excellency the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Lawley left Government House, Ootacamund, on his first tour at 2-15 P.M. on Sunday the 23rd of September. He was accompanied by Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell, I.C.S., Private Secretary, Major G. C. Glyn, D.S.O., Military Secretary, and Captain E. L. Popham, Aide-de-Camp. Mr. Bernays, Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Nilgiris, escorted His Excellency as far as the toll-gate.

23rd September
1906.
OOTACAMUND.

His Excellency was met at the Coonoor Railway Station by Mr. Lushington Taylor, District Traffic Superintendent, Madras Railway, and Mr. Leggatt, District Superintendent of the Railway Police. His Excellency's departure was private.

COONOOOR.

He left Coonoor by the ordinary train at 4-5 P.M. and arrived at Méttupálayam at 6-20 P.M. Messrs. Lushington Taylor and Leggatt travelled in the train with the Governor's party. At the Méttupálayam Railway Refreshment Room dinner was arranged for His Excellency and his party ; Mr. Lushington Taylor, Mr. Windle, Mr. Leggatt and Mr. Bernays also dined with His Excellency. After dinner, His

MÉTTUTALAI-
YAM.

23rd September
1906.

COIMBATORE.

Excellency and party left Méttupálayam at 7 P.M. by the Madras Railway, His Excellency's saloon being attached to the ordinary train. Coimbatore was reached at 8-49 P.M. Here the saloon and another carriage were detached and left in a siding till the next morning.

ARRIVAL AT COIMBATORE.

24th September
1906.

Public arrival.

On the following morning 24th September at 7-30, the hour fixed for the public reception, the saloon was taken into the station which was prettily decorated with flags, bunting and foliage. There were present on the platform all the important officials of the district. His Excellency was received on the platform by Mr. Shipley, the Collector, who introduced to him a few of the gentlemen assembled on the platform. His Excellency then inspected the Guard-of-Honour which was furnished by the Nilgiri Rifle Volunteers.

VISIT TO A COTTON MILL.

Coimbatore
Spinning and
Weaving Mills.

The inspection over, His Excellency accompanied by his Staff and Mr. Shipley, drove to the Coimbatore Spinning and Weaving Mills where he was received by Mr. E. W. Wilkins, Mr. E. H. Elliot, Mr. Venkatachala Mudaliar, Mr. Krishna Iyer and Seetharama Chetty, the Directors of the Mills, Mr. H. C. Golden, the Secretary, and Mr. A. Rockley, the Manager. Here the Governor spent over half an hour in inspecting the various sections of the mill, over which he was conducted by Mr. Rockley, who

explained to his distinguished visitor the several processes through which the raw cotton passes in its conversion into yarn. Cotton is brought to this mill from Tinnevely, Madura, Coimbatore, Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah districts. Though the Company is registered as a Spinning and Weaving Company, it is engaged at present solely in spinning yarn which it supplies to customers throughout Southern India. Over 1,200 daily labourers are employed in it. It is worked with the co-operation of a few European merchants and is under the management of a Board of Directors among whom are included some influential Indian capitalists. It has been in existence for about sixteen years, and during the last few years has been in a very flourishing condition. Last year the profits were so large that the Directors were able to declare a dividend of 15 per cent. besides setting apart Rs. 1 lakh in the Reserve Fund, and carrying forward a substantial balance. Before leaving the mill, His Excellency thanked the Directors for having arranged to take him over their excellently-managed concern.

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.

Spinning and
Weaving Mills.

A VISIT TO THE CENTRAL JAIL.

The next institution to receive a visit from His Excellency was the Central Jail. Here Mr. E. H. Gadsden, Acting Inspector-General of Jails, Mr. G. Gainsford, Superintendent of the Jail, and Captain O'Neill, I.M.S., Medical Officer, received His Excellency. A Guard-of-Honour furnished by the Jail warders was drawn up at the entrance. His

Central Jail.

24th September
1906.
COIMBATORE.
Central Jail.

His Excellency spent over an hour and-a-half in the jail visiting every ward and inspecting every branch of manufacture carried on within its precincts. There were 1,333 inmates at the time of His Excellency's visit, and they were engaged in their ordinary work during the inspection. The most important industry in the jail is weaving. Among the customers of the jail in this branch are the Military Clothing Department in Madras and at Alipore near Calcutta, and the General Hospital of Madras; and the cloth required for the uniforms of Jail warders throughout the whole of the Madras Presidency is manufactured here. The machinery in the weaving factory is driven by steam-power and includes a number of power looms which were in full working order when His Excellency inspected them. Before leaving the jail His Excellency made a few purchases at the jail stores and heard the complaint of a prisoner who represented that his case had not been heard fully. His Excellency directed the Superintendent to send a full report of the case, and told the prisoner that he would pass orders in his case after due enquiry.

His Excellency made the following remarks in the Official Visitors' Book :—

Visitors Book.

"I have been able to make a full inspection and to see the work which is being done. I have been immensely interested and am satisfied that the condition of the jail and the result of the work which is carried on reflects the greatest credit on those who are responsible for the administration."

PRESENTATION OF THE KAISER-I-HIND MEDAL.

24th September
1906.
COIMBATORE.
Kaiser-i-Hind
Medal.

At 1 P.M. on the 24th September His Excellency and his Staff, accompanied by Mr. Shipley, drove to the Coimbatore College, in the Central Hall of which were assembled the principal residents of the town. As soon as His Excellency had taken his seat, the Rev. Mr. A. W. Brough, of the London Missionary Society, Coimbatore, to whom a Kaiser-i-Hind Medal of the second class had been granted on the 1st January 1906 was presented to him by the Collector. Before presenting Mr. Brough with the medal, His Excellency said :—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have a very pleasing duty to perform. In other countries and under other skies I have seen something of the work of the London Missionary Society, and I have been able to appreciate their aspirations and to learn their traditions. They send out into the world, to the most remote portions of it, men who are ready to devote themselves absolutely to the betterment of their fellowmen who are in poorer circumstances than themselves. They bring within their reach the priceless gift of education. They are true exponents of the doctrine of Christ by example of self-sacrifice, self-devotion and of affection and sympathy, and I know that there is no man by whom the traditions, the noble traditions, of their society have been upheld more courageously, more consistently, than by Mr. Brough. He has not been content with the expounding of the ethics of Christianity. He has

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.
Kaiser-i-Hind
Medal.

taught us all in this country the true duties of a Christian and a man. He has pushed on the work of education, and in times of stress, when the town in which he has done so much for his fellow-citizens was threatened by plague, he set an example of courage, of heroism and of resource, which do him infinite honour. His name is known up and down the length and breadth of this district, and I know that every man here will join with me in congratulating, as I do most heartily, the Rev. Mr. Brough upon the recognition by his Sovereign of the admirable work which he has done, and of expressing to him the hope that he may long live to wear the medal, which it is now my pleasure to present, and which, ladies and gentlemen, he has so richly earned.

With these observations His Excellency pinned the medal on Rev. Mr. Brough's breast amid the cheers of those who were assembled in the hall. Mr. Brough then thanked His Excellency in suitable terms.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME FROM LOCAL BODIES AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Municipal
address.

Rao Bahadur Thiruvengadaswami Mudaliar, Chairman of the Coimbatore Municipal Council, was then presented to His Excellency by Mr. Shipley, and read the following Address on behalf of the Coimbatore Municipal Council:—

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Coimbatore, beg to offer our cordial welcome

to Your Excellency on behalf of our fellow citizens on this happy occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our town.

24th September
1906.
COIMBATORE.
Municipal
Address.

2. It is nearly fifteen years since we welcomed to this town Your Excellency's brother, the *Right Honourable Lord Wenlock, G.C.I.E.*, who was the Governor of our Presidency from 1890–1895 and it is therefore a matter of great pleasure to us now to welcome as our Governor another member of the same distinguished family.

Lord Wenlock.

3. We congratulate ourselves on the fact that Your Excellency should have thought fit to honour us by paying a visit to our town first in the early part of Your Excellency's tour programme.

4. Our town does not pretend to any historic fame, nor to much antiquarian interest save the Pagoda of Perur situated 4 miles from this town. But in point of climate, it is far superior to many other towns and it is considered as one of the pleasantest parts of this Presidency.

History.

5. With Your Excellency's permission we beg to bring to Your Excellency's kind notice that our town growing in importance has been for some time labouring under a few serious drawbacks which often endanger its health.

Sanitation.

6. The two chief wants are (1) a proper water-supply and (2) an adequate drainage scheme, the absence of which occasionally results in outbreaks of cholera and small-pox. The unfortunate failure of the monsoon for the last two years has aggravated our difficult condition considerably.

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.
Municipal
Address.
Water-supply.

7. So far back as 1892 a scheme for the supply of water to this town was proposed, but was abandoned as the estimated cost of the same exceeded four lakhs of rupees. In 1900 another scheme was suggested by the present Chairman and the matter has been under correspondence with the Government and the Sanitary Board for the last six years. We hear that the estimate for the scheme is now with the Government and we are anxiously awaiting the time when Your Excellency's Government will have sanctioned the scheme, and the scheme itself associated with Your Excellency's name will, in the near future, be an accomplished fact. We seek the necessary help from Your Excellency's Government to have it carried out and we feel sure that in granting our prayer, Your Excellency will confer on us a great blessing, and further give us the desired opportunity of handing Your Excellency's imperishable name down to posterity.*

Plague.

8. In the year 1903, plague broke out in Ootacamund and Coonoor, and owing to constant trade communications between our town and the Blue Hills, and in spite of all our precautionary measures it broke out here also at the end of that year and during the course of 3 or 4 months carried away a large number of our citizens. The inhabitants were persuaded to evacuate the town and the town itself

* The scheme designed to provide for a storage tank to be fed from the Noyel river by the Chitra chavadi channel was finally abandoned. (G.O., No. 1664 M., dated 9th October 1908.)

was thoroughly disinfected in the beginning of the year 1904. Since then we are thankful to say that we have been free from this dire calamity, although it broke out more than once on the Hills and in the surrounding towns and villages of this taluk. The recrudescence of plague this year in Coonoor has naturally made us a little anxious; but we are doing our very best to prevent its outbreak in our town and we sincerely hope that our efforts in this direction will be successful.

9. We take this opportunity to tender our grateful thanks to the Madras Government for a loan of Rs. 62,000 for opening up some of our congested localities, and for a grant of Rs. 60,000 to the "Victoria Hospital." We have on hand a town extension scheme costing about Rs. 36,000; but with the financial resources at our disposal we regret we are unable to carry this and have decided to take this matter in hand as soon as the more urgent need of relieving the congestion of the town has been given effect to.

10. Your Excellency's recent distinguished career marked with signal success and broad-minded sympathy in the administration of two of the most important colonies of the British Empire does naturally lead us to hope further encouragement and sympathy towards local Self-Government from Your Excellency's hands.

11. In conclusion we once more cordially welcome Your Excellency and fervently pray that your administration of this Presidency may be

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.
Municipal
Address.
Plague.

Government
financial
aid.

Extension of
town.

Local Self-
Government.

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.

marked with sympathy, conspicuous success and substantial benefits to the people whom the Crown has entrusted to your care and for the prosperity, welfare and long life of Your Excellency, of Her Excellency Lady Lawley and of your children.

After reading of the Address, Rao Bahadur Thiruvengadasawmi Mudaliar presented the Municipal Councillors to His Excellency.

Anjumanai
Islamiah's
Address.

The Secretary of the local Anjumanai Islamiah was then presented to His Excellency by Mr. Shipley, and read the following Address:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—With feelings of sincere pleasure, devotion and loyalty, we, the members of the Anjumanai Islamiah, Coimbatore, beg to approach Your Excellency on the occasion of this your gracious visit to our district and beg to present this humble Address on behalf of the community to which we belong.

2. In entire accord with the brother communities around us we rejoiced in the announcement of Your Excellency's desire to visit Coimbatore, and now that Your Excellency is in our midst, we hail to accord our warmest welcome in words of deepest gratitude. Your Excellency's visit to the various districts of this Presidency, apart from keeping alive the tradition of our attachment to His Majesty the King-Emperor, is a strong indication and assurance of Your Excellency's good will towards the various races in this Presidency.

3. We, the Mussalmans of this Presidency, are quite alive to the many and varied acts of sympathy

and kindness we have from time to time received at the hands of our benign Government, and wish to take this opportunity of Your Excellency's visit, not only to express once more our deep felt gratitude for the same, but also to represent a few of the pressing needs of this community, for Your Excellency's kind and benevolent consideration.

4. The long felt want of a Muhammadan girls' school in Coimbatore town was removed in 1903 by the Government sanctioning to open a girls' school with about 20 girls to start with and on a monthly expenditure of Rs. 50. But three years had to elapse before the services of a Muhammadan schoolmistress could be procured. In May last the mistress took charge of the school and we are glad to state that the strength has now risen to nearly 75. The total strength of pupils is a number far beyond the efficient control of one mistress, and we regret to state that the educational authorities have not interested themselves to procure even the sanctioned number of mistresses. The want of a sufficient teaching staff combined with the still greater want of proper and sufficient provision for the conveyance of the gosha girls to and from school, has stood seriously in the way of progress, and were it not for these wants, the strength of the said school would have risen to more than about two hundred girls by this time. We therefore pray that the Government will be pleased to organise the school on a better basis increasing the present teaching staff, and at the same time providing for the necessary conveyance of girls,

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.

Anjumanai
Islamiah's
Address.

Muhammadan
Girls' School.

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.
Anjumanai
Islamiah's
Address.

Muhammadan
Sub-Assistant
Inspectors of
Schools.

and also to direct the educational authorities to keep a better supervision on the working of the said institution which is the only one of its kind here.

5. The existing staff of four Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Inspectors of Schools for the whole of this Presidency is quite inadequate to meet the desired wants of the community. The community needs not only a better supervision over the education of Muhammadan youths, but also an effective agency which could approach the Muhammadan parents and influence them to send their children to school. But the number of Sub-Assistant Inspectors is so small and the circle assigned to each is so large that no effective realization of the above objects appears possible. The Local Boards of the sister districts have however partly got over this difficulty by appointing Supervisors in their districts. But the Coimbatore District Board was not pleased to grant us even that much concession, though we had to pray for the same. Considering the backward state of the Muhammadan education and the possible chances of its amelioration, we pray that the Government will be pleased either to increase the Inspecting staff for the Muhammadan schools or at least to direct the Coimbatore District Board to appoint a couple of Muhammadan Supervisors of schools for the Coimbatore district.

Gosha Hospital.

6. The want of a separate Gosha Lying-in Hospital is keenly felt by poor and modest ladies observing gosha who wish to seek medical assistance in this district. The existing female dispensary in

Coimbatore makes no provision for the retention and treatment of in-patients, nor does the building itself satisfy the gosha requirements even as regards its limited dispensing purposes. We hear that a new hospital is shortly to be erected on a suitable site and on a grand scale. We therefore beg to submit to the pleasure of Government either to provide us with a separate Gosha Hospital, or at least to suggest the local authorities to open in the proposed hospital a separate gosha ward under the management and medical assistance of a lady staff.

7. The Mussalman community is very poorly represented in the official circles in this district, and there is a lamentable dearth of Muhammadans as heads of ministerial departments. Our heartfelt thanks are due to our popular Collector Mr. R. H. Shipley who observing the above state of things, was pleased to post a Muhammadan Sub-Magistrate to the Coimbatore town. We pray that a little more sympathy and encouragement be shown to the claims of this our backward community.

8. Fully believing that our humble requests will meet Your Excellency's sympathy and approval, and praying for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

The Secretary then presented to His Excellency the other members of the Association.

Lastly, the leading landholders of the Coimbatore district presented to His Excellency the following Address, after the reading of which the members were all presented to His Excellency:—

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.
Anjumanai
Islamiah's
Address.
Gosha Hospital.

Muhammadan
Officials.

Landholder
Address.

24th September
1906.

COIMBATORE.
Landholder's
Address.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned landholders of the District of Coimbatore, respectfully approach Your Excellency with this our humble Address of welcome.

2. It is a matter of deep and sincere gratification to us that Your Excellency should have chosen our district as the first to be visited by you and we hope that Your Excellency will carry with you happy reminiscences of this your first visit to our district.

Lord Wenlock.

3. Fifteen years ago we had the privilege of welcoming your esteemed brother Lord Wenlock and now we have again the extreme pleasure of offering our respectful greetings to you, and we feel confident that we shall have at your hands the same sympathy and consideration which were extended by your brother to the teeming millions of this Presidency.

Season.

4. Your Excellency's present visit is at an opportune moment when the district is just emerging from the effects of scarcity, which well-nigh threatened to develop into famine. We beg leave, in this connection, to express our appreciation of and gratitude for the kind services of Mr. R. H. Shipley our Collector to whose strenuous and sympathetic efforts in organising successful co-operative measures for popular relief is due to the success with which we have smoothly tided over the crisis in large areas that were affected. The periodical recurrence of scarcity in this district is due to lack of irrigation works necessary to make up for the comparatively small quantity of rain this district receives. Sources of

Irrigation
works.

irrigation are not wanting and we note with satisfaction that there are schemes before the Government for the better irrigation of the district in connection with the Bhaváni and the Amarávati Rivers. It is sincerely hoped that these schemes will be approved and that Your Excellency will have the satisfaction of seeing the projects taken in hand and completed during Your Excellency's tenure of office.

5. The starting of a research institute in this Presidency and the improvements to be made in the Agricultural College are indications of the increasing solicitude of the Government for the welfare of the Agricultural classes, and we cannot be sufficiently thankful for the inestimable blessings that are likely to accrue from these institutions. In the fact of Your Excellency laying the foundation stone of these edifices we see a sign not merely of the beginning of a new institution, but of an earnest desire in Your Excellency to understand the real wants of the Agricultural community and to help them in all possible ways.

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Landholders
Address

Agricultural
Research
Institute.

6. In this connection, we beg to invite Your Excellency's sympathetic attention to the economic condition of the people of this district. Of the two millions of its population $\frac{4}{5}$ are engaged in agriculture alone. The whole extent of land under wet cultivation does not exceed one hundred thousand acres, giving an average of about $\frac{1}{26}$ of an acre per head. If the dry lands are included, the average per head comes to less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The large

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Resettlement.

number of holdings paying Rs. 10 and less per annum will show their true value, and the working of the law of partition in tending to make them smaller and smaller. It is needless to dilate on the innumerable evils resulting from such a state of affairs. Further, the operation of the rules of settlement and re-classification tends to paralyse private efforts to improve individual holdings, inasmuch as they do not make adequate provision for the capital sunk on the land, and the frequency of land settlement works considerable hardship on landowners.

7. We learn that there is shortly to be a resettlement of this district and we beg to point out that as the present land assessment is already heavy and the district is frequently subject to scarcity, a resettlement is unnecessary and is a source of fresh anxiety and loss to the ryots.

Kistbandi.

8. The reduction of the number of instalments in kist collection and the beginning of it in January, when the harvesting is hardly begun has been causing much loss to the ryots and they have been by this means more than any other forced to resort to the professional money lender. So, we pray that the number of instalments be raised to six and that the kist collection begun in March instead of January as hitherto.

State banks.

9. It is well known that the money-lender is one of the mills that are grinding hard the poor ryot and of the various remedies that have from time to time been suggested for this pressing evil, none appears

to us to be better calculated to produce the desired result than the institution of banks conducted by or under the control of the Government. The co-operative credit societies, as at present constituted, do not meet the demand except to a very small extent. The ryot who is generally poor is in need of money for improving his holding, as by digging wells, and also for the ordinary expenses of cultivation; and the small capital that is available in the co-operative credit societies is hardly capable of meeting even a portion of the demand. Owing to the difficulties and delays incidental to the working of the Land Improvements and Agricultural Loans Acts, the ryots do not resort to Government as often and as readily as they might. It is highly desirable that the Government should establish state banks, or subsidise already existing banks in each mofussil centre. We earnestly hope that Your Excellency will take this question into your favourable consideration.

10. The system of soil-survey, which has been undertaken in America and elsewhere, has proved a source of lasting benefit to agriculturists there and we most humbly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to introduce a similar system in our Presidency which, we are assured, will secure immense advantages.

11. Ryots are assessed with additional and penal water-rates, without their knowing anything about them, until the demand is enforced in consequence of which they are subjected to great difficulties and

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Soil-survey.

Demand for
water-rate.

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Address.

annoyance. We therefore pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to issue an order that notices of the water-rates be given to the ryots by the village authorities before their reports are sent to their superiors.

Court fees.

12. In the matter of revenue appeals, the ryot is put to great inconvenience and expense by his having to pay court fees. We pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to order the grant of copies free of cost and recommend exemption of court fees.

Kudimaramath.

13. The repair of several of the irrigation channels and tank beds in this district is classed under Kudimaramath with the result that repairs have not been done for 25 and 30 years in some instances; consequently they are all silted up. Unless the Government undertakes the repairs, the ryots see no near chance of their being executed. So we pray that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to take such steps as will place the system on a better footing.

Land revenue
sales.

14. The want of a provision similar to the one contained in section 310-A of the Civil Procedure Code, allowing the defaulters to deposit the amount of arrears due by them together with all incidental charges within 30 days after revenue sales is working great mischief and causing great loss to the ignorant ryots. So we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to introduce some such provision in revenue sale rules.

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Address.

15. We are sorry that we have not had the pleasure of welcoming Lady Lawley together with Your Excellency, but we hope that at some future time we shall be granted the privilege of welcoming Her Excellency to our district.

16. In conclusion, we earnestly pray that Your Excellency's rule in our Presidency may bring years of happiness and plenty to Your Excellency's subjects and that God may bless Your Excellency and Lady Lawley with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency replied to these three Addresses in the following speech :--

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,--On arriving at Coimbatore this morning I found in every direction traces of your kind thoughtfulness and your determination to make me feel that I was welcome on this my first visit to your district; for the beautiful way in which you have decorated your town, for the kind words with which you have greeted me this afternoon and also for the very beautiful caskets in which you have been so good as to enclose the Addresses, I beg to offer you my very sincere thanks. I appreciate very highly the way in which you have received me. I cannot flatter myself that it is on account of any personal considerations. I hail your welcome as evincing true loyalty for the King whom I have the honour to represent and in that way your welcome is most gratefully appreciated by me. But at the same

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Excellency's
Reply to
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time I venture to think that there is some slight personal link between us owing to the way in which you have alluded to my brother. I may tell you that he holds in most affectionate remembrance the five years which he spent in Madras, so much so that as soon as it was settled that I should come here he made up his mind to visit it at the earliest possible opportunity and I hope to have the pleasure of welcoming him in Madras before the end of this year. Now it might be somewhat embarrassing if Governors whose terms of office had expired were constantly to revisit the scenes of their former command and possibly to criticise the actions of their successors and so they have been generally content to play the placid rôle of extinct volcanoes. But I am glad to say that the happy relations which exist between my brother and myself make impossible any such embarrassment as I have hinted at and I know that he is only too delighted to have the chance of renewing old friendships and reviving old interests and at being once again in touch, if only as a spectator of the fascinating but intricate mechanism which directs the administration of this country.

Government of
India.

Now, gentlemen, the Government of India is a very complex and very difficult problem and it is not until a man is called upon to take part in it that he begins to realise how divergent, how numerous and often how conflicting are its interests, how many are its castes, its creeds and its prejudices, how multifarious, how heterogeneous are its constituent

parts; and until he is brought face to face with the conditions of the people, and is able to realise for himself the aims and aspirations by which they are inspired and to see the difficulties by which they are beset, it is impossible for him in my opinion to bring in any degree a sound judgment to bear on questions the settlement of which must affect the welfare of one part or other of the community. Above all it is not until he knows something of the real inner life of India that he can hope to hold the scales evenly between the different sections of the community. And so in every continent wherever I have been called upon to serve in the capacity of a Governor I have always made it a rule to travel as far as and as frequently as I could and that is a rule which so far as my duties will allow I mean to keep up in this country.

When the time arrived for me to decide upon the programme of my first tour in this Presidency there was cause for grave anxiety in Coimbatore. The prospect of an ample monsoon seemed to grow daily more remote and the spectre of scarcity and want seemed to come ever more near and I selected Coimbatore because I said to myself that if trouble was coming I would see for myself its nature and its degree and thereby endeavour if I could to help in its alleviation. Well, since then I am glad to say the cause of anxiety has passed and I hope that the realisation of a plentiful harvest will obliterate all recollections of the gloomy forebodings and the depressing anticipations of spring time.

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COIMBATORE.
Governor's
Reply to
Addresses.
Government of
India.

Season.

24th September
1900.

COIMBATORE.
Governor's
Reply to
Addresses.
Indian Civil
Service.

Gentlemen, in your Address you have alluded to the action of your Collector in terms of high praise in restraining the encroachment of poverty and of want and trying to ward off distress from the poorer inhabitants of this district. I am not surprised to hear of such action on his part. Mr. Shipley your Collector is a member of the Indian Civil Service and animated and imbued by the spirit and traditions of that Service. These men have come to you from a northern clime. They are stern, as their fathers were stern, in manner, and cold, may be, in demeanour. They come with no noisy professions of affection, no blatant protestations of sympathy, but they can point to a record of daily work silently, patiently, and strenuously done, of dangers to be faced and overcome (often alone), of the devotion of time, energy, strength, yes often of life itself, for the humblest and the poorest of God's creatures in this land. That is practical sympathy and I am certain, gentlemen, that, so long as the traditions of the Indian Civil Service remain what they are to-day, that practical sympathy will never be withheld.

Plague.

As I said just now, the cause of anxiety in regard to the season is, I hope, ended. The grim ogre of famine has fled away, but you have had to face the visitation of disease. Let us thank God for it, plague has not this year been rife among you, but the memory of it only three years ago must still recall sad recollections to many of you; but it may also recall the spirit of heroism in which

it was met, a spirit displayed by no one more admirably than by the Chairman of your Municipal Council—an example which will ever do him honour.

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1900.

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Governor's
Reply to
Addresses.

You have had among you here as in other parts of this Presidency a terrible outbreak of cholera with its attendant deplorable mortality; and though I hope for the immediate present the evils of that outbreak are mitigated, yet I fear that there is no possibility of being certain that they will not return until you have an adequate and pure water-supply and a good drainage scheme in your town.

Cholera.

I know that during the past few years there have been many schemes brought forward and I can sympathise with you in the delay and the disappointment in that one after another they have had to be put aside. One scheme has upon investigation proved impracticable; another has proved too costly; for another the sources of water were found to be impure. For one reason or another there has been delay, but upon my word I believe that that delay was unavoidable. Soon I hope that a project may be evolved which will secure to you an adequate supply of pure water at a reasonable cost; and, if I can do anything in expediting matters in this respect, I can assure you that it will give me the greatest possible pleasure. Now it is perfectly apparent that no large scheme can be initiated without very considerable expenditure of money. Ratepayers, I am afraid, enjoy rather short memories sometimes and they are apt to forget that, in the

Water-supply
and drainage
schemes.

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Water-supply
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schemes.

acquisition of any of luxuries of life from a motor-car to a mouse-trap, there is a rule which applies equally to municipalities, that you cannot have a first rate article unless you are prepared to pay for it. I know that the burden of taxation is deemed to be heavy in this town, but not, I think, inordinately so in view of the benefits which you enjoy. I would remind you that when the question of paying for the initiation of costly schemes in other parts of the Presidency has been before the Government, they have shown no unsympathetic attitude. You may, I feel sure, rely upon it that when this question of expenditure on the Coimbatore water-supply comes forward, the Government will evince a no more niggardly and no more unsympathetic attitude than they have shown elsewhere. I would remind you, however, that the coffers of Government are not, as some would seem to think, quite inexhaustible and that Government whether central or local can only cut its coat according to its cloth.

Irrigation.

Another item brought forward in one of the Addresses was the question of irrigation. Now gentlemen you have spoken to me freely and frankly and it is my habit always to speak equally frankly in return. It gets me into hot water sometimes, but I think it is on the whole most satisfactory to all parties. I am afraid that the Amarávati project to which you have alluded proves, on a thorough investigation, to be so difficult of attainment as to be impracticable. I know that this must be a disappointment to some of you. I need not here go into

technical details which put the scheme beyond consideration. I only say that I regret as much as you must do, that we cannot hope to make it an accomplished fact. But I do hope that something may come of the projects which are now under investigation for irrigation on both the upper and lower Bhaváni. As, no doubt, you are aware, there is also a large scheme for a dam upon the Cauvery river. Incidentally the latter scheme would, I understand, be of considerable benefit to the Bhaváni taluk of this district, but the two schemes, the Bhaváni scheme and the Cauvery river scheme, are so to speak interdependent and until our investigations in regard to the Cauvery scheme have advanced further than at present, it is difficult to say whether either or both of the Bhaváni projects may be carried out; I only hope that they may.

I do not propose to deal with the next point raised in your Address, that is the question of the Research Institute here, because in a very short time I shall have the pleasure of laying the foundation and saying a few words in regard to the objects of the institution. And so I will only remark that I am glad that the benefits to be conferred upon this district and, I hope, upon the whole Presidency do not fail to be appreciated by you.

The next point which I should like to touch upon is the question of statistics of the agricultural population especially in view of the question of a possible resettlement. I am not sure that the figures given in the address are not somewhat misleading, as,

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Resettlement.

on analysing them, I find that women and children are included in the numbers given. I think that a fairer way of reckoning will be to consider the patta-dar as the unit; and I find that it works out at ten acres per patta. I realise as fully as you do the disadvantages and objections to the constant splitting up of land until the holding has become infinitesimally small, but upon my word, gentlemen, I do not see how that is a matter which can be dealt with by Government or by Law. It is a necessary economic question which arises in many provinces in India. I cannot hold out any hope that the Government may be able to intervene and to arrest its progress. Frankly I do not think that the suggestion of Government intervention in such a matter comes within the sphere of practical politics. But there is one point which I think is lost sight of in the address and that is, that it has not been, and it is not, the intention to enhance assessment on account of the improvements made by the ryots. That is a bogey which has been conjured up and which can be dispelled by facts any day; and when resettlement is to take place a ryot need have no fear that he will be taxed on this account. He need not be hindered to-day in carrying out improvements on his land, because there is the risk of these improvements tending to the enhancement of assessment. In regard to the question of resettlement, the thirty years I think expires about the year 1911 and probably the preliminary enquiry will be held the year before, that is in 1910. It is urged that there should be no

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Resettlement.

a question of resettlement of rates in this district; but I will ask you to consider how great has been the rise of prices here during the last ten years; how great therefore has been the benefit to the land-owner. And I would also ask you to remember that it is an essential part of the conditions of land tenure in this country that the Government should have a proportionate share. At the present time the prices in Coimbatore district do not, I understand, compare unfavourably with those in other districts; and when I find that the value of land in this country has risen to the extent to which it has done—land which 25 years ago was valued per wet acre at Rs. 225 is now valued at Rs. 420—surely this must point to the fact that the agricultural prosperity of this district has on the whole materially increased. If Government is not to share in this increased prosperity, I should like you to consider from what sources it may be possible for us to meet with the endless demands for administrative improvements, for more railways, more irrigation works, more schools, more hospitals and so on and so on. Unless our revenue is to increase, our capacity for introducing additional improvements must be limited; and therefore I say that in resettling a district of this nature the Government is only demanding its just due, especially in view of the fact that, as I said before, the improvements made by the ryots are not taken into account.

Now gentlemen, with regard to the kists I must frankly confess that I have not a very clear understanding on this point. I am new to this district;

Kistbandi.

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Addresses.
Kistbandi.

I have come here to learn and I hope and mean to learn; but, so far as I can understand it, the objections which you have are as to the time of the year at which the kist is collected. Various suggestions I understand have been made to the Government for altering the date upon which the payment of rent should be made. But it is essential that the rent of the year should be collected within the financial year, that is to say, before the 31st of March. So far as this district is concerned, I believe that the harvest begins to be gathered in about the beginning of December and it seemed to Government that if collections were made between January and March no undue disability would be imposed on the ryot. It has been suggested that the dates of the collection should be postponed. Well, I know from personal experience that rent-day is always an inconvenient, not to say obnoxious, day. However, that is a question which will be dealt with when the question of preliminary enquiries in regard to the resettlement is taken up in this district.

The next proposal made to me is that Government should start a State Bank for the whole Presidency, at least I take it so, gentlemen. I would remind you that no great State ever undertakes to apply ordinary mortgage credit to its peasants. If you will think for a moment what a gigantic organisation it would have to be, how costly the supervision would be, how rigid would have to be the rules, you will realise the difficulties of it. Believe

me the delays at which you have hinted with regard to the co-operative credit societies would be as nothing to the inevitable delays which would happen in regard to the State Bank. The system of co-operative credit society is really in its infancy. I believe they are doing good work. I am certain they are capable of doing good work and I hope that with Government help that work may expand and extend considerably. I believe that much more can be done by these societies especially if you, gentlemen, will use your influence in promoting thrift and saving among your poorer neighbours. I believe they will do good, wholesome and admirable work in this country. I may say Government are engaged now in considering whether it would be possible to simplify the work of the loans and to make it possible for ryots to secure money that they want on fairly reasonable terms.

The next point in the landholders' Address is again one which I do not quite understand. It deals with the question of soil survey. Now at every settlement a soil survey is undertaken by the classification of the various soils. It may be that subsoil survey is hinted at. Well, in regard to this I may say that the Government came to the conclusion that what would be a far more practicable way of dealing with this question than by costly and expensive subsoil survey would be to make experiments in well-borings. We have at present a special Deputy Collector told off for this work with a party making experiments in the Chingleput district.

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Addresses.
Co-operative
Credit Soci-
ties.

Loans.

Subsoil
survey.

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COIMBATORE.

Governor's
Reply to
Addresses.
Penal water-
rate.

When his work is completed there he will come to this district and to the district of Salem.

With regard to the question of penal water-rate, I cannot believe that the ryots are ignorant of the rules appertaining to the levy of water-rate. I understand that no order given by the Karnam, for example, is carried out, without full enquiry and investigation. I understand that at jamabandi it is possible for ryots to bring forward any complaint which they have to make in regard to the orders that have been passed, when their grievances are investigated and dealt with. I also understand that notices of these jamabandi camps are issued to the ryots that they may have opportunities of bringing forward any reasonable grievances that they may have. Moreover, everybody knows in this country that in case of grievances it is always possible to make representation by petition, a practice which is resorted to very frequently I can assure you.

Court-fees Act.

In regard to the Court Fees Act, I would remind memorialists that this is a matter outside the control of the local Government. The Court Fees Act and the scale of fees are prescribed by the Government of India not for this Presidency alone but for the whole of India and it is not within the province of Local Government nor within their power to modify in any way the fees prescribed by the Government of India. In regard to the fees for copies of documents, I consider that the fee is as low as it can possibly be for the preparation of a copy.

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COIMBATORE.

Governor's
Reply to
Addresses.
Siltage of
tanks.

The next point is a request for steps to be taken to prevent the silting up of tanks and to repair them. I will ask you to consider seriously whether the disability of which the ryots complain in regard to siltage of tanks is not due entirely to their own lâches. It has been the immemorial custom in this country for village communities to undertake the work of removing or preventing the siltage of tanks and of doing other minor works which are known as kudimaramath. I believe for centuries this has been the immemorial custom and it is owing to the failure of ryots to observe their recognised duties that the condition of things is such as is described in your Address; and I would urge that, instead of turning to the Government, you should induce them to combine among themselves and do the work which it is their duty to do.

It is also suggested that an alteration should be made in the rules for the sale of the land for the arrears of land revenue. That has often been before the Government and it has not been found possible to accede to that request because it would inevitably lead to great confusion of accounts and it would also open the door to considerable corruption and intrigue, and I believe it would prevent *bonâ fide* purchase of land by intending purchasers. There is however in contemplation a modification of the Madras Act II of 1864, when this question will come up for revision. But I think it is only fair to say that the consideration of that Act cannot be undertaken until the Estates Land Bill is out of the way.

Sale of land for
arrears of land
revenue.

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COIMBATORE.
Governor's
Reply to
Addresses.
Muhammadan
community.

Education of
Muhammadans.

I think, gentlemen, that I have dealt fairly fully with the various points that have been raised in two Addresses and I should like, if I may say a word to the representatives of the Muhammadan community in Coimbatore, to say how glad I am to receive an Address at their hands, seeing that the Muhammadans of this country are among the most patriotic, the most manly, and the most loyal British subjects in India. I also rejoice that they should have made the subject-matter of their Address the matter of education. "The old order changeth giving place to new." We have all of us read of the great Muhammadan rulers of the past, of the admirable administration of justice at their hands, of the learned writings of their philosophers and their jurists and historians. But their ascendancy has passed away; their power is gone; and, during the intervening years since those days till now, it has been a characteristic attitude of Muhammadans to adhere strictly and stringently to their religion for which I say all honour to them; but, at the same time, they have shown an inclination to hold aloof from western methods of education, and so it has come about that, when educational attainments have been made the test of fitness for office, the Muhammadans have for the most part lagged behind in the race, which is always being run—the race of Life. There have been, I frankly acknowledge, brilliant exceptions, and I rejoice to know that the Muhammadans of to-day realise that these are times of great intellectual competition, of great intellectual strife

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Muhammadan
Girls' school.

Muhammadan
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Inspectors of
Schools.

and are resolved to adopt a new style of running which can only be learnt in modern schools and modern training grounds. When you ask me to help to bring within the reach of your children the priceless gift of education that they may not be left at the starting post while others press forward in the race, when you ask me to do this, you evoke my warmest sympathy.

You urge, gentlemen, in your Address that there has been delay in providing a staff for the girls' school here. I regret it very much. I believe there has been delay, but I know that the difficulties are great in the way of securing capable and efficient Muhammadan teachers and I hope that this may not occur again. You have also called my attention to the lack of Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Inspectors. I understand that there are at the present time in the Presidency only six, not four as stated in your Address; I am not cavilling at that trifling inaccuracy—I am inclined to think that the number is inadequate. I am asking the Director of Public Instruction to consider whether the number of Sub-Assistants could not be increased * and I am also asking him to consider whether the number of teachers in the girls' school here may not also be increased.†

* It was finally decided that no further increase in the number of Muhammadan Sub-Assistant Inspectors was necessary (G.O., 741, Edl., 15th November 1906).

† At the time of His Excellency's visit the sanctioned staff of the school was three teachers, one on Rs. 12 and two on Rs. 10 each, but there was only one teacher on the staff. The sanctioned staff was subsequently raised to four teachers on Rs. 12, 15, 20 and 25 (G.O., 496, Edl., 3rd July 1908).

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COIMBATORE.
Governor's
Reply to
Addresses,
Conveyance for
Gosha Girls.

The question of providing conveyance for the gosha girls is, I must say frankly at once, not a proposal which I think the Government should be asked to entertain. Frankly I do not regard this as a function of Government. I cannot but believe that if only a little combination were shown and a little co-operation among parents of children this difficulty will be very easily overcome at a cost so inconsiderable as to amount to practically nothing.

Gosha ward in
the hospital.

I must also frankly say that I see some difficulties in the way of the provision from the Government funds of a gosha ward in the hospital. The position is that practically the whole expenditure in respect of this hospital is being borne by the Government. The original plans of the hospital were devised on such a scale as to amply meet the requirements of the town and the district. Owing simply to want of funds, the Government have had more than once to demand the reduction of the estimates. Reluctantly we are obliged to do so and I am afraid that there would be considerable difficulties if now at this juncture we were suddenly called upon to provide extra cost on account of the hospital for the provision of the gosha ward. I entirely agree with you that it is a most desirable thing that there should be such a ward. It is an object which I think is thoroughly laudable and thoroughly good and I do hope that the leading Muhammadans of this town may be willing to come forward and defray, at all events, some of the cost of such a ward in the new hospital.

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COIMBATORE.
Governor's
Reply to
Addresses,
Muhammadan
Officials.

I think there is only one other point which I have not dealt with, and that is you have called my attention, as others have done before, to the dearth of Muhammadan officials in the higher ranks. It has been not here but elsewhere suggested to me that this dearth was due to the lack of interest and influence enjoyed by Muhammadans, that they do not get their fair share of what is termed "patronage." While I recognise that there is a dearth of Muhammadan officials in the higher ranks—and ~~no one~~ deploras it more than I do—I do not and cannot accept as a reason for their absence that they have not had their fair share of patronage. But it is not a question of patronage. As I said just now, educational attainments, intellectual endowments and capacity for carrying out efficiently the duties of an office, these are the passports and the tests which we apply in considering original appointments or in making promotions. Efficiency is the first essential which we demand. It is an essential on which we must insist and, while I deplore it, it is, I fear, a fact that in this respect the Muhammadans have not reached the standard which we require. That is the whole truth and I think I should be wrong to gloze it over. That is a truth which has been recognised by your co-religionists. It is a truth which I believe you recognise yourselves. Surely its recognition should be an honourable incentive to you to determine that your children shall not be so handicapped, that Muhammadans shall not fail on account of want of education, for that is the sole

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Reply to
Addresses.

reason of their failure to-day, and that you will no longer be able to speak of Muhammadans as you do in your Address as a "backward community." As I said before, in asking my help to forward the education of your children, you evoke my heartiest sympathy to which I hope some day I may be able to give practical effect.

I have detained you to an inordinate length, I must ask you to forgive me. The Addresses themselves, you will allow, were not short. I have endeavoured to deal with the points as fully, as fairly and as frankly as I could. There is one other point which it would be discourteous of me to ignore and that is to your kind allusion to my wife. I can only assure you that I regret far more than you can do that she is not by my side to-day and I hope when I next visit Coimbatore she will be with me on that occasion.

There is yet one other matter and that is the very generous allusion which you, sir (turning to the Municipal Chairman), make to the record of my past services. Well, gentlemen, I have only one thing to say about that; that wherever I have gone, whatever part of the world I have been sent to, I have endeavoured to the best of my poor ability to do my duty to my King and to advance as far as I possibly could the interests of my fellow-subjects. There is an old Italian proverb "*che non falla non fa*," which says, "a man who makes no mistakes makes nothing." I have made mistakes; I hope that sometimes I have been able to do something for my

fellow-men; and when you appeal to me for sympathy I can assure you most readily that my sympathy will not be lacking. You express the hope that during my tenure of office I may be of help to the people who have been committed to my charge. Gentlemen, that is a wish which I cordially re-echo. I hope that while I am amongst you I may do some little thing to lighten the load of some and to help them along the stony path of life, to be of some slight benefit to my fellow-subjects in India.

INSPECTION OF THE COLLEGE.

After the public had withdrawn, His Excellency was taken round the college by Mr. Elliott, the Principal, and shown the classes at work. After the inspection all the boys assembled in the central hall, and one of the senior students read the following Address of welcome to His Excellency:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the students of the Coimbatore College, desire most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency to our College on the occasion of your first visit to this town. We are deeply sensible of the honour hereby done to us, and we beg to assure Your Excellency that this occasion will be long remembered by us with pleasure as an event in our lives.

Our College is only one of the Second Grade, and cannot therefore claim to take rank with the largest institutions in this Presidency, but it gives us pleasure to say it is an institution of more than

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fifty years' standing, and has done good service in the past. It owes its existence to the benevolence of the late Mr. E. B. Thomas, Collector for many years of this District, whose name is still cherished with affection and gratitude by the people of the District. Of the many past students of the College who have filled and are filling with credit high and responsible posts in Public Service, we are glad to be able to point among others to Messrs. C. Nagoji Rao, B.A., Rao Bahadur, Inspector of Schools; C. K. Subba Rao, B.A., Rao Bahadur; S. Subbier, pensioned Sub-Judge; T. R. Venkataswami Naidu, B.A., of the Mysore Educational Service; Professor V. Ramaswami Aiyar, M.A., and K. S. Ganapathi Aiyar, M.A., M.L., Public Prosecutor, Trichinopoly.

3. Loving our College as we do, we venture to hope that with the liberal aid and support of Government extended to it as hitherto, it will continue to flourish for many years to come, and prove even more useful in the future than it has been in the past.

4. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we deeply appreciate the blessings of Education, and are sincerely grateful for the many facilities and advantages that have been placed within our reach, and availing ourselves to the full of the opportunities we enjoy, we trust that when, in due course, we go forth into the world we shall have learnt to so conduct ourselves as to do credit to the College to which we belonged, and prove useful citizens and law-abiding subjects of the Crown.

5. Our College has always been fortunate both in regard to its management and to its teaching-staff; a few drawbacks there no doubt are, the want of a suitable play ground and a hostel, for instance, but when the funds required for such purposes shall have been found, we make no doubt that these wants will be supplied and our successors will derive all the benefits of residential College life.

6. We regret very much we have not the pleasure of welcoming Her Excellency Lady Lawley here, but we beg that our cordial greetings and our assurances of profound respect may be graciously conveyed to her by Your Excellency.

7. With our heartfelt wishes for the health and happiness of Your Excellency and all the members of your family, and with the sincere prayer that your administration of this Presidency will be marked with success.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency in reply to the above address said :—

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GENTLEMEN, STUDENTS OF THE COIMBATORE COLLEGE,—I can freely assure you that I appreciate very highly the kind and courteous welcome which you have extended to me to-day and also the very considerate and courteous message which you have asked me to convey to my wife. I can assure you that I share your regret that she is not here to-day I am very glad to be here this afternoon, because it happens that this is not only my first visit to

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Coimbatore, but this is the first time on which I have had an opportunity of visiting a College of this particular grade. I only wish that my programme had been less full than it is, that I might have seen something more of your work and that I might have said more to you this afternoon than it is possible for me to do ; but I should like, if I may, to congratulate you on the traditions of your College. You have spoken of the spirit which prompted its founder and I know that for years your Vice-Principal and other masters of this College have devoted all their time, their energy and zeal in promoting education in the circle of Coimbatore. I am a great believer in traditions and *esprit-de-corps*. I know that to the end of my life I shall always look back with the utmost gratitude and utmost affection to the school in which I was educated. Not, I am ashamed to say, that I took advantage, as I wish I had, of my opportunities ; but I believe the traditions of that school have stood by me in life and if I have attained any success in my life, it is due I believe to the traditions of which I imbibed the spirit at my school. You here in this country perhaps do not understand as fully as we do in England what we mean by the traditions of our great public schools : but you may build up traditions yourselves. Already your school has been in existence for many years and during that time she has sent out into the world men who have reflected credit on their teachers and on their College. It is for you to maintain the traditions which these men have

established. It is for you to emulate their example when you go out into the world. Many of you are just on the threshold of your University career. I have seen some of the classes studying for various examinations and at no time perhaps could I sympathise with you more than I could to-day ; because as I was just telling your Principal upon this very day my own son is undergoing the very uncomfortable ordeal of passing an examination into Oxford ; so that I have fellow-feeling. I remember the sort of distress which used to overcome me when I have been myself called upon to face the ordeal of a competitive examination. And when I wish you all success in your forthcoming examinations I can do so with very genuine cordiality.

2. There is one doctrine which I am never tired of preaching to school-boys and that is that the time slips by and with it the opportunities which you get in your school of improving your knowledge and of learning the true doctrine of the brotherhood of man. These opportunities, if you let them go by, do not come again. So I would say to you, seize these opportunities now while they are yours ; seize them with a strong hand and a determination that you will make something of your life, which, when the sunset of life is upon you, will be a source of gratification and not of regret. What you are in your schools, that you will be in your manhood.

3. I say to you be earnest, be strong, be manly, be just one to another and above all do not waste your time ; do not drift like a dead stick down the

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stream of life either in your work or in your play, for that will spoil for you in future your success.

4. When you go out into the world remember that you are of this College. Do your best to render her some return for the good which she has done to you so that you may be worthy of her. That is the best wish I can offer to you to-day. Be worthy of your school. It will spell success and satisfaction to you in your life. It will spell satisfaction to those good men and true who are giving the best of their talents, time and energy to help you over the rough waters of life and to equip you for the battle of life which has to be faced by each one of you and which has to be fought out to the end. I can assure you that it is a great gratification to me to be here and to express the hope that you may all taste a full measure of success in whatever career may lie before you.

St. Michael's
College.

His Excellency next visited the Church of St. Michael and inspected St. Michael's College. Here elaborate arrangements had been made by the students and the authorities of the College for the reception of His Excellency. A song of welcome composed in honour of His Excellency was sung, and His Excellency addressed the school as follows :—

Governor's
speech.

GENTLEMEN AND PUPILS OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL,—
I may say that the reception which you have accorded to me to-day is unique in my experience. You have welcomed me with song and verse; you have strewn my path with flowers; you have made your

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room bright to do honour to this occasion. I know full well that you could not have achieved all that you have without much trouble, and I desire to thank you, one and all, for the efforts which you have made, for the trouble which you have taken, for the kind thought which prompted you in making my visit here to-day memorable to me.

2. I appreciate your kindness and welcome your words of loyalty expressed to me as the representative of the King. As time goes on, and my tenure of office extends in this country, I hope that in addition to this feeling of loyalty towards the representative of the Crown which is traditional in India, I may do something to forge a personal link between myself and those members of the community over whom I am called upon for a time at least to preside. The reception which I have had at your hands to-day encourages me greatly, and I feel that if there is any lack of sympathy between myself and you, the fault will not be yours. I thank you again for the way in which you have greeted me.

3. I have a bond of fellowship between these good men and true who are helping you to an enlightened education—a bond which began many years ago between the Catholics in South Africa in Bulawayo and myself. The good Fathers there, like the good men here, were devoting themselves body and soul to help on their comrades, above all, by doing all that lay in their power to bring within the reach of the young a thoroughly sound and a thoroughly good education. I believe during the years that I was

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there that not a single Christmas time passed without my accepting from them an invitation to give away the prizes and have a word with the boys, and I am glad to say that though that is now some six years ago, not a Christmas has passed since, that I have not received from them affectionate and cordial greeting to show me that they have not forgotten me. I felt in their work a deep and a real interest, and I can assure you, gentlemen, that I feel in the noble work upon which you are engaged a real, a true and a genuine interest.

4. There is nothing which appeals to me in the work of Government more than the work of education. I have spoken on this subject already to-day. There are at this moment reforms being applied in the Government system of education. Some of these reforms are tentative in their nature and may have to be modified, but I would ask you to believe that the only object which the Government have in view—whether you differ from them in the mode by which they seek to achieve that object or not—the only object that we have is that education in this country should be as general as possible and that it should be in quality also as good as possible; and I know that in seeking to achieve that end I may look upon you as co-operators and sympathetic friends, and so when I wish you well in the work which you have undertaken, believe me I speak with the utmost sincerity.

5. And to you, pupils of this school, in addition to the words which I have said to you just now, I

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would only say this that you have now to guide and help you the influence of good, noble and upright men. Yield yourselves to those influences and let those influences colour your whole life. In a year or two you will be launching your ship on the great ocean of life, and upon the quality of the work which you have done here and upon the way in which you sustain the traditions of your school, will depend whether you steer your ship safely into harbour or whether you founder on the rocks. So, I say to you do not fling away the chances which are brought within your reach by the generosity and unselfishness of those good Fathers. Seize every opportunity that presents itself; for believe me that though they may come now they do not come again. Be earnest in your work and in your play; try to acquit yourselves when you leave the school as worthy of her; bear her memory in gratitude and do nothing in all your life that will tend to tarnish its traditions or to make your school ashamed of you.

6. I hope that I am not asking too much if I beg that a holiday may be granted to the children in recollection of my visit.

7. Believe me, children, I shall not easily forget the courtesy and the warmth of your reception. Believe me, I wish you, one and all, every success in life and I hope that you will look back to your school-days as among the brightest and the happiest days in your life.

I thank you all very much.

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

In the evening at 4-30, His Excellency drove to the site of the new Agricultural College and Research Institute to take part in the very interesting ceremony of laying the foundation stone. A large and spacious pandal and two shamianas were erected on the site of the proposed building. In response to numerous invitations issued by the Hon'ble Mr. A. E. Castle Stuart Stuart, I.C.S., the Director of Agriculture, a very large and distinguished gathering, including several European ladies and gentlemen and prominent Indian gentlemen from various parts of the Presidency, had assembled to witness the interesting function. On arrival, His Excellency was received by the Hon'ble Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart, who in requesting His Excellency to lay the foundation stone made the following speech :—

Mr. Castle-
Stuart Stuart's
speech.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is my proud privilege to-day, on behalf of the Department of Agriculture of this Presidency, to offer you, Sir, a right loyal and cordial welcome to our Central Farm, and to express our most dutiful and grateful thanks to Your Excellency for having been graciously pleased to consent to lay the foundation stone of our future Agricultural College and Research Institute.

2. I can assure Your Excellency that such practical manifestation of good will and generous interest in the work of the Department and of sympathy with its existing difficulties which the establishment of

the new institution will go far to remove, is highly valued by all of us to whom this will ever be a red-letter day stimulating to further effort and pregnant with helpful encouragement.

3. As Your Excellency is aware, for the large majority of the people of this Presidency—notwithstanding possible and desirable developments in other economic directions—agriculture must long remain their supremely important industry, and the necessity for agricultural improvement has long been recognised by Government. So far back as 1854, the Court of Directors observed that “no single advantage could be afforded to the vast rural population of India that would equal the introduction of an improved system of agriculture.” The truth of this observation is emphasised by the fact that the average cereal-crop yield all over has been estimated by experts at about eleven bushels per acre, as against more than thirty bushels per acre—all cereals included—in England and that millions of acres in India—average four bushels or less, while “even the addition of one bushel per acre would pay the whole land revenue proper and would feed the increment of population through a whole decade.” The aim of the Department is to help the ryot to discover and adopt the most suitable methods of the “new agriculture” and to convince him that if he would prosper, he must “grow intelligently the most paying crop, in the best possible way, with the best outturn both in quantity and quality,” and that “it is not

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enough to grow customary crops in ancestral methods." Until last year the funds and staff at the disposal of the Department were quite inadequate to enable it to do more than make small, though important, beginnings in the development of agricultural research and education; but in 1905 the generous grant to this Presidency by the Government of India of 1½ lakhs per annum, subsequently increased to 3 lakhs, added to the allotments made by Your Excellency's Government, has removed all financial difficulty, and will, in time, provide us with the necessary superior and subordinate staff.

4. The immediate result of this improved financial position was the decision of Government to close the College of Agriculture, Saidapet, and to establish a new Agricultural College and Research Institute, adequately equipped with laboratories and class-rooms, with a suitable farm, near Coimbatore. The superior staff will, for the present, consist of an expert Agriculturist who will also be Principal of the College and Superintendent of the Central Farm, the Government Botanist, and an Agricultural Chemist, assisted by five Native Assistants, three Demonstrators and the requisite establishment of overseers, clerks and servants. Ultimately, an Entomologist and a Mycologist may be added to the superior staff, which will be required to combine teaching with research work, each expert being provided with Assistants and Demonstrators in his own branch, so that the time of the specialists may not be frittered away on merely elementary tuition,

*Staff of the
Institute.*

5. This institution will, it is hoped, fulfil a two-fold purpose. The problems connected with the agriculture of the Presidency will be studied in the laboratory and in the field, while students will be given a thorough general education in all branches of agricultural science. The farm will afford a field for experiment and for the test of laboratory research as well as a training ground for the student in the practical application of science to agriculture. The institution and farm will form the nucleus out of which the fully organised Department will gradually be developed. To provide for the diversity of local conditions, additional agricultural stations will eventually be established in each important and distinctive agricultural tract, where its agriculture will receive special study and where improved and new varieties of crops and agricultural methods will be thoroughly tested before being offered to the cultivators. These agricultural stations will be in charge of expert Agriculturists designated Superintendents of Farms of whom we now have only one, though we live in hope that we shall ultimately have at least two. Their duties will include the care of the agricultural stations, the systematic study of the agricultural conditions prevailing within the limits of their charges, the guidance of local Agricultural Associations, attendance at Agricultural Shows, the distribution of suitable seed and implements and the like. There will thus be an expert local Agriculturist in close touch with the ryots, ready to answer their enquiries, and to advise

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them in the introduction of improved methods. To complete the chain between the Central Institute and the ryots, demonstration plots under the supervision of the Superintendents of Farms will be established, either rented from or lent by the ryots themselves, when the practical results of experiment and research will be brought to their notice under the actual conditions of agriculture with which they are familiar.

The farm and
institute
buildings.

6. The site of this Central Farm was acquired at a cost of about Rs. 80,000. The total area is about $457\frac{1}{2}$ acres, of which 45.5 acres are wet land, 125 acres are good black loam, and 260 acres consist of red soil. There are ten wells on the land which has excellent sites for the Institute and residential and farm buildings. A sum of Rs. 2,77,000 has been set apart for expenditure during the current official year on these buildings.

7. The main building was designed by Mr. G. S. T. Harris, Consulting Architect to Government, and is planned on the form of the letter H. The building will be constructed of table-moulded brick in mortar with moulded cut-stone work, the whole being Hindu-Saracenic in character. There will be a handsome clock-tower in the centre of the front block seventy feet in height under which is the main entrance. To the right of the main entrance is the Principal's room (25 feet by $21\frac{1}{2}$ feet) and next to it his office (25 feet by $26\frac{1}{2}$ feet), beyond that lie the Botanical and Entomological preparation rooms

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which are 25 feet by 38 feet and 25 feet by 46 feet, respectively. Immediately to the left of the main entrance is the Physical Laboratory (25 feet by 30 feet) and next it the Physical Assistant's room (25 feet by 12 feet). Then comes the Chemical preparation room (25 feet by 18 feet) with the Dark and Samples room, each 24 feet by $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet separating it from the Mycological room (25 feet by 46 feet) at the eastern extremity of the front block.

8. After passing through the main entrance the open passage under the big library is reached. The two staircases to the upper floor will be in this open space. On the upper floor in the front block the Government Botanist will occupy the central room over the hall or main entrance; to his right are placed his assistants in a room $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 61 feet with the clerks next door in a room $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $15\frac{1}{4}$ feet and adjoining this is the Entomologist's room of the same size, his assistants occupying the end room which is $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $46\frac{1}{2}$ feet. To the left of the Botanist's room is the Herbarium $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 60 feet next to which is the Mycologist and his clerks and assistants in rooms measuring $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $30\frac{1}{2}$ feet and $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $56\frac{1}{2}$ feet, respectively.

9. The Library (60 feet by $45\frac{1}{2}$ feet), (mean width) forms the connecting link between the front and rear blocks.

10. On passing straight through the main entrance to the rear block the students' main entrance is reached; to the right of which are situated the

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Nitrogen and Potash rooms (25 feet by 18 feet), a Lecture room (25 feet by 31 feet), a Balance room and a room for the Chemical Assistant (21 feet by 20 feet), next to the Students' Laboratory (25 feet by 60 feet), which is at the western end of the rear block. To the left of the students' entrance are situated the stores and clerk in a room 25 feet by 31 feet. Beyond this are the Nitrogen, Balance, and Chemist's private room, and at the eastern end of the building the Research Laboratory measuring 25 feet by 60 feet.

11. On the upper floor, immediately over the entrance, there is the students' room which is divided by a moveable partition from a Lecture room, so that the two can be thrown into one large Meeting Hall, which would then be 76 feet by 25 feet. Adjoining this is the Museum preparation room (20 feet by 30 feet), with the Museum beyond (60 feet by 25 feet).

12. On the western side or left of the students' Reading room there is a Lecture room 25 feet by 50 feet, with a partition which can make an additional room (25 feet by 15 feet), if divided. Next to this are the Entomological and Botanist assistants, and at the eastern extremity of the building lies the Biological Laboratory (70 feet by 25 feet).

13. The building will be fitted with a small gas installation for Lecture room purposes and will be well supplied with water and drainage pipes. A scheme for installing electric plant for lighting the

institution, running the Farm machinery and for lifting water for irrigation and consumption and supply to the various buildings is under consideration.

14. The plans for the remaining buildings were prepared locally as were some of the detail drawings connected with the design of the main building. The various types of accommodation required are shown in the portfolio of plans and some of the buildings are sufficiently advanced to enable the accommodation provided for in each of the three types A, B, and C to be inspected. The building operations are being carried out by Mr. H. T. Keeling, Executive Engineer, P.W.D., under the supervision of Mr. H. H. O'Connell, Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.

15. The foundation stone came from a quarry halfway between Coimbatore and Pollachi, and it is of this variety of stone that all the principal columns and arches will be formed. It is gneissic in character and similar to the stone which was used for the piers and abutments of the Cauvery railway bridge.

16. It only remains for me again to express our deep gratitude to Your Excellency for your presence to-day, and to respectfully invite you, Sir, to lay the foundation stone of a building which we hope will prove of inestimable benefit to the whole agricultural population of this great Presidency.

The copy of Mr. Castlestuart Stuart's Address, which was presented to His Excellency the Governor, was in the form of a quarto volume, printed on

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parchment in gold, red and blue, and was handsomely bound in scarlet morocco.

His Excellency next performed the ceremony of laying the stone and after declaring the stone to be well and truly laid spoke as follows:—

MR. STUART, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I thank you very much, Sir, for the very kind way in which you spoke of my readiness to be here this afternoon. I can assure you that it would have been a very real and a serious disappointment to me if I had not been able to take part in the initiation of a work which has my entire sympathy and which I sincerely trust and hope will be of universal benefit to this Presidency.

2. We have only recently turned the corner of another century, and in the few years which have passed since then it is marvellous what strides have been made and are being made in the world of Science. It is almost impossible to foresee what during the next century will be effected by experiment and research. I think that it is good at times to look beyond the boundaries of one's own country, to look abroad and see what is being done elsewhere.

Agricultural
research in
America.

Now, I think, that in no country in the world has the benefit of experiments and research and the application of the lessons which science teaches been more remarkable than in the United States of America. I am not going to attempt to give you statistics as to the growth of the revenue of that

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America.

country. I would only remind you that the Americans are a wide-awake people and I would ask you if ever opportunity presents itself to make a study of what they have done for the development of the industries of that country, agricultural, industrial and commercial.

4. It seems almost like Fairy Tales to read their achievements, so incredible do they appear; and when one turns one's eyes to India, one is fain to confess that she has been rather like the Princess in the Fairy Tale, who slept for a considerable number of years. I believe that the veil of sleep is dropping from her lids and that her comely limbs are stirring from sleep and that she is awakening to a sense of duty and to the necessity of action if she is to take her part in the international strife for commercial supremacy for industrial success and agricultural development. There are two things, it seems to me, which have tended to arrest development here. In the first place, this is not a rich country. The State has not had at its command vast sums of money such as have been available in America to devote to experiments on a large scale. The amounts which America has spent in this branch are huge. The result has been an enormous accretion of wealth both to the individual and to the State. That has not been possible here. The policy of the British Government in this country has been, if I read it aright, to introduce as far as possible, in the first instance, a good system of communications, and to

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develop schemes of irrigation. I believe that this has been a right policy. I believe that it has resulted in an enormous benefit to the people. But I am glad to say that circumstances to-day admit of the Government taking steps in another direction, and it is the institution of this policy at which we are assisting to-day.

5. India is essentially an agricultural community and I know that it is hopeless to believe that she will ever be a rich country, as the term is understood in other parts of the world, unless at the same time she is able to develop her industrial and her commercial industries.

Increased
prosperity of
India.

6. We hear a great deal of the increasing poverty of India. I know that India is a poor country. But I do believe that under the guidance of the Supreme Government the material prosperity of this country has increased wonderfully during the last hundred years. I could quote you a vast list of statistics, but I will only mention one or two.

7. The imports and exports, both alike, during the past 50 years have increased by leaps and bounds. The value of land has been greatly enhanced. I believe that the condition of the agricultural classes is less miserable than it was a hundred years ago; and, so far as her industries are concerned, I think there are indications that her material prosperity is increasing in that direction.

8. In 1877, the Cotton Mills of India included 1,300,000 spindles. In the Cotton Mills to-day there

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are 5,195,000 spindles. In the matter of the jute industry, during the last 10 years the capital and the productive capacity of the Jute Mills have nearly doubled; and, whereas 21 years ago not a single ton of coal was exported from Calcutta, last year there were exported over two millions tons.

9. Now, I think, all these figures are satisfactory, and they warrant the hope that the industrial enterprise of this country is advancing.

10. We hear a great deal now-a-days of the "Swadesi" cry. Well, I have been at some pains and at some difficulty, I confess, to obtain an accurate definition of the term "Swadesi". If it means self-help, if it means the encouragement of local enterprise, if it means the development of Indian industries and the exploitation of the marvellous resources which she has at her command, then this movement has my entire sympathy. If it means the adoption of methods which include the boycott of British goods and the imposing on the poorer people of this country a necessity to buy an inferior article in a dear market, if it means these, then I have no sympathy with it whatever. I am waiting patiently; I look abroad and I want to see what practical shape this movement is taking.

11. Just now, I find my vision blurred by cloudy exhalations of frothy verbiage. But I hope that they are like the mists of morning which will be dispelled by the enlightening rays of common-sense, and that a day will soon dawn of great

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COIMBATORE.

Agricultural
Research
Institute.

His
Excellency's
speech.
Scheme for
improving
Agricultural
methods.

commercial and industrial activity throughout the length and breadth of the land.

12. Towards fostering the growth of industrial enterprise in this country, I believe that the Government may do much. But this is not the time nor the occasion for me to discuss what the policy of the Government should be in this respect. We are here to-day to initiate a scheme which we believe will do much for the agricultural industry. I do not think that I am maligning the ryot of this country when I say that he is essentially conservative. I know that Coimbatore as a district sets claim, and rightly, to have the most capable cultivators in India and I hope before I leave this district to see much of their work. But even they, I think, will not deny that they are conservative in their ideas and in their methods. The ryots of India are wedded to obsolete methods and to antedeluvian ways in agriculture. They are encrusted with prejudice and ignorance. These are walls whereby like Jericho we are engirdled and they are only to be levelled by the trumpet-blasts of knowledge and of the wisdom which knowledge brings in its train.

13. Now the Government are desirous of helping the ryot. They have asked themselves in what way it can best be done and I believe the lines upon which we are now working are the right ones. I do not myself believe that by lectures and pamphlets we shall induce the ryot to adopt more scientific methods than are in vogue to-day. I believe that the first thing which we have to do is by experiment

and research here to realise what are the proper lines upon which agriculture should be run, and to make practical application of the results of those experiments; that is to say, by demonstration farms in various parts of the country, to show that science pays. That is what we have got to teach the ryot, and I believe that we are setting the right way to work.

14. In this connection, Ladies and Gentlemen, I should like to say that not only the Government but also the ryots have a staunch friend in Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart. I have not been here long, but I have been here long enough to realise how ardently and earnestly he desires, and endeavours to benefit the ryots of this country through the instrumentality of Government. The vitality of Government depends upon its agents, upon the men who occupy responsible offices of State. The vigour of its action depends upon the energy of its individual officers, and I believe that, so long as Mr. Stuart occupies the position which he now holds, and which, I hope, he will hold for many a day, I believe that you will find Government's vitality in the matter of agricultural development to be great. I hope, when it languishes, that he will use whip and spur, and I can promise him that at all events the leader of the team is one who will respond most readily and spring easily into the collar. And in another respect too we have to be grateful to him. I have come here just in time to witness the springing into life of the Agricultural Societies, and

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Mr. Stuart.

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speech.

I may tell you, Ladies and Gentlemen, though, perhaps, you know it already, that no one has been more energetic, more active, more tactful, more helpful than Mr. Stuart in organising those institutions. I believe that they are going to be of immense benefit to this country.

Agricultural
societies.

15. There is only one thing I will ask them, and that is that they will work with us, that they will co-operate with the Government and I can assure them that they will find in myself one who will be most ready to meet them and strive with them to attain the goal which we both have in view. It may be that we shall not always be in accord as to the precise road by which we should travel in order to reach that goal. But we shall start on our work with a strong bond of sympathy which will do much to ensure ultimate success.

16. We may rejoice that India is waking from her sleep, that the great possibilities of this country are being no longer ignored; and may we not hope and believe that she is launching herself upon a sea of prosperity and wealth?

The Lawley
Road

17. Ladies and Gentlemen, I was the first person to drive down the road which has just been made. I am gratified, indeed, to know that it will, in future, bear my name. I am glad to think that, after I am gone, my name will in some way be associated with this institution, because I believe and hope that it is going to be a power of great and lasting utility. I wish it every possible success from the bottom of my heart.

His Excellency then went to the roof of the inspection bungalow which had been already built and so obtained a bird's-eye view of the grounds; the outlines of the buildings and the boundary of the land acquired for the Institute had been marked out by bricks and flags. The function was then converted into a garden party and His Excellency spent some time in conversation with various guests.

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1906.
COIMBATORE.
Agricultural
Research
Institute.

THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

On the following morning at 8 A.M. His Excellency drove to the site of the new Victoria Hospital to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the hospital. In a large pandal erected for the purpose the leading European and Indian gentlemen were assembled. On his arrival, His Excellency was received by the Municipal Chairman, Rao Bahadur A. T. Thiruvengadaswami Mudaliar, who made a brief statement giving the history of the present hospital and the circumstances which led to the proposal to build a new hospital. Rs. 11,000 were collected by public subscription and Rs. 60,000 were given as a grant by Government. His Excellency then laid the foundation stone and after declaring it to be well and truly laid, made the following speech:—

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1906.
Victoria
Hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I am very glad indeed to have an opportunity of performing this ceremony to-day. I have listened with very

His
Excellency's
speech.

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COIMBATORE.
The Victoria
Hospital.
His
Excellency's
speech.

great interest to the history of your hospital in the past in the prospect of your being endowed shortly with a hospital worthy of your town.

2. You have acquired a beautiful site; you have secured the help of Government, and you have received from some of the leading citizens of the town most generous promises of help in expanding the hospital in the future. I think among the records of the work which England has done in this country one of the noblest has been her efforts to bring within the reach of the poorer classes the advantages and the benefits of medical aid and medical skill; and it is satisfactory to know that the last report on the progress of hospital work in this Presidency shows that month by month and year by year those advantages and benefits are being appreciated and are being taken advantage of.

3. The number of patients that attended the hospitals in this Presidency last year, whether in-patients or out-patients, increased to a very remarkable degree, and I think that this is a very satisfactory symptom. It shows that the people of this country realise that the Government is trying to help them, is trying to lighten the load to some extent of their sickness and their suffering; and I hope that the work which is initiated here to-day by the laying of the foundation stone may be fruitful of much good.

4. You have a beautiful site here and you will shortly have a beautiful hospital which I hope in every way—in its methods and in its results—will

be worthy of the name which it will bear, will be worthy of that great and noble Lady who wielded the sceptre of this great Empire so long, so wisely and so well.

His Excellency then examined the plans which were explained by Mr. H. T. Keeling, the Executive Engineer.

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

A brief visit was then paid to St. Joseph's Industrial School. His Excellency was received by Rev. Father Foubert, the Manager of the school, the Rev. M. Rondy, the Vicar-General, and the Rev. G. Boulanger, the Principal of St. Michael's College. The school imparts practical training in weaving, carpentry, rattan-work, tailoring and book-binding to the children of the school, who are most of them inmates of St. Joseph's orphanage. The school was started by the Rev. Father Petite in 1900 and has since then been steadily growing, so much so, that in a month or two large extensions of the buildings and improvements in the scope of the training, were to be effected by the managing body. Before leaving the institution His Excellency recorded in the Visitors' Book the following appreciation :—

“ I have inspected St. Joseph's Technical School and I am greatly pleased with the work which is being done. I have the greatest possible sympathy with the desire of the good Fathers to give the youth of this country a training which will give them self-reliance and enable them to make their own way in the world.”

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COIMBATORE.
The Victoria
Hospital.

St. Joseph's
Industrial
School.

Visitors' Book.

STANES' HIGH SCHOOL FOR EUROPEANS.

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1906.
COIMBATORE.
Staness' High
School.

The Staness' High School for Europeans is one of the most interesting institutions of its kind in the Presidency and has done much to promote the cause of European education in Southern India. Founded as far back as 1864 as a small school in the verandah of one of the houses in the bazaar of Coimbatore, the institution has so steadily increased in importance and influence that it now occupies a high place among educational institutions intended for the exclusive use of Europeans in the Presidency. It was, therefore, with considerable interest that His Excellency inspected this institution in company with Mr. W. M. Theobald, the Principal and Acting Manager. There are nine European mistresses and two masters in charge of the school, Mr. Robert Staness being the permanent Manager. His Excellency spent over half an hour in inspecting the school-buildings and the work of the mistresses and the pupils who were at the time of his visit working at their daily lessons. At the conclusion of his visit the pupils of both sexes assembled in the main Hall and Mr. Theobald gave a brief account of the origin, growth and development of the institution since its establishment by Mr. Robert Staness in 1864. He read for the information of His Excellency the high opinion which was formed on the working of the school by Mr. J. H. Stone, Inspector of European Schools. It was to the following effect :—

“ The school is exceptionally well staffed and is doing “ exceptionally good work. I constantly notice marked “ deterioration as I go up a school ; each succeeding class “ seems more dull and apathetic than the last. It is not so in “ this school and as should be the case, the high water mark “ of ability and attainment is reached in the Sixth Form. “ The Head Master attributes this happy state of things to “ his system of interclass emulation. But as this only extends “ to subjects in which relative proficiency is easily expressed “ in marks, I prefer to suppose that it is because the work is “ made more interesting than in most schools. There is also “ no doubt that the school contains children of a superior class “ to the ordinary. This is due to its rising reputation and is “ an advantage which it may hope to maintain.

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COIMBATORE.
Staness' High
School.

“ The boarding arrangements are admirable.”

In conclusion, Mr. Theobald said that he hoped that the school would continue to flourish, and that if ever they had occasion to apply to Government for help in extending their buildings and the scope of their work, the application would meet with support at the hands of His Excellency. After a song by the children, His Excellency made the following speech :—

MR. THEOBALD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND PUPILS OF THE STANESS' SCHOOL,—I will only say one word to thank you for the song which you have just given so brightly and so well and to assure you of the pleasure that it has been to me to have a peep at your work.

His
Excellency's
speech.

2. I must congratulate you, Sir, if I may, on the report which has been just read and every word

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COIMBATORE.
Stanes' High
School.
*His
Excellency's
speech.*

of which I feel confident is thoroughly well-deserved.

3. As the head, for a short time, of the Government in this Presidency, I may tell you that when work of the nature you are carrying on here is being done you place Government under a great obligation. We are fellow-workers in the great scheme of education which is of such vital importance in this country. My only regret is that my visit should have occurred to-day and that I have just missed the opportunity of meeting the founder of this school, though I hope I may meet him before I return to Ootacamund. I am sure I should like him to have shown me round his school and I should like to have been able to express to him personally what perhaps is really easier to do when he is not present and that is my very high appreciation of the splendid work that he has done in this country for education and the splendid example which he has shown us ever since he took up this work two and forty years ago.

4. Of course, it is obvious enough, easy enough, to praise the liberality of a man who has spent money on a work of this kind, but what is far more valuable than this sum of money is the spirit in which it is spent and the enthusiasm with which the work is done; and nothing is more noble or more splendid than the way in which Mr. Stanes devoted his worldly goods, his energy and his capacity. For what? To help you children and others like you, to help you to equip yourselves for the battle of life.

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Stanes' High
School.
*His
Excellency's
speech.*

I know of no more noble work that could be done than this.

5. As to you, children, all I will ask you to do is to try to the very best of your ability to follow that example, You have got all to climb up the hill of life. Now your hopes are high; your spirits are bright. But you will find that it is a stony road; that you have difficulties to face and you must face them bravely and well. You must be imbued with something of the spirit of the man who has made it possible for you to come here. You must show the same spirit and enthusiasm and determination in overcoming the obstacles and do your best for your fellow-men. There ends the precept which I would give you this morning. Remember the name of the founder of your school; remember your school; be grateful to it; be worthy of it and be true and loyal citizens of this great empire, and through all your life try to sustain the traditions of this institution to which in after years you will find you owe a very great deal.

6. I wish one and all of you every success in your school life and I wish every one of you a happy and prosperous career when you leave the walls of this school. Do not forget the words which have been spoken by the Inspector of Schools as to the merits and the qualities of those who are trying to help you to learn.

7. You have got good kind teachers, able, efficient and zealous, who are anxious to do their best for you. Do your best for them.

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1902.

COIMBATORE.
Stanes' High
School.

Inspection of
offices.

Interview.

8. I thank you, Mr. Theobald, very much for the opportunity you have given me of visiting the school and I hope that for many a year to come you will be able to carry on the good work which you are rendering so admirably here to-day.

His Excellency then inspected the District Court and the Collector's Office and returned to the Collector's bungalow for breakfast.

At 1 P.M. M.R.Ry. T. Ramaswami Aiyangar, retired Sub-Judge, had an interview with His Excellency.

THE GASS FOREST MUSEUM.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

In the evening, His Excellency proceeded to open the Gass Forest Museum. On arrival, His Excellency was received by the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Weir, I.C.S., who, in requesting him to declare the Museum open, read the following address:—

Before asking Your Excellency to declare the Museum open, I would ask permission to say a very few words regarding its history and its aims and objects. I must first, however, thank Your Excellency for the honour you have done us in consenting to preside on this occasion, in spite of the many other calls upon Your Excellency's time. We must congratulate ourselves on the lucky coincidence of the completion of the new Museum building with your visit to Coimbatore.

2. The history of the Museum is a short one, as it is as yet young, though I hope a vigorous, insti-

Mr. Weir's
speech.

History of the
Museum.

tution. It was started in 1902 by Mr. Gass, who was then Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, and to that gentleman belongs entirely the credit of its origin. Its further growth and development and its location in the commodious building now about to be opened, are also largely due to the unflagging interest Mr. Gass has taken in the institution. Mr. Gass deserves the more credit as the Museum is, I believe, the first of its kind in India, and he had no assistance from records of failure or success of similar institutions in the country to guide him. Mr. Gass will, of course, be the first to acknowledge that he was loyally and heartily assisted by the officers of the Forest Department in making the collections, and while our thanks are due to all who have assisted, this does not detract from the credit due to Mr. Gass, as we know that sustained efforts are required to ensure such co-operation.

3. Mr. Gass was fortunate in securing on behalf of the Museum at an early stage of its existence the interest and goodwill of Your Excellency's predecessor, Lord Ampthill, who inspected it in 1902, and at once recognised its value and importance. I believe that during his term of office Lord Ampthill took a keen interest in its development, and his government just a year ago sanctioned the construction of the new building, and directed that the Museum should be called the Gass Forest Museum. Since Mr. Gass has retired from the service, the good work he began has been zealously taken up by his successor,

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1902.

COIMBATORE.

Gass Forest
Museum.
Mr. Weir's
speech.

Lord
Ampthill's
interest.

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Gass Forest
Museum.
Mr. Weir's
speech.

Mr. Lodge, on whom has fallen the burden of directing the arrangements of the new building. The collection is far from complete, and in the nature of things must continue to grow, and it is probable that before many years have expired there may be demand for more space. I venture to hope that if it is found necessary to make any such request it will meet with a sympathetic reception. When Your Excellency inspects the building I believe you will find that it contains much of great interest, but we claim for it that it is not merely an interesting collection which will amuse the visitor, but that it is a valuable source of instruction, both for the officers of the Forest Department and the general public.

Its educational
value.

4. The educational value to all persons, engaged in any particular profession or art, of special museums which exhibit the subjects dealt with in those professions and arts, is now universally recognised. The objects, with which the Forest officers are concerned, are scattered widely apart throughout the forest, and the utility to the department of a museum which brings together under one roof all these objects is particularly apparent in this Museum. The Forest officer can, in a short time, make himself acquainted with all the valuable timber and other forest products of the Presidency. He can also study the various pests which attack our forests, the existence of which it is so important he should be able to detect; while from the models and photographs of forest operations, he should derive much instruction. In fact, the Forest officer can

learn in a few days in this Museum much which he would only pick up laboriously during many years of practical work in his forests. As Your Excellency is aware, we have now a Forest School at Coimbatore for the training of Deputy Rangers and Foresters, and the museum has proved a most useful and, indeed, a necessary adjunct to the school.

5. There is, moreover, no doubt that the superior officers of the department who have visited it have derived much benefit and instruction. We also hope that the Museum will contribute to the commercial prosperity of the department by bringing to the notice of consumers and purchasers many valuable forest products, which are at present practically unknown. With this object a register has been opened, which shows where the various products exhibited can be obtained and in what quantities and at what cost.

6. Apart, however, from all benefits to the officers of the department, we hope the Museum will serve a still more useful purpose by interesting the general public in the forests of the Presidency, and the efforts which are being made to preserve them. The number of visitors of the Museum is steadily on the increase, and last year amounted to 1,687. It is to be hoped that some of these visitors have gone away, impressed with a sense of the value of the inheritance which the country possesses in its forests, and of the importance, or rather necessity, of protecting them and developing their resources. We want such ideas to permeate the people of this Presidency,

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Gass Forest
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Mr. Weir's
speech.

The Museum
and the Forest
Department.

Visitors.

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COIMBATORE.
Gass Forest
Museum.
Mr. Weir's
speech.

and we want them to realise that while the Forest Department will supply them with timber, fuel and grazing, as cheaply as is possible, without unfairness to the general tax-payers, that they on their part must accept with equanimity the restrictions and limitations on the free use of the forests which the Government has been compelled to impose. These restrictions are absolutely necessary if the forests are to be preserved for the future generations in this land. The agricultural prosperity of this country depends in a hundred ways on the maintenance and well-being of our forests, and their disappearance, or further deterioration, would involve a calamity of the first magnitude, which increased agricultural knowledge or improved agricultural methods would be powerless to avert, and could at best only mitigate. This is no startling new statement, but a matter of common knowledge to all Forest and Agricultural officers, and if the people of this Presidency can be brought to realise its truth, the Forest Department may hope to meet the co-operation where it now meets opposition, and to find its work not only easier but infinitely more effective. If our Museum contributed, be it ever so little, towards this desirable consummation, its existence will be amply justified.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNORS' REPLY.

His Excellency replied as follows:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—If there is one criticism I have to make on the very interesting

His
Excellency's
speech.

address which Mr. Weir has just read to us, it is that he has left me absolutely nothing to say. I can only assure you that it is very great pleasure to me to take part in this ceremony to-day. I hope much from this Forest Museum.

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COIMBATORE.
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Museum.
His
Excellency's
speech.

2. Mr. Weir has told you of its aims and its objects and among them I should like to lay emphasis on its value in disseminating knowledge and stimulating interest—not only interest in the science of sylviculture and in the great possibilities of forestry in this country and the great advantages to be derived therefrom—but also in disseminating a knowledge of the policy of the Government in regard to the forests.

3. At the present time, it seems to me that the objects of our policy are but dimly understood and but faintly appreciated. Mr. Weir has alluded to the restrictions which had been placed upon the ryots in regard to the forests. From what I hear said and from what I sometimes see written in the papers, I might almost be led to fancy that these restrictions have been imposed by Government solely with the object of imposing disabilities on and causing inconvenience to the ryot with some sinister design, whereby the money which might go into the pockets of the ryots may be diverted to the pockets of the Government. Well, Gentlemen, if these were the objects of the policy of the Government, it would be a foolish and a fatuous policy. The objects of our policy are nothing of the kind. I believe that

Government's
Forest policy.

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speech.
Government's
Forest policy.

if the ryot of this country were left to treat forests of this country at his own sweet will and pleasure, he would be somewhat like a child who is given an elaborate mechanical toy, who removes from the toy the intricate machinery by which it works and is then astonished to find that the toy is spoilt. It was just about a year from now that I visited a very remote tract of the Transvaal, far removed from the general supervision of Government, in which the natives of that country had been left very much to themselves; and I remember a man, who had been up in that country for a great number of years taking me to the top of a hill and pointing out to me hills, which but a few years ago had been clothed with forests, but from which the timber had been cleared by the natives. He pointed out to me deserted kraals and barren fields and worst of all he pointed out strips of yellow sand running through the landscape, which, he told me, twenty or thirty years ago there were perennial streams bringing fertility and prosperity to the dwellers in that district. The denudation of those forests meant a serious diminution of rainfall and the consequent ruin of the agricultural industry in those parts; and if the same course were to be followed here in a densely-populated country depending absolutely and entirely upon agriculture for its living, you can well imagine what the calamity would be.

4. No, Gentlemen, we believe that in the policy we are adopting we are doing our best for the ryot. The denudation of the forest here—I do not mean to

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Forest policy.

go in for any elaborate scientific exposition of the causes—but the diminution of the forest would mean a diminution of the water-supply. The diminution of your water-supply would spell wide-spread ruin among the ryots. We also claim that it is not only our right but it is also our duty to preserve the valuable timbers which abound in this country. If we impose no restrictions, if we insist upon no regulations, it means that much valuable timber would be prematurely destroyed and much revenue of this country, which might be devoted to additional improvements in the country, would be consequently lost. If we could get the ryots to realise the objects of our policy and to understand that we are acting really in their interests, then I think we should achieve a great thing in allaying discontent. I believe that an institution such as this which will interest men not only in learning the qualities of the wood which this country produces but in the whole question of sylviculture—its scientific aspect, and so on—is certain to do great good.

5. I know that complaints are made as to the restrictions to which Mr. Weir and I have alluded, and that hard cases are often brought to the notice of the Government. It may be that there is some rigidity about these regulations. There must be some hard cases but I would remind you of the proverb that “Hard cases make bad law.” But I am sure that if only our motives were thoroughly understood, there would not be the complaints which exist to day. I believe that Forest officers,

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just as readily as myself, will give as great elasticity as possible to those rules, because I am certain that, while they are very zealous, very keen and very enthusiastic for the work which they may have to perform—and that is to increase the timber of this country—yet at the same time their sympathy is with the ryots, even while they have to impose apparent disabilities on them.

Central
Museum.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen,—I need hardly speak to you of the other objects which this Institution seeks to achieve, namely, the advantage which must be derived if it is possible for those interested in this question to see what this country can do. I think that the policy hinted at by Mr. Weir of creating one Central Museum is sound.

7. It is easier in the first place for Government to assist one such institution than to assist many and we have to think of the purse strings. The quality of a single Museum such as this must be better than if similar institutions are started in many districts; and though I can well believe that every Conservator of Forests would like to have his own Museum in his own circle, I am perfectly confident that they will loyally and zealously endeavour to make the quality of this Museum as good as it can possibly be.

Mr. Gass.

8. Mr. Gass, Ladies and Gentlemen, has placed this Presidency under a perpetual obligation to himself; and I should like to say on behalf of the Government how highly we appreciate the part which he has played in inspiring the movement with

life in its early days and bringing it to the vigorous stage at which it has arrived to-day.

9. We are intensely grateful to you, Sir, and I hope that every Forest officer in this country will be inspired with the same aims as those which inspired you and will, as I said just now, do his best to make this Museum a success for the sake of the department, for the sake of the Government and for the sake of the Presidency as a whole.

10. Ladies and Gentlemen, I can only assure you once again that it is a very great pleasure to me to declare this Museum open.

Mr. Gass thanked His Excellency for the kind reference made to his efforts in bringing into existence the Museum, and said that, but for the hearty and willing co-operation of many of his subordinates and friends in the department, he would not have been able to make such collections of exhibits as were in the Museum. He handed over to His Excellency a key made in pattern of a Forest Guard's axe and requested him to open the Museum with it. His Excellency next threw open the building, and a large number of visitors, preceded by His Excellency, entered the hall and spent nearly an hour in examining the excellent collections.

His Excellency the Governor made the following entry in the Visitors' Book at the Museum :—

" I esteem it a great privilege to have been asked to open the Gass Museum. I wish long life and success to its founder. I hope that every member of the Forest Department will be

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Museum.
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Excellency's
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Mr. Gass's
speech.

Visitor's Book

25th September 1906. "animated by the same spirit, so that this Museum may
COIMBATORE. "grow constantly as the years go by."

Roman Catholic
Orphanage.

In the course of the day His Excellency visited the orphanage of the Immaculate Conception Convent.

Garden-party.

Later in the evening, His Excellency was entertained at a largely attended party given by Rao Bahadur Thiruvengadaswami Mudaliar at his residence. The place was tastefully decorated and the entertainment included Indian music, and a display of fire-works.

PART II.

THE ANAMALAIS.

His Excellency and party, accompanied by Mr. Shipley, left Coimbatore at 8 A.M. on Wednesday morning, the 26th September, for the Anamalais. Major Glyn joined the party *en route*.

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COIMBATORE.

The Party drove to Pollachi, a distance of 23 miles, visiting *en route* a Local Fund elementary school at Kudichi, a roadside village four miles from Coimbatore.

KUDICHI.
Visit to
Elementary
School.

His Excellency stopped at Pollachi, which was reached by 10 o'clock, with Mr. and Mrs. Hemingway.

POLLACHI.
Inspection of
Village
accounts, &c.

In the afternoon His Excellency and some of the party went out for a ride and paid a visit to the village of Vadagupalium, where the village officers brought up the village account books and showed them to His Excellency at the village chavadi. His Excellency rode over a few fields, inspecting the crops on the ground and a few irrigation wells. He made inquiries of the ryots as to the cost of sinking wells, their irrigation capacity and the actual ayacut under them. They brought to His Excellency's attention a few matters of purely local interest, and they were referred to the District Officers for redress.

Next morning the journey was resumed, the party driving to the foot of the hills, a distance of 14 miles. Here the party was joined by

27th September
1906.

27th September
1906.

Mr. J. S. Scot, District Forest Officer, and Mr. F. A. Hamilton, District Superintendent of Police. The journey was continued on horseback at once as far as Attakutti, about seven miles up the ghat. Here a halt was made for breakfast. After breakfast, the journey was resumed. A brief halt was made at the Forest Depot at Andaparai Shola, where some elephants were seen engaged in hauling and piling timber. A short distance further on the party stopped again for a while at a place called "Governor's Prospect," whence they had an excellent view of the surrounding hills, forests and plantations.

ATTAKUTTI.

ANDAPARAI.
Forest Depot.

PUTHU-
THOTTAM.

On reaching the Paralai estate His Excellency was met by Mr. Windle and Mr. Congreve, Planters, who conducted him to Puthuthottam, a distance of two miles, where His Excellency and party stayed for two days as the guests of the members of the Anamalai Planters' Association.

28th September
1906.
Visits to estates.

The next morning His Excellency the Governor and party went round Mr. Windle's estate (the Paralai estate) and saw rubber tapping. They also ascended the top of the Paralai rock to view the surrounding country. Later several of the planters met His Excellency at luncheon and afterwards had an informal conference with him on matters concerning their industry.

Conference with
planters.

29th September
1906.
Visits to estates.

On Saturday morning His Excellency inspected the Stanmore Monica Estate, where Mr. Bannatyne showed him over the tea factory and also the rubber plantation. Then a visit was made to Valparai

estate, where the party received an addition in Mr. Duncan. Here cardamom and coffee cultivation interested His Excellency.

29th September
1906.
PUTHU-
THOTTAM.

In the afternoon the party witnessed a number of Kadirs climbing tall trees by means of pegs of bamboo driven into the trunk as they ascend. The remarkable agility and surefootedness displayed by these hill people were much admired.

Kadirs.

On Sunday morning the return journey was commenced. Pollachi was reached in the afternoon and His Excellency and party remained there for the night being again the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hemingway.

30th September
1906.
POLLACHI.

On the following morning the party proceeded to Pódanúr which was reached at 10 A.M. on the 1st October. Here His Excellency and party were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Lushington Taylor. At lunch His Excellency met several of the local Railway officials. In the evening His Excellency left Pódanúr by South-West Mail train for Salem, which was reached at 9-16 P.M. The party remained for the night in their saloons.

1st October
1906.
PODANUR.

PART III.

SALEM.

2nd October
1906.SURA-
MANGALAM.

SALEM.

At 7 A.M. on the 2nd October His Excellency's saloon was taken into Súrámangalam station. The platform was carpeted in red and was tastefully decorated with flowers, foliage and flags. His Excellency was received by Mr. J. H. Robertson, the Collector. His Excellency's arrival at the station was private. Mr. P. R. Narayana Iyer, Assistant Director of Survey, garlanded His Excellency. His Excellency accompanied by his staff and Mr. Robertson, then drove from Súrámangalam railway station to the Salem Town Hall, where the leading residents of the town had assembled. The Town Hall and its approaches were profusely decorated. On arrival at the Town Hall, His Excellency was met by the members of the Reception Committee and conducted to his seat on the dais. His Excellency was then presented with addresses by the Municipal Council of Salem, the People of the District, the Salem Muhammadan Educational Association and the Mahajana Sabah of Vániyambádi. On account of their length, these addresses were taken as read.

SALEM MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

Municipal
Address.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Municipal Council of Salem, beg to

offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome to our city. Our municipality with its population of 70,621 is one of the largest in this Presidency. Its administration, however, has been carried on under very trying conditions and several of the problems, which have already been successfully solved in other towns, await solution here. Your Excellency's inclusion of this town in the programme of your first tour, we take as a token of your desire to acquaint yourself with the difficulties of backward mufassal municipalities like ours, and remove them as far as possible. We and the people whom we represent, *viz.*, the citizens of Salem, therefore, welcome Your Excellency with all the greater pleasure, in that we anticipate that during Your Excellency's '*regime*' we shall, under your liberal and sympathetic guidance, be able to place our city in a more satisfactory condition in regard to certain matters requiring prompt attention.

2nd October
1906.SALEM.
Municipal
Address.

2. We beg leave to urge for Your Excellency's favourable consideration some of the most pressing needs of our town.

3. Owing to the prevalence of plague in the Mysore Province, and, later, in portions of this district, the plague charges incurred by this municipality during the last eight years amounted to Rs. 42,931-0-4, being 10·9 per cent. of the total income from taxes for the same period, which amounted to Rs. 3,92,132-13-10.

Plague
charges.

4. Though the taxes under all heads are now levied at the maximum rates in this municipality, our

Financial
condition of
Municipality.

2nd October
1906.
SALEM.
Municipal
Address,
Financial
condition of
Municipality.

aggregate income is low as compared with that of municipalities having the same population, owing to the general poverty of the inhabitants of this town, consisting mostly, as they do, of weavers, whose trade has of late considerably fallen off.

5. While the income of this municipality has not increased, owing to a succession of bad seasons and to changes in the schedule of rates relating to taxes on arts and professions introduced by the present District Municipalities Act, the fixed expenditure that it has been called upon to incur year after year has been steadily growing. Thus, while the plague charges claim about Rs. 5,000 per annum, the dispensary for women and children, that was opened here in 1903 in commemoration of the Coronation of His Majesty the Emperor, costs us about Rs. 1,000 per annum, the oil engine at Arisipaliam costs us a similar sum, and the re-organisation of the sanitary staff has imposed on our revenues an additional burden of Rs. 600 per annum.

6. Thus without any corresponding increase in our income, the annual expenditure of this municipality has grown by about Rs. 8,000. The natural result of such a state of things has been, that certain institutions under our charge have suffered from their resources having had to be drawn upon and diverted to other purposes, to meet this large extra drain on our income. In this way, more than a fourth of the heavy expenditure, incurred on account of plague charges, has been met out of the surplus

Transfer of
College fees to
General
Municipal
Fund.

fee income of the second-grade College maintained by this municipality. A sum of about Rs. 11,800 and odd having thus been taken away under the orders of Government from the funds of the College, a course opposed to the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code, the Educational authorities have deprived the College of more than half the grant that it would have been otherwise entitled to. The College has thus lost not only its accumulated savings in the past, but, by the diminution of the Government grant, its prospective income has also been reduced. The College has, in consequence, been deprived of the many improvements to which it had justly earned a right, by its steady and vigorous growth and its prudent and economic management. Owing to the want of suitable accommodation, several forms of this institution have had to be temporarily housed in a separate building at a distance from the College.

7. Its most pressing wants, at present, are increased accommodation for its pupils and provision of a play ground and a hostel. For this last purpose, an endowment of Rs. 4,000 has been made by a private individual, which, however, is insufficient unless supplemented by an adequate grant from Government. In view of the new and stringent regulations under the Universities Act, which will impose a large outlay on the College to maintain it at the required standard of efficiency we respectfully pray that Government may be pleased to give us a liberal grant in consideration of the heavy plague

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1906.
SALEM.
Municipal
Address,
Transfer of
College fees to
General
Municipal
Fund.

Salem College.

2nd October
1906.SALEM.
Municipal
Address.
Salem College.

expenditure incurred by us in the past—an expenditure that has been of benefit not merely to this town, but also to our neighbouring districts, and, in fact, to the whole Presidency, as this dire and dreaded epidemic has been through our efforts and at our cost successfully warded off from their doors, and which we therefore venture to suggest should be borne from the Provincial, if not the Imperial, revenues—and thus enable the Council not merely to discharge its debt to the College and restore to it its former prosperity, but also to enable them to supply many other municipal needs. One of the most pressing of these at present is the want of an in-patient ward in the municipal hospital in place of the existing one, which has been condemned by the Surgeon-General.

Hospital.

College
Buildings.

8. We learn that it is under consideration to provide accommodation elsewhere for the Government Training School and the Post and Telegraph Offices. The buildings occupied at present by these institutions are adjacent to the College. Having regard to the sums appropriated to other purposes from the College funds in the past, and to the need for increased accommodation referred to above, we respectfully pray that these buildings, when vacated may be handed over to the municipality for the use of the College.

Water-supply.

9. We next turn to the standing grievance of this town, a grievance which has found most prominent mention in all the addresses presented by this Council on similar occasions during the past

2nd October
1906.SALEM.
Municipal
Address.
Water-supply.

quarter of a century, we mean the want of a good supply of wholesome water. The scarcity of water has been so severe and widespread this year, that, to alleviate it a little, an oil engine has recently been fitted up at the Arisipaliam well; and the people who benefited by it, as well as the Municipal Council, feel very grateful to Government for having borne the cost of the installation of this engine. But measures of this kind, besides being expensive and temporary, can afford relief only to a very small proportion of the population. On another ground also, that of improving the drainage of this crowded city, which has been characterised by successive Sanitary Commissioners as being in a very deplorable condition, an improved water-supply is absolutely necessary, seeing that it has been held by Government that no drainage scheme can be taken in hand till a sufficient supply of water is first provided. We, therefore, beg to urge on Government the pressing necessity for making a liberal grant from Provincial Funds for providing this city with a good water-supply. The Government has, during the past decade, conferred this blessing on smaller and less important municipal towns in this Presidency; and we fervently pray that during Your Excellency's term of office this long standing and pressing want of ours may be supplied.

10. The overcrowding of the town and the absence of suitable building sites have led to the extension of this city over unhealthy and insanitary areas. The Municipal Council is, however, powerless

Extension of
Salem town.

2nd October
1906.

SALEM.
Municipal
Address.
Town
extension.

to prevent this owing to its inability to provide suitable house sites. The most favourable direction for the expansion of the town is the northern side of the river, where, attracted by the presence of good drinking water, a number of houses have sprung up within the past ten years. As there is no other suitable locality available for the purpose, and as Salem is one of those districts in which the local Government have declared that it is customary for the Government to provide house sites, we respectfully beg to urge the necessity of acquiring under the Land Acquisition Act the entire ayacut, measuring about 50 acres, and the bed of the tank known as Maravaneri, measuring about 11 acres. The tank could be breached and the entire land thus acquired, consisting of about 61 acres, would thus form a very extensive and healthy site for the developing needs of a growing city like ours. ✓

Salem Railway
station.

11. In previous addresses this Council has often drawn the attention of Government to the necessity for connecting this town by rail with the railway station of the same name, which is nearly four miles distant from it. We hail with great satisfaction the proposal to realign the Madras Railway so as to bring it nearer Yercaud, and into the midst of our town. (Having regard to the heavy goods and passenger traffic of this town, such a measure is certain to be of the greatest advantage to the people.

12. We once more beg to express to Your Excellency our heartiest welcome; and pray that the

Almighty Giver of all Gifts may be pleased to confer His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Lady Lawley, and grant you both long life and prosperity.

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SALEM.
Municipal
Address.

SALEM PEOPLE'S ADDRESS.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the people of the town and district of Salem, respectfully beg to offer Your Excellency our most hearty welcome to our town. We venture to regard the inclusion of Salem in the very first tour of Your Excellency as most opportune. Salem is just emerging from a water famine, the severest within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. In welcoming Your Excellency at this crisis, we are gratefully reminded of the two visits which your illustrious brother, while Governor of Madras, paid us during a period of famine drawn here no less by His Lordship's feelings of kindness and sympathy for the suffering poor than by his sense of duty.

People's
address.

Lord Wenlock.

2. Salem is one of the larger cities of India having a population from 50,000 to 100,000 and it occupied a very important place when the Presidency was under the rule of The Honourable East India Company. It was one of their chief commercial depots, and its ancient weaving population received colonies of weavers from distant parts of the country. Salem has ever been famous for its extensive weaving industry and in a lesser degree for its trade in grain and hides. The fine cloths manufactured here were noted for their artistic

Importance of
Salem.

2nd October
1906.

SALEM.
People's
address.

excellence and found their way to the courts of the remotest princes in the country.)

3. We beg to embrace this opportunity to lay before Your Excellency a few of our special wants and also call your attention to some questions of great importance in which we are interested along with the rest of the Presidency, and we beg Your Excellency will be pleased to give them your earliest and most sympathetic consideration.

Salem
water-supply.

[4. The greatest and most pressing want of this town is an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water. In this respect Salem for its size and importance in Southern India has been the most unfortunate. (The question of a proper water-supply and drainage scheme for this town has been long engaging the attention of the Government.] We venture to submit that the time for continued consultation of experts and consideration of their opinions is past and the necessity for prompt action has long ago arrived. We respectfully submit that the question can no longer be postponed without serious injury to the health and comforts of the inhabitants and to the sanitary condition of the whole town and the neighbourhood.

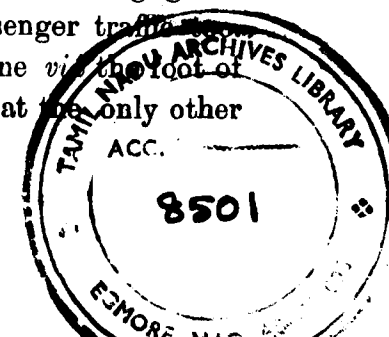
Salem Railway
Station.

5. The railway station is nearly four miles from the town and the inconvenience arising thereby both to the travelling and mercantile public is obvious. We have pressed this inconvenience more than once on the attention of the Government and the railway authorities. Recently we were glad to

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SALEM.
People's
Address.
Salem Railway
Station.

hear that the railroad would be bent some miles to the north of the station and taken through the town *via* the foot of the Shevaroy Hills, an arrangement by which the inhabitants of Salem as well as the planting community and visitors to Yercaud as a health resort would greatly profit. But it is now rumoured that this proposal is to be given up and that a line on metre gauge would pass from the railway station through Salem to Porto Novo. If this is true, it would be a great mistake. It would be something if Salem is connected with its railway station by a branch line which should also be on broad gauge as in the case of Palghat. But to have the connecting section on metre gauge, considering that the distance to the station from the western portion of the town wherein most of the trade is concentrated is about three miles, would be of little use. The lines being dissimilar, transshipping goods and parcels would become necessary. And the merchants and traders and the public in general most dread transshipping goods at junctions. The great delay, damage, and even losses by theft occasioned in the course of transshipping goods from one line to another are notorious. We believe it would be no boon to have a metre gauge connection between the town and the railway station. The line would hardly pay. The people would prefer using the ordinary road always for sending goods and parcels and often as for passenger traffic. Next to the re-alignment of the line *via* the foot of the hills, we venture to think that the only other



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1906.

SALEM.
People's
Address.

Redistribution
of districts.

alternative that would be of any benefit to Salem, not to mention the financial aspect of it, is a broad gauge branch from the railway station to the town.

6. Frequent mention has been made in the newspapers about the re-distribution of the districts of our presidency and that two big slices out of this district would be cut off in the process. We have no reliable and authentic information on the subject to guide us. We beg that the papers on the subject may be published and the public and the people most concerned given an opportunity to express their views before Your Excellency's Government finally accepts any definite proposals. If the rumour that the taluk of Námakkal is to be separated and added to the district of Trichinopoly is true, we venture to submit that it would be a serious mistake. With the extended course of the Cauvery between the taluk and the Trichinopoly district, with floods for about half the year and without a bridge throughout the long distance from Bhaváni to Trichinopoly, it would seriously inconvenience the people of that taluk and add to administrative difficulties as well, not to mention the grave economic and other serious inconveniences that would arise by the new and forced movement of the population and diversion of the trade.

Fuel-depots.

7. On former occasions we have respectfully brought to the attention of the Government the sufferings of the people owing to defective administration in Forest, Salt and Abkari departments. We

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1906.

SALEM.
People's
Address.
Fuel-depots.

would specially call Your Excellency's attention to severely scrutinize all proposals for the expansion of the forest whether reserved or unreserved and for the development of the forest revenue. We call Your Excellency's attention to the existence of forest depots for selling fuel. These Government fire-wood bazaars, as the common people call them, are, we beg leave to state, very undesirable and may, with great advantage to the people and prestige to the Government, be abolished. Large classes of the poor, whose ancient occupation was wood-cutting, are in consequence thrown on the society, with no means of livelihood, thereby adding to the acuteness of distresses so frequent in this district and to the increase of the criminal population, with no corresponding benefit to the Government. What was formerly the means of livelihood of large numbers of the poor has now become the monopoly of a few rich contractors. Confining ourselves to the town, that 70,000 people always supplied with firewood at their doors by sellers with head-loads, are now obliged to repair to three or four depots, is a great hardship, and that in a place where so much time has to be spent every day in securing water for domestic use. We would respectfully urge that, if the permit system cannot be restored, at least felling and stacking by the department and selling on the spot in small quantities as well, may be resorted to.

We would once more beg of the Government to frame liberal rules providing for goat-browsing,

Browsing, etc.

2nd October
1906.

• SALEM
People's
Address.
Grazing.

cutting wood for agricultural implements and picking leaves for manure, free of charge.

We would call Your Excellency's special attention to what cannot but be regarded as a very inequitable practice, that where grazing in an area becomes impossible owing to insufficiency of grass, and in consequence recourse has to be had to other areas, new permits have to be obtained on fresh fees. We are humbly of opinion that one fee for the year must be deemed sufficient, no matter in how many areas grazing has to take place.

Remission of
land-revenue.

8. We understand that it is in contemplation to revise the rules on the subject of the remission of the land tax. We earnestly trust that before adopting a final set of rules, copies of the proposed changes will be circulated to associations and selected individuals for their opinions and suggestions. This district, wherein famines and distresses are not infrequent, is deeply interested in securing generous rules on the subject and a liberal and sympathetic interpretation and application thereof. We beg leave to draw Your Excellency's special attention to the great hardship caused to the agricultural community of this district by the manner of the recent administration of the existing rules under a mistaken notion that the hands of the local authorities are tied, with the result that the ryots have suffered enormous losses. We would beg and pray Your Excellency to grant them an equitable relief and order a refund in consequence of the literal and,

what we believe to be erroneous, interpretation adopted by the district authorities.

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1906.

SALEM.
People's
Address.
Plague
expenditure.

9. For some years past the District and Municipal Boards of Salem have had to incur heavy expenditure on account of the plague precautionary measures. We desire to say that it is not just and equitable to place upon these Boards of meagre resources so heavy, and what threatens to be, a permanent burden on them. It is but too obvious that this ought to be an item of expenditure from the Imperial and Provincial Revenues. The Madras Government is to be congratulated on having secured a satisfactory revision of its Provincial Contract, one chief feature of which is, that it would be the proprietor of the balances and not the Government of India as formerly. We earnestly trust that Your Excellency's Government would hesitate to adopt that unsound principle of national finance of hoarding large balances. We think that the Government would now be in a position to relieve the mufassal Boards altogether from all liability to incur any charges to enforce the plague regulations.

10. Now that it is financially much more independent and with its increasing revenue, Your Excellency's Government, either by itself or in conjunction with the Local Boards, relieved of all plague expenditure, might think of improving the condition of the masses of the people by a system of free and compulsory education supplemented by an organization of free night schools and lectures. The vast masses of the people, the hewers of wood

Free and
compulsory
education.

2nd October
1906.

SALEM.

People's
Address.
Free and
compulsory
education.

and drawers of water, are as ignorant and superstitious as their ancestors were centuries ago. Nothing would confer a greater boon upon the country at large and create more administrative facilities as well than means devised on a large scale by which these dumb millions of Southern India may be taught to believe that by their own efforts they could better their physical, moral and economic condition. In times of actual and threatened plague and other epidemic diseases the difficulty, often amounting to impossibility, of convincing the people at large that the adoption of precautionary measures tends to avoid risks, to prevent and diminish suffering, and to save life, has been obvious to the Government officers and to the educated non-officials co-operating with them. Free schools and free popular lectures with illustrations on sanitary and scientific subjects would be a greater boon than all laws and regulations to ward off the ravages of plague, cholera and small-pox.)

Secondary
education.

11. The changes that have been recently introduced in the educational system of this Presidency have caused not a little alarm at their probable effect of unduly restricting secondary education. If secondary schools are to be limited to a few select centres as contemplated, the rural middle classes who have been the slowest to appreciate the benefits of secondary education would be the worst sufferers inasmuch as they would be compelled to remove their children at a very tender age to distant towns and thus impair their moral and physical welfare

and incur an unnecessarily heavy expenditure on their behalf if they should desire, as they naturally would, to secure such education to their children. We therefore pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to order the full and liberal recognition of secondary schools of inferior grades, consisting only of lower classes and forms below the highest in the smaller towns of the district and thus enable their inhabitants to secure for their children the benefits of secondary education in its earlier stages at a reasonable cost and not far from their homes.

(12. We are of opinion that in the light of experience the District Municipalities Act needs revision and recasting both as to some important principles as well as minor details. Without in any way implying an allusion to the relations between the Chairman and the Secretary of any particular municipality, we desire to state that the office of the Municipal Secretary with compulsorily delegated powers is a curious anomaly and by no means tends to efficiency and harmony in municipal administration or to evoking and maintaining among the people a healthy spirit of local self-government. We are of opinion that experience would justify the abolition of this very anomalous part of our municipal system. The office of Municipal Secretary as the chief of the municipal staff and a subordinate of the municipality with duties both in the office and outside and capable of materially assisting the Chairman in the discharge of his executive duties may no doubt be desirable. But

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1906.

SALEM

People's
Address.
Secondary
education.

Municipal
Secretary.

2nd October
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SALEM.
People's
Address.
Municipal
Secretary.

Election of
Salem Municipi-
pal Councillors.

Election of
members of
Local Boards.

Non-official
Vice-Presidents
of District
Boards.

the office of a Secretary with independent powers which the municipality has compulsorily to delegate to him and, thus elevated, sharing the powers and functions of the Chairman and often practically superseding him is a unique and unhealthy provision of law nowhere else existing in India and a novel and original provision even in this Presidency.)

(13. The franchise of electing the full three-fourths of the councillors has been in a manner promised to the Salem Municipality. It has been long electing one-half of the councillors even before the introduction of Lord Ripon's famous local self-government scheme. We would respectfully pray that Salem may henceforth be allowed to elect the full three-fourths.)

14. We would call Your Excellency's attention to the provision in the Madras Local Boards Act that members of the Taluk Boards and in some cases even of the District Boards may be partly appointed by election by the tax-payers and inhabitants. This is an ancient provision of the law. And yet it has been a dead letter hitherto. We beg that effect may be given to this provision of the law and the franchise bestowed under such rules and regulations as to educational and property qualifications as Your Excellency's Government might think fit, excluding selected areas if thought unsuitable. In this connection we would also urge for the favourable consideration of Your Excellency's Government the desirability of appointing non-officials as Vice-Presidents of District Boards either

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1906.

SALEM.

People's
Address.
Non-official
Vice-Presidents
of District
Boards.

Stationary Sub-
Magistrates.

Income-tax.

directly by Government or by election by the members of the Board. While on the one hand this provision might find honourable employment for Government pensioners and other educated men willing to serve the country, on the other, greater supervision may be expected and relief given to the hard-worked Treasury Deputy Collectors who are almost invariably the Vice-Presidents. Effect given to these provisions of the law would impart to the administration by these Boards more of the character of local self-government than they now possess.

15. We but give expression to the universal feeling in the district that Stationary Sub-Magistrates should be appointed to the remaining five of the nine taluks of the district.

16. On a former occasion we called the attention of the Government to the very unsatisfactory manner of assessing the income-tax. We are sorry to be obliged to say that this is a very great and universal grievance. The tax itself was introduced as a temporary measure and we have been in vain looking forward to the promise being fulfilled and to its abolition. But the promise remains unredeemed in spite of the growing and prosperous financial condition of the Imperial Government. However excellent in principle the tax may be, considered abstractly, the manner of ascertaining and assessing incomes for the purpose and the attendant evils make this the most objectionable

2nd October
1900.

SALEM.
People's
Address.
Income-tax.

of all the taxes in the country. The best Government officials would find it hard to free the assessment of this tax from its objectionable features in the absence of a well-defined and digested code of rules for their guidance and for uniformity of action. We are humbly of opinion that the Local Government by formulating definite rules for the guidance of assessing officers may greatly minimise the evils arising from the methods arbitrarily adopted for the assessment. It must be remembered that the vast majority of the people of this country are still illiterate and even where they are not, oral business transactions still largely obtain, while scientific accuracy in book-keeping and accounts, where such exist, has hardly ever been reached in any appreciable degree. In these circumstances secret informers whether non-officials or petty officials are a terror to the trading and money-lending community and to people supposed to be such. It may not be good policy for assessing officers to disclose the names of the secret informers and we may observe in passing that informers who invariably seek the protection of secrecy are utterly unreliable. But we are unable to reconcile ourselves to the practice of invariable refusal to supply the person concerned the information itself clearly and specifically so as to give him an opportunity of directly rebutting it and at the same time to a refusal to believe him; yet this is often the case. We are respectfully of opinion that where neither the informer nor the information is disclosed,

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1900.

SALEM.
People's
Address.
Income-tax.

the assessing officer should invariably accept the verified and sworn statements of the persons proposed to be assessed or their guardians and agents. We earnestly pray that a rule on these lines definitely guiding the assessing officers would be most healthy and beneficial. We abstain from entering into a statement of the various incidental evils attending the assessment of this tax partly caused by the absence of rules and the uncontrolled discretion of misinformed and ill-informed assessing officers but chiefly caused by unscrupulous petty official and non-official informers. Suffice it to say that in the mode of assessing this tax the Government and its officials alike are exhibited in a most undesirable light to the people of the country.

17. It is rumoured that it is in contemplation to raise the number of Judges of the High Court of Madras. We earnestly trust that the rumour is true. Not only does the work in the High Court itself frequently get congested and great delays occur in the disposal of important cases, but we are also respectfully of opinion that some experienced Judges of the High Court, preferably an Englishman and an Indian, should frequently go into the mufassal for the purpose of inspection as well as for the purpose of personally guiding subordinate courts, a course calculated to improve the tone of the administration of justice in the mufassal both Civil and Criminal and to inspire greater public confidence especially in the administration of Criminal Justice. We venture to state that the

High Court.

2nd October
1906.

SALEM.
People's
Address.
High Court.

public would gladly welcome an increase in the number of Judges to eight or nine. We desire respectfully to emphasise the fact that the recruitment of a fairly proportionate number of High Court Judges from among the Indians can no longer with justice be postponed. It has been authoritatively admitted over and over again that Indians have long and well been tried in the judicial service and have been found fully equal to the discharge of the most arduous and the highest judicial functions. We would earnestly beg and pray Your Excellency to consider whether the time has not arrived to give full effect to the principles enunciated in the Queen's Proclamation and to pledges repeatedly given, as regards the equal employment of the natives of the country when found fit. We would therefore respectfully urge for Your Excellency's consideration that when the present strength of the Judges of the Madras High Court is raised, a definite number, from one-third to a half of the total number, may by statute be reserved for Indians and the necessary alteration of the law secured. We also earnestly trust that, pending the contemplated reform, Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to appoint another Indian when the question of permanently filling up the two existing vacancies comes up for consideration.

*Estates Land
Bill,*

18. This district is full of mittahs, a class of permanently-settled estates, and the town and the neighbourhood of Salem form part of a mittah.

We are therefore naturally interested in the Madras Estates Land Bill. We are aware that the provisions of the Bill are deemed highly controversial. We are also aware that rich and influential zamindars, especially of the northern part of the Presidency, are most hostile to the measure. We may state here that the owners of the mittahs are what are called "Regulation-born landlords", that is to say, these mittahs were created a century ago under the system inaugurated and carried into effect by Lord Cornwallis; and it is further worth our while to mention that the then Madras Government desired to effect the permanent settlement directly with the peasant proprietors and not with middlemen existing or to be created. We would next point out that the Madras Government while borrowing the language of the permanent settlement in Bengal in its Regulations, which language has since been frankly admitted to have been due to English ideas of feudal tenures of Europe which have had no counterpart in India, expressly protected the public and the peasant proprietors of the Presidency by a statute (Regulation No. IV of 1822) on the one hand, and on the other unmistakeably told the owners of permanently-settled estates that they were mere grantees of Government revenue with a margin for their own profit for the trouble of collecting the land tax. This system of middlemen in connection with the boon of the permanent settlement of the land tax was introduced at a time when the Honourable East India Company had more to do with wars, treaties,

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and the pacification of the country than with devising and carrying into effect administrative machinery for the ascertainment and collection of the land tax from individual proprietor-occupants of the land. The ryots of the mittahs are and have always been peasant proprietors, inheriting the property and transferring it without any hindrance or limitation except in accordance with Hindu or Muhammadan law. We are further of opinion that the owners of permanently-settled estates other than mittahs, such as ancient zamins and poliems, are really in the same position as the mittadars, being either descendants of ruling princes, who, as such, were entitled only to the land tax, or grantees of public revenue by Hindu and Muhammadan Governments for service rendered. If the ryots in these estates have in any measure lost their proprietorship in the soil, we have no doubt that it was owing to circumstances over which they had no control and under which they could not help themselves. But it seems to us that in their case courts of judicature could have and ought to have protected their rights as contemplated and even directed by the said Madras Regulation IV of 1822. If the Government, however, thinks that it is now too late to expect courts to protect them, we would beg of it that, in its solicitude to raise one class of fallen ryots, it do not degrade another class of ryots and that for no faults of the latter. Yet such, we fear, would be the effect of the proposed measure, and such was admittedly the effect in Bengal where some time after the inaccurate phraseology of the

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permanent settlement had done its mischief, first the courts and then the legislature intervened to protect the ryots. It was then authoritatively admitted, that in gradually creating and evolving the rule as to the acquisition of occupancy rights by 12 years' possession, they elevated the tenants at will to an undeserved position and unjustly degraded the peasant proprietors to a lower status and on an equality with the tenants at will. We would remark that the Bill does not define what an occupancy ryot or occupancy right is. These are novel phrases created in Bengal by the necessity of the situation. Against such necessity the early wisdom of the Madras Government whose action culminated in Regulation No. IV of 1822 saved this Presidency.

As understood in the north and as introduced in this Bill the people of this Presidency do not understand what an "occupancy ryot or an occupancy right is", and there are no vernacular equivalents to these clumsy phrases. There could be no acquisition of an occupancy right over one's own land. Neither the mittadars nor the mittah ryots have complained against the existing law regulating their relations. Some reform in the details of the law, very much on the lines of the Bill introduced by Sir V. Bashyam Aiyangar some years ago, would quite meet their requirements. A careful perusal of the provisions of the Bill cannot but carry one conviction—*viz.*, that it is the contract revenue payable to the Government by the assignees that is by mistake assumed to be permanently-settled and

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Bill.

not the tax on the land itself. If the provisions of the Bill, as they are, become law, the ryots of the permanently-settled estates become subject to the periodical revision of the land-tax like the ryot-war owners without enjoying the protection which the latter enjoy in the hands of Government by way of remission of the land-tax, irrigation and famine relief, loans, etc.

As the measure is objected to on all hands, we respectfully beg that either the passing of it be postponed and, if necessary, a commission appointed to investigate the whole question, or, if the Bill be passed, that suitable provisions be introduced in the Bill to protect the ancient rights of the peasant proprietors and to maintain in integrity and unimpaired the provisions of Regulation No. IV of 1822 in its letter and spirit, and also to drop the provisions enabling "landholders" to come in for a share in the increase in prices and to enter into competition with the ryots in the matter of improvements.

Powers of the
Governor.

19. In conclusion we would beg leave to state that the position, influence and statutory powers of the Governor of Madras, both ordinary and extraordinary, are great and coupled with the advantage of freshest statesmanship, his personal resources for doing good to the people of Southern India are vast. We earnestly trust that it would be your proud honour so to use these immense powers of yours as to strengthen the loyalty and gratitude of all classes of the people of this great Presidency to the

Sovereign and to the British people; as to produce greater and greater harmony between his Imperial Majesty's Indian and European subjects in India and to leave them nearer each other than when you found them; as to give the whole of the province greater and greater opportunities of reaping the full benefit of the Proclamation of the Great Queen Victoria; as to maintain and create efficient educational institutions of every kind and thereby to enable the people to make rapid progress towards industrial and economical progress and towards self-help in the great battle of life. May it be your proud ambition to set an abiding example to your successors and to enjoy the recollection of your five years' stay among the people of this country as the brightest and happiest period of your life.

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People's
Address.

SALEM MUHAMMADAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION ADDRESS.

Muhammadan
Educational
Association's
Address.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Mussalman community which, in the words of one of Your Excellency's illustrious predecessors, to wit, Sir Arthur Havelock, is "the most loyal" His Majesty the King rules over, constituting the Salem Muhammadan Educational Association, beg most respectfully and cordially to welcome Your Excellency, the worthy representative in this Presidency of our most gracious King, Emperor.

2. The Mussalman population of this district is 68,500. Though in education they are ahead of the

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Muhammadan
Educational
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Objects of
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Association.

Muhammadans in many other districts, yet progress has been retarded here, as everywhere else, first by poverty and secondly by the absence of machinery to provide the means of elementary instruction in the neglected parts of the district, to concentrate and accommodate, by means of boarding and lodging, pupils of the less educated tracts seeking instruction more advanced than elementary, and, above all, to watch, scrutinize and communicate to the parents of such pupils the state of their studies in schools. To supply these wants, this Association was started about ten years ago under the kind patronage of the Hon'ble Mr. Gabriel Stokes, C.S.I., then Collector of this district, and conducted under the able guidance of the then Head-quarters Deputy Collector, Khan Sahib Muhammad Azizuddin Husain Sahib Bahadur, now Collector and District Magistrate of South Canara, both of whom, though separated by distance, have been to this day bestowing the same kindly care and attention on this institution. To these gentlemen the Association owes substantial support in the shape of money and advice—the former contributing Rs. 60 annually, and the latter (whom Your Excellency has been pleased to confirm as Collector) being our Vice-President. After they left the district, their successors in office Mr. C. H. Mounsey, I.C.S., and S. M. V. Oosman Sahib Bahadur, B.A., B.L., now Deputy Collector in Chingleput, supported us with equal warmth. Mr. R. B. Clegg, our late Collector, was not slow to recognize that the

Mussalman community fully deserved the support and encouragement of its rulers; and our present esteemed Collector, Mr. J. H. Robertson, I.C.S., has, with equal kindness and sympathy, now extended to us his cordial support.

3. It may reasonably be asked what the Association has achieved during its existence of ten years. Though the result has not been all that was expected, yet the Association has the satisfaction of having produced one graduate and three matriculates, besides a number of other boys who have come out successful in the Lower Secondary and Primary examinations. It has been rendering help in the shape of school fees and books to seven poor Muhammadan boys on the average annually; and in the current year it has 15 students under its aid. With greater support, it may become more useful to the community. But the absence of a suitable person on the spot, who will take a real and continuous interest in the aims of the institution and whose words will carry weight, stands in our way. Since the departure of S. M. V. Oosman Sahib Bahadur we have had practically none to give us personal support; and Khan Sahib Muhammad Abdul Hafiz Sahib Bahadur, who was here for a short time as Deputy Collector, has been transferred to the Madura district. We therefore hope that our humble efforts, to maintain the rank and prestige of our community will meet with warm support at Your Excellency's hands; and we

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Muhammadan
Address.Work of the
Muhammadan
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Mussalman
Head-quarters
Deputy
Collector.

respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with this request :—

That the Government at an early date will be pleased to favourably consider the appointment of a Mussalman Deputy Collector to the Head-quarters division of this district who can be of permanent help to us in our efforts to bring our community in line with the general progress of British India.

Should Your Excellency be pleased to accord a favourable consideration to the request, the Association will be greatly encouraged in its labours.

4. Although, actuated by sentiments of unflinching loyalty and unswerving devotion to the British Crown, our community is, as truly observed by Lord Ampthill, “not sufficiently self-assertive or sufficiently influential to press its claims on every suitable occasion,” we are fully confident that its interests are safe in the hands of an experienced statesman and benevolent ruler like Your Excellency; and we are extremely grateful that, in Your Excellency’s regime, two out of the twenty-three district administrators in the Presidency belong to our community.

5. In conclusion, this Association fervently prays that Lady Lawley and Your Excellency may enjoy uninterrupted and unalloyed happiness and prosperity.

VÁNIYAMBÁDI MAHAJANA SABHA’S ADDRESS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the citizens of Vániyambádi we, the members of the Vániyambádi Mahajana Sabha, respectfully beg

Vániyambádi
Mahajana
Sabha’s
Address.

to offer to Your Excellency our most hearty and loyal welcome on your arrival in our District.

2. We take advantage of this opportunity to place before Your Excellency some of the most pressing wants of our town that require prompt attention on the part of Government.

3. We are given to understand, that a system of water-supply is about to be introduced in the town of Vániyambádi. We are humbly of opinion that the introduction of the water-supply system is unnecessary, firstly because, we have always an abundant supply of water in our river and secondly because the inhabitants of the town are hardly able to bear the water-tax that would then be imposed on them. We have already been over-burdened with plague and other charges, and our recent calamities of floods and unfavourable seasons make it impossible for us to bear an additional tax on account of water-supply. We most humbly pray that the water-supply system may not at all be introduced here as we ever have an ample supply of pure water in the river.

4. As the Chairman of our Municipality is the Divisional officer whose head-quarters is Tiruppattúr, which is 14 miles distant from our place, we have often found it difficult to have free access to him for representing our grievances. We therefore pray that a local Chairman be appointed, either official or non-official.

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Vániyambádi
water-supply.

Chairman of
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Municipal
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Vaniyambadi
Mahajana
Sabha's
Address.
Bench of
Magistrates.

5. Having regard to the steady increase in the number of prosecutions in this Municipality under the Town Nuisances and District Municipalities Acts, we pray that a Bench of Honorary Magistrates may be appointed for the town to help in the speedy disposal of such cases, as it is hoped that a Bench Court will give better satisfaction to the people than the court presided over by a single special Magistrate that we have now.

Muhammadan
Primary
Schools.

6. Owing to a better appreciation on the part of the people of the advantages of Primary Education, as many as 12 primary schools have been started in this town by the Muhammadan community, and these are not likely to flourish unless Government is pleased to supplement the aid at present afforded by the Municipality by a liberal grant from provincial funds.

Bridges.

7. This town has, in times of extraordinarily heavy rains, occasionally been subjected to inundation from heavy floods in the river *Palar* which passes through our town in several branches all of which unite together at the other end. With a view to provide the inhabitants of those portions of the town which are surrounded on all sides by the river with an easy means of escape at such times as well as to render communication with them easy at all times, it is absolutely necessary to connect such portions of the town with the mainland by means of bridges. This want is particularly felt over the Kaderpet river which lies between Amburpet and

Kaderpet. Expensive as such a step is likely to be, we doubt not that our benign Government would not grudge it to us, if the loss of life and property that is actually caused and threatened at such times is taken into consideration as also the advantages that would be secured to us by the construction of such bridges.

8. We crave Your Excellency's pardon for the time taken up by us and pray that God may bless Your Excellency and Lady Lawley with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency made the following reply to the above Addresses :—

MR. VIJIARAGHAVA CHARIAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SALEM, AND GENTLEMEN,—I can assure you that it is a very great pleasure to me to find myself in Salem to-day. In the great numbers which have assembled here, in the beautiful decorations of your town, in the kind words of welcome conveyed in the addresses read to me—addresses which have been presented in the most beautiful caskets, which I shall always keep as a very pleasant memento—I see plainly written your desire to make me welcome, and I can assure you, gentlemen, that I thank you for your kind and cordial greetings. In the allusions to my wife and to my brother which these addresses contain, you strike a personal note which I can assure you I value

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very highly. I am glad to say that Lady Lawley will be with me now in a few weeks, and when I next visit Salem I hope that she will be at my side. I am also glad to say that my brother intends to be with me at Christmas, because he has a very keen desire to re-awaken his old interest in this Presidency, where he spent five happy years, and to renew his old friendships which he made then and which, I know, he for his part intends to be life-long.

2. Gentlemen, unfortunately the time which I have at my disposal is very short, and I ventured to suggest that I should not put you to the trouble of reading the addresses, some of them being of considerable length, because I know from my own experience that on a hot day like this it is a physical effort and not a slight one. Moreover you have been good enough to submit already the subject-matter which these Addresses contain; and, in particular, my visit here being limited to hours, I believed that it would be of far greater advantage if I were to devote as much time as possible to meeting the men of Salem face to face and to realising your local conditions in the hope thereby of bringing sounder judgment to bear on the questions which are submitted to me and of viewing in their true proportions the different factors in the problems which you allude to as awaiting solution.

Object of visit.

3. Now, gentlemen, if I may turn for a moment to the matters raised in your addresses, I should like to prelude my remarks with just these few words, and that is, that I have come here to learn and not

to dogmatise. It would have been very easy for me to have met the various requests contained in your Addresses—it would have been easy for me to have come with a definite answer, either in the affirmative or possibly in the negative, to have come here with fixed ideas and preconceived notions. But I think that it would be far better, as I said just now, before I express opinions on these subjects, that I should introduce a little colour, and not trust to what I have seen through documents darkly, but trust—rather to what I may see clearly face to face.

4. In one of the addresses allusion has been made to the weaving industry of Salem. I know something of the prosperity of that industry in days gone by, and I regret exceedingly to learn that it is not in so flourishing a condition as at one time it well claimed to be. Now, we have all of us heard a good deal of Swadeshi, and the Government is being constantly urged, from time to time, to do something to foster the industries of this country. We made a beginning here by setting up a Weaving Institute. We believed that by doing so we should put within the knowledge of the weavers of this District methods whereby their output of cloth would be greater while the cost was reduced, and that thus their material prosperity would be considerably advanced. Now it is somewhat of a surprise and a considerable disappointment to me to learn that this effort which we have made—it is not a very great one, but still it is a decided effort—is regarded with suspicion, if not with hostility. I am afraid our motives must

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Industry of
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Weaving
Institute.

have been misunderstood, because I need hardly assure you, gentlemen, that the idea that the Government should enter into competition with any of the industries of the country never suggested itself to us. We desired simply and solely to infuse some fresh spirit into an industry which was languishing, if not perishing, with inanition. I hope that when our motives are understood and our objects are realised, we shall receive the co-operation of the weavers of this District and that thus we may do something to advance and improve its material prosperity and progress.

Salem municipi-
pal finances.

5. My attention is called to the fact that the incidence of taxation here is at the maximum. I would only say that when I compare the taxation per head in Salem with what it is in other towns. I find that it is considerably less than elsewhere. It may be, as you say, that this is due to the poverty of the town, and, if so, I assure you I regret it extremely; but it has occurred to me that it is possible that the method of assessment has not been scrutinised as carefully as it might be, and that perhaps it may be found that the assessment falls lightly on the rate-payers of the town. Be that as it may, I realise that the Municipal finances are not in as rosy a condition as they might be. My attention has been called to the fact that the maintenance of the Queen Alexandra Hospital and the maintenance of the boring plant which was put down for the purpose of supplying water to the town are a heavy drain upon your resources. I would

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remind you that the construction of the Queen Alexandra Hospital was not provided from Municipal funds and that the Government has paid the full cost of the installation of the plant of Arisipaliam. I do not read into the words of your address the fact that you grumble at the maintenance of these two concerns; but I would submit that it is only a reasonable charge on the finances of the Municipality.

6. In regard to building a new in-patient ward in the Municipal Hospital, I ascertained, and I think it is right, that hitherto no definite proposals in that respect have been made to Government. I can assure you that if they are made we will give to the representations which you make the fullest possible consideration. No one realises more fully than I do how invaluable to the community at large is an institution such as a hospital. I hope that as greater use is made from year to year of the hospitals established in this country by Government, so the work of hospitals will grow and it will be possible for us to extend that work and to put within the reach of greater number of people of this country the enormous benefits of medical aid and medical skill, and especially of good nursing.

7. We next come to what is rather a difficult question, and that is the adjustment of expenditure which you had to incur on account of plague. It is urged in the address that the policy which it is right to follow, should be that all expenditure in

Plague
Expenditure.

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Expenditure.

connection with the prevention of plague should fall upon Imperial or Provincial funds. Well, gentlemen, I do not think that this is altogether a sound policy. I am a believer myself in self-reliance and self-help not only in the case of individuals but in the case of an institution such as a Municipality, and moreover it seems to me that such a policy would be in direct conflict with the underlying principles of municipal government. When a Municipality is established it is made possible for the Corporation, by taxation and other means, to raise a considerable revenue. But at the same time they undertake great responsibilities not only to their town but also to the rest of the country, and it seems to me that sanitation is one of the responsibilities which is thus laid upon them. It appears somewhat difficult to see why plague or any similar epidemic should be exempted from the general category of sanitation. I think myself that, so far as can be, the Municipality should do what they can for themselves in this respect. If the calamity is so dire and of such vast proportions as to throw upon the shoulders of the Municipality any undue burden of debt, I think that the Government have never failed to come to their rescue. Moreover, I think you should remember that three-fourths of the expenditure on plague in Salem is defrayed by other District Boards, and that the Government has in recent years allotted to this particular Municipality, if I remember aright, a sum of Rs. 13,000 on one occasion and only two years ago a sum of

Rs. 20,000 (I think so, is it not so, Mr. Chairman?) as a grant on this account. Gentlemen, I can assure you that the expenditure on plague in Salem is by no means as great as it has been elsewhere, and I do not think that the demand which has been made upon the finances of the Municipality has been recently so great as to warrant Government, at this juncture, in making a special grant. ✓

8. The next question which I should like to discuss is that in regard to your College, and this is essentially one of those questions in regard to which I should like to see for myself and hear for myself on the spot, before I express any definite opinion; for it seems to me that in the remarks which you have made there is not quite a due appreciation of the facts of the case. The position, as I read it, is this; that this is a College maintained by the Municipality, and the surplus revenues in the past of the College have been merged into the general revenues of the Municipality and treated as part of their general revenues. That being so, when the proposal was made to the Government that the Salem Municipality should undertake considerable expenditure in a direction which was not absolutely necessary and at a time when they have to meet heavy obligations which could not be set aside, it was deemed advisable that the additions and enlargements should, at all events for a time, be postponed. It is represented that the result of this was a loss to the College of more than half the grant to which they were entitled. On studying the provisions of the old Code, which was in force when these arrangements were made, I apprehend that

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the Municipal College was not entitled to a grant at all. I was assured that the grant was entirely within the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction, and it also carried with it this limitation, that the grant, whatever it might be, should not be such as to enlarge the surplus revenues of the College but should make good any deficit. I want to make that point clear, because it could be hardly said that the action of the Government, to which I have just referred, took away from the Municipality any emoluments to which they were entitled. Under the new Code, which now comes into force, the College will be outside the provisions of the Code, and the question of a subsidy will be dealt with according to the merits of each case and not only in accordance with the requirements of the town, but also in view of the financial condition of the Municipality. I would suggest that the question of the subsidy, whether in regard to the additions to the buildings or in regard to maintenance, should be made the subject of fresh negotiations with the Director of Public Instruction. But until I have had an opportunity, as I said, of seeing for myself and learning something more of the condition of the College and of the buildings and so on, I would not like to prophesy or give any definite promise as to what the attitude of the Government may be in regard to it.*

* The Municipal Council's request for Rs. 11,000 from Provincial funds as a special grant-in-aid towards the cost of providing a hostel and playground was not granted (G.O., 2476 M., dated 10th December 1907), but the Government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 9,000 from the special assignment in aid of University education to enable the Salem College to comply with the University regulations (G.O., 810, Educational, dated 10th December 1907).

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Addresses.
Training
College.

It is also represented in this connection that the Training College is to be done away with. I think that is a misapprehension. So far as I can learn, no decision in regard to that matter has been come to. And in regard to the offices of the Post and Telegraph, I am afraid that they cannot be evacuated at present and, until there is a prospect of their becoming vacant, I think it will be altogether premature to discuss what ultimate use the buildings should be put to.*

9. As I am dealing with College matters, I should like to say one word in regard to the question raised in the addresses in respect of secondary education. I should like it to be most clearly understood that the Government has no desire nor intention to restrict secondary education. What we really wish to do is to improve the quality of it and to raise the standard of its efficiency. Hitherto the practice has been, I understand, that in the same college in which secondary education was being carried on, there were frequently a considerable number of pupils who never meant to go beyond the elementary course. Our advisers in educational matters are of an opinion that it would be to the advantage of secondary education that higher and elementary education should be divorced, so to speak, and that secondary colleges should be so not only in name, but that

Government's
policy
regarding
secondary
education.

* In G.O., No. 76, Educational, dated 14th February 1907, it was decided to construct a new building for the Government Training School and an estimate for the new building was sanctioned in G.O., 590 W., dated 8th May 1908. The present building belongs to the District Board. Up to September 1908 it had not been decided to transfer the Post and Telegraph Office.

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education.

they should devote themselves entirely to higher education; and we believe that, while we insist upon that, we shall at the same time impose no disabilities on the elementary schools. Elementary schools will be for elementary scholars pure and simple; and secondary schools will be for those who intend to go beyond the elementary course. I would remind you that the Code must be in itself more or less tentative. I think that it is undesirable that we should make up our mind that it is going to be a great success or a failure until we see what the effect of it will practically be. I can assure you that we have no wish to lower the standard of higher education in this country. While we think that it is our duty first of all to widen the doors of primary education, we shall show, I trust, active and practical sympathy with those institutions and individuals who wish to improve the standard of higher education.

Salem water
supply.

10. Gentlemen, the question of your water-supply is one on which I should like to touch, and in regard to it I should like to say that the Government realise fully and sympathise deeply with the hardships to which Salem has been put on account of an indifferent water-supply. This year you were sufferers from a great water-famine. The shadow of coming trouble lay dark on the whole of Salem district. It looked as though we were in for a bad season in succession to other bad seasons. But I am glad to say that, so far as the agricultural outlook is concerned, I think we may rest assured that an

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Salem water-
supply.

ample, if late, monsoon has driven away the fear of scarcity. But I know and I can well conceive the inconvenience, the loss of time and loss of money to which the citizens of this town must have been subjected by the shortage of water-supply. But after all, temporary inconvenience from a slight loss of money is as nothing to the calamity which has always come in the train of an indifferent water-supply, that is, the ravages of cholera. I know that the sufferings of the people have been great and I regret to learn that the mortality has been high; and I can assure you, gentlemen, that there is nothing which, when my time comes to leave this Presidency, there is nothing I say that will give me greater satisfaction than if I can know that not only in Salem, but in many other parts of the Presidency, an ample water-supply has brought to the towns greater comfort, greater health, and greater happiness. That is the attitude of the Government in regard to Salem and its water-supply. I know that there has been long delay. At the same time, I have in other countries seen the folly of rushing hurriedly and embarking on ill-digested schemes of irrigation and water-supply. I have seen money being squandered like water. Also it must be remembered that in the case of the majority of the schemes which have come forward for consideration, the cost would have been very great indeed, and the burden would have been almost greater than it would have been fair to impose upon this town. But at the same time the Government fully realise,

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Salem water-
supply.

as fully as you do, Sir (addressing Mr. C. Vijiaraghavachariar), that the time for action is come, and I hope that before long a project satisfactory in all respects may be decided upon and may be undertaken and carried into effect. I hope definite estimates will be before us—I think they will be—during this month. But until we know what they are, I cannot obviously say what the action of the Government may be in regard to the expenditure. A good water-supply is, like other luxuries, one you have to pay for. Though at the same time I feel sure that the burden of water-tax will not be grumbled at here, I would remind you that when other schemes have come forward elsewhere, the Government have shown no unsympathetic attitude, and, as I said just now, we realise very fully how exceptionally great the sufferings and hardships of Salem have been in this respect. Certainly you may rely upon it that the Government will evince no more stingy policy in regard to Salem than they have done elsewhere.*

11. The question of overcrowding, gentlemen, is also brought to my notice. I know you will forgive me if I speak frankly—I generally speak frankly—and say that the provision of sites in case of overcrowding is essentially a duty of the municipality.

* In G.O., 2001 M., dated 25th September 1907, the execution of a scheme of water-supply for the town of Salem, estimated to cost over Rs. 8,00,000 was approved and a grant from Provincial funds not exceeding Rs. 4,50,000 was promised. In G.O., 390 W., dated 20th March 1908, an estimate amounting to Rs. 8,10,535 was sanctioned. A proposal to grant the Council a loan of Rs. 3,60,000 from the Provincial Advance and Loan Account repayable in thirty years with interest at 4 per cent. is under consideration (G.O., 1140 M., dated 13th July 1908). Land was acquired for the scheme in 1907-08 and the execution of the project began in 1908-09.

Extension of
Salem town.

Of course in the past where exceptional circumstances have arisen, the Government have adopted exceptional measures in regard to this or that municipality. But I find that at no greater distance of time than four years from now, the Municipal Council of this town, when invited to express an opinion on this matter, said that there was ample space available, and that no further sites were needed to meet the requirements of the town. Perhaps the reply was made without any due consideration; perhaps the growth of the town has been quite phenomenal; but in its present aspect the proposal that you make to me is a little crude. I should, before expressing an opinion upon it, like to know exactly what the proposals are, what the cost will be, and what our loss of revenue is likely to be from the breaching of the tank. I think all these matters should be before us fully and clearly before we are invited to express opinions on this point.*

12. In regard to the question of your railway, I think you may be re-assured that it is practically settled that the railway will be brought to Salem either by the deflection of the Madras Railway or by a branch line on the broad gauge. A scheme is also in contemplation to connect Salem with Atur. But that will be to put it in connection with the metre-gauge railway, and then you will be in touch with the two systems, the Madras-Bangalore system on the main gauge, with-

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Extension of
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station.

* Up to September 1908, no proposal that the Maravaneri tank and its ayacut should be used for the extension of the town had been received by the Government.

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Salem Railway
station.

out a break of gauge, and with the South Indian Railway for all the country and districts south of the Madras Railway. That is a scheme which is in contemplation. But until it has received the sanction of the Government of India, to whom it has been forwarded, it is, of course, impossible for me to say definitely when it will be carried into effect.*

Redistribution
of districts.

13. In regard to the redistribution of districts, you ask me that full details in regard to the scheme should be published. Well, I regret that this is a request which it is not possible for me to accede to. The plans for the redistribution of districts are now before the Government of India, and if the general scheme is approved, it will always be possible for us to reconsider any such details as to the exact boundaries in regard to which you call my attention in your address. But until the general plan has been sanctioned, and we are in a position to approach the details and consider them, I am afraid I cannot give you any definite assurance in regard to the particular Taluk (Namakkal) which you mention in your address.

The Salt and
Abkari
department.

14. The address goes on to criticise the administration of the Salt and Abkari departments. The criticism is altogether too general for me to say anything about it. But I can only assure you, gentlemen, that if definite grievances or definite causes of complaint are brought forward before the Government, they are very fully investigated and

* It has been decided that the Madras Railway shall not be deflected to pass through Salem, but a proposal to make the portion of the projected Suramangalam-Atur line which will connect Suramangulam and Salem on a mixed gauge is under consideration (September 1908).

considered. I also learn that within a few years ago a most searching enquiry was made into the methods of the administration of the Salt and Abkari departments, and it was considered that it was difficult, if not impossible, to suggest any improvements therein.

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The Salt and
Abkari De-
partment.

15. In regard to the question of forests, I feel a little bit diffident in speaking about it, because, having been so short a time in the country, I have not been able to acquaint myself fully with the working of the regulations. But I should like to say a word, if I may, as regards the general policy of the Government with regard to forests, because I think it is generally misconceived and misunderstood. The policy of Government in maintaining the forests and increasing them is, in my opinion, absolutely sound. I have seen elsewhere, as I dare say some of you may have noticed by the remarks which I made at Coimbatore—I have seen elsewhere the deplorable effect of denuding a country of its timber in the matter of diminution of rainfall. Sweep away your forests, and, as surely as day follows night, so surely will your rainfall diminish. It is our duty towards the ryots of this country to see that nothing should be done which will hamper or diminish or reduce the rainfall in this country. I do not propose to give you now a long scientific exposition of the causes, but I am as sure as I can be that if you allow the denudation of your forests to go on, so surely will you reduce your water-supply, and so surely will you bring disaster and calamity

The forest
policy of
Government.

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The forest
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Government.

upon the ryots of this country. Moreover, I think you will allow that we have imposed upon ourselves the task of making the best of the assets of the country that we can. Parts of this country are clothed with timber of immense value, and if we can get them into the market and thereby increase our revenue we are bound to do so. It gives us more revenue to apply to the development of the country elsewhere, and therefore in imposing these regulations and limiting the right of the ryots to enter upon forests we have questions of such magnitude to consider that they cannot be treated lightly. I know quite well that these regulations must impose inconvenience and hardship on many ryots, but our desire is to make these regulations as little hard upon the people as we can.

Fuel-depots.

Those who are most experienced in forest matters warn us that we must insist upon doing away with the permit system. I realise it must be, as I said just now, inconvenient and worse for those who are accustomed to make their livelihood by getting head-loads of firewood, etc., from forests. I know that forest officers elsewhere are endeavouring, so far as they can, to find employment for those who were thus employed before. I have no reason to believe or doubt that forest officers here will be less sympathetic in their attitude, having due regard to the interest and duties of Government, in maintaining and preserving their forests. I have not yet had an opportunity of discussing this matter here, but before I go it is my intention to learn what I can of

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Grazing.

the hardships which have been imposed, and I also propose to call for a report on this subject so that the matter may be fully investigated by the Government.*

Also in regard to the question of grazing permits I should like to say this, that while the regulation of grazing is absolutely necessary, while we must see that the areas set apart for grazing are not absolutely denuded, we think that, as a rule, the system of giving permits confined to one area should suffice. We think that it would be inadvisable to interfere with the arrangements made for demarcating forest grazing areas if every permit-holder is to go from the block he chooses to some other blocks, which will in consequence be overcrowded. But the Government does not mean to impose any hardship in this matter of pasturage, and when any case of hardship is shown the Forest Officers will be instructed to show every consideration they can to make it possible for persons to graze their cattle elsewhere.

16. The next question which is touched upon is the possible revision of land revenue rules. I think that this question was raised without a knowledge of the fact that there is no intention to revise these rules.

Remission of
land revenue.

17. Then, gentlemen, I find myself face to face with the request that the Government will introduce a system of free and compulsory education and night

Free compul-
sory education.

* The report was recorded in G.O., 2199 (Confdl.), Revenue, 2nd September 1907. In G.O., 902, Revenue, 30th March 1908, it was ordered that the contract system of working coupes should be tried in Salem district.

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Free compul-
sory education.

schools and popular lectures free. Well, that is a large mouthful to swallow, because if you introduce compulsory education I think it is a corollary that that education must be given free. You insist upon a man's child going to school. He says "I am a poor man and cannot afford it." If Government were to make education compulsory, they must also make it free. Now, when you come to consider what it would mean in the way of cost to Government that every child of school-going age in this country should have put within his reach the possibility of going to school, apart from the necessity of attending one school or another, you will see what a gigantic enterprise it will be, far beyond the resources of this Government. Again, there is another very great difficulty, which is, it would be quite impossible to provide the necessary teachers for some years to come. Even in the schools with their present dimensions, we find great difficulty in finding efficient teachers, and in many schools I think it is a well-known fact that the standard of efficiency of teachers is by no means what we should regard as ideal. There are two great physical difficulties in the way, quite apart from the fact—this is a subsidiary one—that it will require new legislation of a very difficult and complex kind.

Hoarding
balances.

18. In connection with that, it is urged upon the Government that there should be no hoarding of balances. I think that a study of the Budget will show that at the present time the system of hoarding balances is quite unknown to us, and I

quite agree with the remark that it is not sound finance.

19. With regard to the question of the recognition of elementary schools of inferior kind, I do not know if I have much to add to what I have remarked before in regard to the general question of secondary education. As I said, we desire to widen the avenues of the approaches leading to our different schools; we also desire to raise the standard of the efficiency of our schools. If the requirements of the Code in regard to staff, accommodation, etc., are complied with in those schools, then recognition will certainly follow.

20. In regard to the question of the District Municipalities Act, I may say that we are aware of some of the inconveniences and drawbacks which resulted from the introduction of the existing Act and its revision is now under consideration. In the same connection I think in the address which you have been good enough to present to me you ask for an increase in the number of elected Councillors. This is, I think, the first time that such a demand has been made, and if it had been included in the Municipal Address, I should have thought that it would have come more appropriately. It is a matter which, if represented and desired by the Council, will be most carefully considered by the Government.*

As to the introduction of election in Taluk and District Boards, I know that the provisions of law

* Up to September 1908, no representation on the subject had been received by the Government from the Municipal Council.

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Hoarding
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schools.

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al councillors.

Election to
Local Boards.

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Election to
Local Boards.

in regard to that matter have been a dead letter for some time now. I may say that long before my attention was called to the fact, I had already, for my own satisfaction, gone into this question. It has often been considered, but there are very considerable difficulties in connection with the question of franchise and with the mode of election, —practical difficulties as to how the objects of that provision are to be satisfactorily achieved. In fact, the difficulties have been such that I find the Government have generally thought it impossible of achievement, and no satisfactory method of election or rules of election has hitherto suggested themselves to them.

Vice-Presidents
of District
Boards.

As to the election of the Vice-Presidents of Local Boards or the appointment of non-officials as Vice-Presidents, this has been done elsewhere, and it is my intention to call for a report to consider the possibility of its introduction here.

Stationary Sub-
Magistrates.

21. As to the new Sub-Magistrates, I would remind you of what I said just now, that the question of redistribution of districts is coming forward for consideration; and I think the redistribution must certainly involve a re-adjustment of various offices. You may rely upon it that the question of the appointment of Sub-Magistrates in the five taluks here will be fully considered when the redistribution of offices is made. I may say it is not a new subject to the Government.

Income-tax

22. With reference to the remarks which are made in the address about the income-tax, I venture

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Income-tax.

to doubt the accuracy or rather the force of some of the arguments that are put forward. In the first place it is represented as a great and universal hardship. I find in the Salem District, which has a population of over 2½ millions, the number of assesses who pay income-tax is 1,239; or, roughly, that works out that one person in every 2,000 pays income-tax. It seems to me to apply the word "universal" to such a proportion does not betoken the employment of very apt phraseology. Also it is stated that it has been understood that this would be a temporary measure. Now, I think this has been urged without due knowledge of what has taken place regarding this measure in the Viceroy's Council. Sir Edward Law said only in 1904 in his Financial Statement: "The total abolition of the "income-tax is, in my opinion, quite outside the range "of practical politics. The Government of India is "unlikely ever to be able to afford the great sacrifice "of revenue which a total abolition of the tax would "involve, unless compensation were found in some "other direction, and if at a future date further "remission of taxation should appear advisable, there "are other classes of the community whose claims "for consideration appear to be very much stronger "than those of the wealthier section who are the "principal contributors of income-tax. Moreover, "whilst this tax is paid exclusively by the class "deriving, perhaps, the greatest benefits from the "administration towards the cost of which it contributes, it is one which automatically adjusts itself

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"to the means of the tax-payer." Also Sir Edward Law pointed out that when the tax was originally reimposed "no sort of promise was made that it would be hereafter abolished in any specified circumstances" In my opinion the arguments adduced by Sir Edward Law are absolutely sound. This is a tax which appears to me to be sound in principle; this is a tax with which we in England are far more familiar than you in this country. I must frankly say that I do not believe that there is any possibility of its being abolished. There is also one other remark in that paragraph which is new to me and somewhat surprised me, and that is that the traders of Salem are incompetent to keep accounts. I cannot help hoping and believing that in such a statement the trader is somewhat maligned. I know that the methods of assessment do not commend themselves to many. But to be perfectly frank, I do not see how the rules are to be amended with advantage so long as we experience the reluctance which has hitherto been shown in disclosing true accounts.

High Court.

23. You allude shortly afterwards to the question of increase in the number of Judges in the High Court. I believe that I am guilty of no betrayal of confidence when I say that this is a matter which is now before the Secretary of State.* The work of the High Court is congested, so much so that the

* The appointment of a seventh Judge of the High Court was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in March 1907 (G.O., 963, Judicial, 27th May 1907) and a seventh Judge was appointed on the 30th October 1907 (G.O., 2060, Judicial, 10th December 1907).

inspection of the Mufassal Courts by Judges of the High Court has had to be postponed, desirable though it is, not only in the opinion of yourselves, but also of the High Court and the Government. Now, in regard to the permanent appointment of the Judges of the High Court, I may say that this is a matter which rests absolutely in the hands of the Secretary of State. Permanent appointments are made by him. Under the existing statute the proportion of Barrister Judges to Civilian Judges is clearly defined and it is entirely for the Secretary of State to say whether he will so modify the statute as to make it possible for him to move in the direction which you indicate in your address. I need hardly remind you that Mr. Morley has expressed himself with no uncertain voice as to what his attitude of mind is in regard to the appointment of Indians to judgeships and higher offices and I may tell you that Mr. Morley is a man of reputation and of his word.*

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Addresses.
High Court.

24. Gentlemen, the next point in the address is one upon which I have found it rather difficult to enlighten myself. I refer to the one with regard to Land Tenure and the Estates Land Bill. I find it a little difficult to understand it and I found it difficult to get anybody who could enlighten me upon what you have alluded to. But whatever the merits of the particular question raised in your address may be, I would remind you, when you ask for a special

Estates Land
Bill.

* The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sankara Nair was appointed on the 14th January 1908, (G.O., No. 345, Judicial, 25th February 1908), and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abdur Rahim on the 20th July 1908,

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Addresses.
Estate Land
Bill.

Commission to enquire into the provisions of the Bill and the question of the land tenure in this country,— I would remind you that for many weeks the Select Committee has been sitting on the Bill considering all sorts of evidence and the many petitions and representations on the subject which were presented to them. I do not believe that you could find a Commission which would bring to bear upon this question greater intelligence and greater knowledge of the conditions of the country than could be brought by the men who constituted that Committee. I should say that the purpose for which a Commission, such as you suggest, should be appointed has already been achieved by the Select Committee. The position is this: the Bill will shortly come before the Council, having been submitted to the Government of India and the Secretary of State as well as to the High Court. The only suggestion I can make in regard to the points which you have raised is that they be brought forward in the Legislative Council and I think you may rely upon it that they will be very fully considered by it provided it is made perfectly clear what the objects are which are sought.

Muhammadan
Educational
Association.

25. Gentlemen of the Muhammadan community, I should like to thank you for having presented me with an Address this morning and to say that I thoroughly appreciate the spirit of loyalty in which it is given. As you undoubtedly rightly remark, the loyalty of Muhammadans is proverbial. I should like to assure you that I sympathise most

thoroughly with the objects of the Association which you represent. I hope it may be in my power to give at some time or other some practical proof of my sympathy. I can assure you, if you will allow me to express an opinion upon your work, that you are setting absolutely the right way to work, by enabling the rising generation of your co-religionists to secure education. That is the key which is to open the lock of success to the Muhammadan community in this country. During the last century or two, perhaps, they have allowed the key to get a little rusty; but I see in all directions an awakening of spirit in your community and a determination that your children shall know the benefits and advantages of education according to modern ideas and Western standards; and if I can do anything to help you to achieve that most excellent object, you may rely upon it that it will be a source of the greatest pleasure to me.

26. I think that the only definite request in your address is that a Muhammadan Head-quarters Deputy Collector be appointed. I find that there are a good many similar requests made by the Muhammadan communities in other districts, and I am sorry to say that the number of Muhammadans in higher offices is so limited that there are not enough to go round. But I can assure you that if it may be possible for me to give effect to your request, I shall be very glad indeed to do so.* And if I may say one

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Muhammadan
Head-quarters
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Muhammadans
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* Mahammad Abdul Hie Sahib was posted as Head-quarters Deputy Collector, Salem, on the 29th August 1908.

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offices.

word as to the deficiency in the numbers of Muhammadans, it exists, as I have said elsewhere, not because the Government wish to shut the door in their face, but, on the contrary, because to pass through the door they must bring with them passports of efficiency, education and capacity to carry out the duties of any office in which they might be called upon to serve. You have recognised that fact and I hope that, as years go by, we shall hear less and less of the complaint—shall I say?—that there are not so many Muhammadans in the higher offices. But it is a reproach which they and they alone can remove for themselves.

Vaniyambadi
water-supply.

27. In regard to the points which are raised in the address presented to me from Vaniyambadi, I observe that objection is taken to the proposal to introduce a new water-supply. I am sorry that there should be this attitude of mind on the part of the inhabitants. The question of the new water-supply has been raised by the Municipality. They have asked Government for a scheme, not because they are anxious to spend the money of the rate-payers, but because, I understand it, the existing supply is impure; and I think that the Municipality, if that is so, would fail in their duty, if they do not, at all events, attempt to remedy that defect. That opinion, I may say, has been endorsed by more than one sanitary authority. But the question is at present in an embryo state; and, as I have learnt this morning, sometimes the question of water-supply remains long before it is definitely settled.

I would urge you not to feel any undue alarm that you will be suddenly involved in heavy indebtedness on account of the new water-supply. I understand that at present it is not as good as it ought to be and that for very little expenditure a thoroughly good and pure supply could be obtained. I think it will be a great mistake on the part of the inhabitants if they were to object to the proposal when it is made.

The reason, as I understand it, for no non-official having been appointed to the Chairmanship of your Municipality is simply due to the fact that those men who are deemed suitable for the office were not prepared to undertake the duties of the office.

Now with regard to the Bench of Honorary Magistrates that has also been more than once considered by the Government. It was, I understand, found that the only suitable Chairman of the Bench would be the Tahsildar and that while, on the one hand, his attendance in Court once a week would be detrimental to his other duties, at the same time cases of nuisance and petty offences against the Municipality would often be kept waiting. They are obviously cases which ought to be dealt with promptly. Therefore it was thought better to appoint the existing officer and to give him powers to deal with these cases and to postpone the appointment of a Bench of Honorary Magistrates.

28. As to the primary schools, well, I would only urge you to try and get them on the aided list as

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water-supply.

Non-official
Chairman of
Vaniyambadi
Municipal
Council.

Bench of
Magistrates.

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School.

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Vaniyambadi
Primary
School.

soon as you possibly could. Now we come back again to the old question of efficiency, the efficiency of your staff of teachers. Get efficient teachers, meet the requirements of the Code and get on to the aided list. There is the Code drafted with considerable trouble and care. We cannot make exceptions to the provisions of a Code of such a nature. That Government are not anxious to put stumbling blocks in the way of education of poorer classes of Muhammadans is, I think, evident from the fact that the fees in the case of Muhammadans are considerably reduced.

Vaniyambadi
bridge.

29. The only other point upon which I have not touched is, I think, the point raised as to the construction of the bridge over the Khaderpet river. The Government realise how greatly that is required in the district and they would gladly see it accomplished, but unfortunately as you know we have an enormous number of similar demands elsewhere and we cannot carry them out at once. I may tell you this that the plans and estimates for the bridge are in course of preparation. I hope that they will be submitted to me very soon. When they are, I shall remember what you say. I think you may rely upon it that, as far as I can, I will push the matter through with the least possible delay.

Duties of a
Governor.

30. Now, gentlemen, I think I have touched upon most of the questions raised in your various addresses. I am here for two days. As I said in my opening remarks, there are some questions which

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Addresses.
Duties of a
Governor.

I want to see here for myself before I come to any very definite conclusion. During these two days I hope to meet many of those whom I see here this morning. I can only tell you how grateful I am to you for the cordiality of your welcome and also for the words with which you conclude your address. You, Sir, (addressing Mr. C. Vijiaraghavachariar), have indicated in the address you gave me something of the duties of the Governor, and something of what he may set before himself as his highest aim and aspiration. These expressions are conveyed in language more eloquent than I can hope to emulate. But I can only tell you that if I had been asked to express what my aims and aspirations were in coming here I should like to borrow the phrases which you have used. If at the end of my time I can look back and feel that I have done something to strengthen the bond of sympathy between the rulers and the ruled, if I can push, even by a little bit, a little wider open the doors which lead to the halls of learning, and if I can in any way enlarge those halls of learning so that more and more shall come in, and if I can either actively or practically do something to advance the material prosperity and well-being of the people of this country, then I should feel that I have not been sent here altogether in vain. Gentlemen, once again I thank you for the heartiness with which you have greeted me on this my first visit to Salem, which I sincerely trust will be by no means my last.

THE WEAVING INSTITUTE.

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1906.
SALEM.
Weaving
Institute.

In the afternoon, His Excellency visited the Government Weaving Institute, where he was received by the Municipal Chairman and the Superintendent of the Institute. His Excellency inspected the working of the fly-shuttle looms, which have been installed here.

A GARDEN PARTY.

Garden
Party.

In the evening His Excellency and staff attended a garden party given by the public of Salem in the compound of the London Mission School. A long programme of vocal and instrumental music, mimicry, *kolatam*, a native drama, a circus, etc., were provided for the diversion of those present.

At 10 P.M. a display of fire-works was witnessed, which, towards the end, was somewhat marred by a heavy but welcome downpour of rain.

VISITS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

3rd October
1906.
Central Jail.

On Wednesday morning the 3rd October, His Excellency and Staff, accompanied by the Collector, paid a visit to the Central Jail, where he was received and shown round by the Superintendent.

His Excellency made the following remarks in the Visitors' Book:—

"Having inspected every part of the jail, I am glad to record my high approbation of the cleanliness, method and order displayed. I am also much struck by the physical condition of the prisoners which is evidently

"remarkably good. The general efficiency shows that the responsible officials are conducting the administration of the jail extremely well."

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1906.
SALEM.
Central Jail.
His
Excellency's
Speech.
District
Court.

The District Court was next visited, His Excellency being received by Mr. A. C. Dutt, I.C.S., the District Judge. Then followed visits to the Municipal Hospital and the Government Lower Secondary Training School. Hospital.

THE GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHOOL.

At the latter the Superintendent of the School, who received His Excellency and after conducting him over the various classes at work, thanked His Excellency for the visit paid to the school. Addressing the teachers undergoing training, who were assembled in the main hall, His Excellency said:—

Lower
Secondary
Training
School.

GENTLEMEN,—I desire to thank you for the welcome which has been conveyed to me through your Principal and to assure you of the pleasure with which I have seen the work which you are doing. It can only be a very cursory glance, owing to the fulness of the programme which I have before me to-day, but I was desirous, as I always am, of seeing something of educational work in this Presidency, and in this town. I came here quite unprepared to make you an address, so that I shall not detain you long. There is one thing which I should like to say to you. In the first place, you have my most genuine sympathy in the work which you have undertaken. There is no more important task

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1906.

SALEM.
Government
Training
School.
*His
Excellency's
Speech.*

before Government, there is no nobler work which any individual can undertake, than that of education; so that we are, if I may say so, fellow-workers. If I may give you one recommendation, it is to remember that your work does not begin and end with the mere imparting of knowledge, the mere pouring of statistics into the ears of your pupils. Remember that the pupils who will be under your care come to you at an age when impressions are easily made and not very easily forgotten, so that while your pupils are receiving your mere technical instruction, they are also, though they may not know it, being influenced by the example which you set, by the influence which you will hold over their character. Remember that, I beg of you; remember that through these pupils you will be able to make your influence and your character, be it good or be it bad, felt among the homes of the district in which you live, and so I would beg of you to make sure that you never forget to put before your pupils an example of honesty, self-denial, thoughtfulness for others and of all true doctrines of fellowship and self-help. I venture to give you these few words. Don't think, as I said just now, that your work is merely to cram knowledge into the brains of your pupils. Your duty is also to mould their characters, so that they shall become honest, manly, self-reliant and useful citizens. In the work which lies before you you have my very sincere good-wishes.

His Excellency next visited the Collector's Office.

DEPUTATIONS OF VILLAGERS.

Here His Excellency received two deputations of villagers, who brought some forest grievances to His Excellency's notice, especially in regard to free grazing in reserves and the dis-afforestation of a hill adjoining their villages. The Governor explained to them the policy of Government in regard to the conservation of forests conservancy in the interest of the agricultural population and expressed his regret that he was unable to comply with their requests.

A second deputation from Úttangarai objected to the proposed transfer of the Taluk Head-quarters from Úttangarai to Harúr. His Excellency said that Government had gone into the matter fully and were unable to reconsider the decision.

THE MUNICIPAL COLLEGE.

The last institution visited was the Municipal College. In acknowledgment of the welcome which he received His Excellency made the following speech:—

I beg to thank you, Sir, for the very kind words with which you have greeted me here this morning. I thank you for your expressions of loyalty towards myself as the representative of His Most Gracious Majesty in this Presidency and assure you of my appreciation of the loyalty to which you give expression.

3rd October
1906.

SALEM.
Government
Training
School.
*His
Excellency's
Speech.*
Collector's
Office.
Deputations.

Salem
College.

3rd October
1906.

SALEM.
Salem College.
*His
Excellency's
Speech.*

You say rightly that, as the Chancellor of the University and as the head of this Government, I may well take great interest in the work of education. I hope that I do so, and that, before I lay down the reins of office, I may have done some little thing to advance education in this land. There is no work in my opinion to which any one can devote himself with greater advantage than to the advancement of education, and I take every opportunity that I can of making myself acquainted with the system of education in this country and with those who are devoting their time, their energy and their ability, in the manner in which you, Sir, and the members of your staff are doing here to-day, to promote the interests of their younger fellow-men. We are in that respect fellow-workers and I thank you for welcoming me in that capacity.

Now, if I may, I will say just a few words to those boys whom I have had an opportunity of seeing at their work this morning. Many of you, I take it, will some day be called upon to exercise to some degree your rights in your capacity as citizens of this country. Some of you will probably take part in municipal government; some of you may some day find yourselves within the walls of the Legislative Council. Now, all of you whether you take part in civic life or in Government or as an official of this country, all of you have got a stiff battle to fight. These are days of great intellectual competition and great intellectual strife. In this country we have constantly the rapid increase of population

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1906.

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Salem College.
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which makes competition every day and in every line of life more severe. How you will acquit yourselves in the contest which lies before you, how far you will succeed as capable, efficient and useful citizens of this great Presidency, will depend on the way in which you use your time within the walls of this College. It is here that you have got to acquire knowledge, to acquire business habits, to learn discipline, to learn to think not only of yourselves but also of others; and so I say to you, don't lose the chances which you have here; don't waste your opportunities; throw yourselves into the life of your school with all the zest, all the energy of which you are capable; and not only in your school but in your play be manly, be vigorous, be strong.

4. I am a great believer in sports—manly sports and manly games. They will teach you good and valuable lessons. They will teach you, above all things, the inestimable value of fairplay, and so, I say to you don't miss your opportunities while you are here, but make the most of your time, because these days do not come again. The chances that present themselves, if you let them go by, may go for ever. As I said just now, you have all got to make your way in the world. Just now your spirits are bright and your hopes are high. When you leave the school, you will find that life is grim and how far you will get towards the top of the hill, how far you will succeed, will, as I have told you, depend very much on what use you make of your time to-day. I wish you well in your school life; I wish you well

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Salem College.
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in the life which awaits you beyond the walls of this College; I hope you will all succeed and prosper, that you will prove yourselves to be manly, self-reliant and capable citizens of this Presidency, worthy of the great empire to which both you and I are privileged to be subjects. I hope, Sir, that, as a slight mark of this my visit to-day, you will be so good as to grant to the pupils of this college a holiday.

I thank you once again for your kind greetings and I hope that the work of both the masters and the pupils may expand and prosper.

Interviews.

At noon, His Excellency accorded private interviews to the following gentlemen:—

Mr. J. Inglis, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department.

The Poligar of Bagalur.

M.R.Ry. E. S. Ramaswami Aiyar, Municipal Chairman.

M.R.Ry. M. Ravi Varma Raja, Head-Quarters Deputy Collector.

M.R.Ry. C. Vijayaraghava Chariar.

„ P. Siva Rama Aiyar, Treasury Deputy Collector.

Syed Ismail Albeez Sahib, Secretary, Muhammadan Educational Association, and Head Clerk of the District and Sessions Court.

Arisipalaiyam
Tank.

In the evening at 4-30, His Excellency and party left the Collector's house for Suramangalam Railway Station, inspecting on the way the Arisi-

palaiyam tank which is the source of water-supply to a portion of the town. His Excellency left Suramangalam at 5-43 P.M. by the ordinary train of the Madras Railway for Coonoor which was reached at 9-25 on the following morning. After breakfast at the Railway Refreshment Room at Coonoor, His Excellency and party drove to Ootacamund.

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