



4-2-10

THE THIRTEENTH TOUR

of

H.E. The Hon.
Sir Arthur Lawley,

G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G.,

Governor of Madras.



COIMBATORE.



July 14, 1909.

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PARTY.

The party which accompanied His Excellency were—

Her Excellency the Hon'ble Lady LAWLEY.

H. A. B. VERNON, Esq., I.C.S., *Ag. Private Secretary.*

Captain E. D. F. KELLY, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Date.	Day of week.	Town or village.	Place.	Arr. or Dep.	Time.	
					A.M.	P.M.
1909. July 14.	Wed.	Ootacamund. Coimbatore.	Government House.	Dep.	7-0	..
			Mr. Barber's bungalow.	Arr.	10-15	..
			Agricultural College and Research Institute.	Dep.	10-25	..
				Arr.	10-30	..
			Mr. Barber's bungalow.	Dep.	11-55	..
				Arr.	12 noon.	..
			Agricultural College and Research Institute.	Dep.	12-15	..
				Arr.	12-20	..
			Collector's bungalow.	Dep.	..	1-45
				Arr.	..	1-55
		Ootacamund.	Municipal Hospital.	Dep.	..	2-50
				Arr.	..	2-55
			Government House.	Dep.	..	4-15
				Arr.	..	9-30

Distance in miles.	Remarks.
..	By motor-car. Departure private.
56	Arrival at the bungalow private.
300 yds.	Breakfast (Guests).
..	By motor-car.
..	Arrival public.
	Their Excellencies were met by the Hon'ble Mr. A. E. Castlestuart Stuart, I.C.S., Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture, the Agricultural College staff and other officers of the Agricultural Department.
300 yds.	Introductions.
	Received and replied to an address.
	Opened the Agricultural College and inspected the College building and rooms.
.. 2	By motor-car.
	Private interviews with—
..	1. The Hon'ble Raja Vasudeva Raja Valia Nambidi of Kollengode.
..	2. Muhammad Munir Sahib, Khan Sahib, Tahsildar.
..	3. J. J. Cotton, Esq., I.C.S., Additional Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.
..	4. M.R.By. Rao Bahadur A. T. Tiruvenkataswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
..	By motor-car.
1/2	Opened the hospital.
..	Tea.
..	By motor-car.
..	Arrival private.

ACCOUNT OF THE TOUR.

HIS Excellency the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Lawley, July 14th, accompanied by Her Excellency the Hon'ble Lady Lawley, Mr. H. A. B. Vernon, I.C.S., Acting Private Secretary, and Captain E. D. F. Kelly, Aide-de-Camp, left Government House, Ootacamund, on his thirteenth tour at 7 A.M. on Wednesday the 14th July 1909 by motor-car. The party proceeded to Coimbatore *via* Méttupálaiyam and Gúdálúr and arrived at the bungalow of Mr. C. A. Barber, Government Botanist, near the Agricultural College and Research Institute (56 miles), at 10-15 A.M. OOTACAMUND.
COIMBATORE.

At 10-30 A.M. Their Excellencies left Mr. Barber's bungalow by motor-car and had breakfast at the Library of the Agricultural College and Research Institute which is about 300 yards from Mr. Barber's bungalow, which was arranged by the Hon'ble Mr. Castlestuart Stuart, I.C.S., and to which the following persons were invited:—

- (1) Mr. A. L. and Mrs. Vibert.
- (2) Mr. R. D., Mrs. and Miss Broadfoot.
- (3) Mr. J. J. Cotton.
- (4) Mr. M. E. and Mrs. Couchman.
- (5) Mr. C. A. and Mrs. Barber.
- (6) Mr. H. T. and Mrs. Keeling.
- (7) Mr. H. C. and Mrs. Harrison.
- (8) Mr. F. and Mrs. Armitage.
- (9) Mr. F. A. and Mrs. Lodge.
- (10) Mr. P. Macqueen.
- (11) Mr. J. K. Lancashire.
- (12) Mr. C. J. W. Shepperson.
- (13) Mr. H. H. and Mrs. O'Connell.
- (14) Mr. H. C. Sampson.
- (15) Mr. R. C. Wood.
- (16) Miss Saunders.

July 14th,
1909.
COIMBA-
TORE.
Agricultural
College
and
Research
Institute.

After breakfast, Their Excellencies accompanied by Mr. Vibert, Mr. Vernon and Captain E. D. F. Kelly, Aide-de-Camp, left by motor-car for Mr. Barber's bungalow. Their Excellencies and party returned by motor-car to the Agricultural College and Research Institute at 12-20 P.M. His Excellency's arrival at the College was public.

On arrival at the main College entrance at 12-20 P.M., the Guard of Honour furnished by the Police Reserve presented arms and Their Excellencies were received by the Hon'ble Mr. Castle Stuart, the College staff and other officers of the Agricultural Department.

After Their Excellencies had proceeded to their places, the Hon'ble Mr. Castle Stuart with the permission of His Excellency presented to him the following Honorary Visitors to the College:—

- (1) The Hon'ble Raja Venganad Vasudeva Raja Avargal Valia Nambidi of Kollengode.
- (2) M.R. Hy. Rao Bahadur V. Ramabhadra Nayudu Garu of Vadagarai, Madura.
- (3) " Rao Bahadur M. Abraham Pandithar Avargal of Tanjore.
- (4) " Rao Bahadur C. Hanumantha Gowd Garu of Bellary.
- (5) " Rao Sahib N. Subba Rao Garu of Mangalore.
- (6) " Vengail K. Ramon Nayanar of Talliparamba.
- (7) " C. M. Rarichan Mooppan Avargal of Calicut.

After the introductions were over, the Hon'ble Mr. Castle Stuart presented the following address on behalf of the Agricultural Department:—

Address.

"It is with equal pride and pleasure that I come forward to thank you for affording me and all whom, for the time being, I am privileged to represent, this opportunity of welcoming you both to an Institution which, under the friendly auspices of the

"Government of Madras, is certainly destined to play an important part in the education of the people. I beg to assure Your Excellencies that we are deeply sensible of your duplicated kindness so graciously manifested by your presence here to-day. July 14th, 1909. COIMBATORE. Address.

"In the annals of the Department of Agriculture of Madras two dates will ever be gratefully remembered and honourably associated, Sir, with your distinguished name by all who are interested in the improvement and development of the great Agricultural industry of this Presidency.

"On the 24th September 1906, Your Excellency not only laid the foundation stone of this Agricultural College and Research Institute and gave your name to the New Road which passes through the Central farm; but, in the memorable speech which Your Excellency delivered on that occasion, further showed much generous sympathy with the special efforts of the Department to promote the welfare and industrial prosperity of our vast and rapidly increasing population. *Laying of the Foundation stone.*

"The 14th July 1909 will be rendered no less remarkable by the ceremony of opening this College and Institute which Your Excellency so readily consented to perform to-day, thereby marking for all time the starting point of a new epoch in the history of Madras Agriculture. *Opening.*

"Designed by Mr. G. S. T. Harris, late Consulting Architect to Government, and built, in circumstances of considerable difficulty due to the prevalence of cholera and plague, by Mr. D. M. Saiyid Abdul Razak Sahib, the Contractor, under the able supervision of Mr. H. H. O'Connell, Superintending Engineer, and the immediate direction of Mr. H. T. Keeling, Executive Engineer, this noble building, together with its appurtenant land, hostels, farm-buildings, and residences for the staff, will have cost more than eight lakhs of rupees before its completion—a veritable monument to the munificence of both the Imperial and Provincial Governments and to the professional skill and indefatigable industry of all concerned in its construction. There is in this College and Institute abundant accommodation for research work in Chemistry and Botany and room has also been provided for the Mycologist and Entomologist who form part of the expert staff contemplated in the original scheme but whose appointments have not yet been sanctioned. The class rooms, laboratories and hostels have been built to hold sixty students, of whom twenty will be annually admitted. The fine farm of 457½ acres of land, all in a high state of cultivation, which surrounds the buildings has been provided to ensure a sound and thorough training for the students in practical agriculture, and for experimental cultivation in connection with research. The College has been *Description and cost of building.* *Farm lands.*

July 14th, "working in temporary buildings for the past year as our need of 1909.
 "trained men was so urgent that we could not wait till the College
 "itself was ready for their reception.

COIMBATORE.

Address. "The present dignified position of Agricultural science in this
 "Presidency compared with what was thought sufficient when the
 "first steps were taken in the direction of improvement affords
 "justification for future encouragement.

Progress of
 Agri-
 cultural
 Science.

"It was just forty-four years ago that a Committee of private
 "individuals selected by Government was placed in charge of the
 "Saidapet Farm. We are told in their first report that they
 "found the land 'covered with prickly-pear and jungle.' The
 "qualifications of Mr. Shepperson's predecessor in office were
 "equally unpromising. The Superintendent of the Farm is
 "described as 'doubtless a good gardener, though he has but a
 "very superficial knowledge of farming,' while 'the Overseer,
 "who is a pensioned Gunner,' is described as 'a remarkably
 "steady trustworthy man, but he has no knowledge of farming,
 "nor can he read or write.'

"Of the soil of the farm itself Mr. Robertson reported 'the
 "proportion of sand is great. Grain will seldom produce grain
 "when cultivated on these soils.' Born under these adverse
 "conditions, it is hardly a matter for surprise that the young plant
 "of Madras Agriculture had a hard struggle for existence.

"In fairness, however, to the Government of that day it must be
 "remembered that even in Europe Agricultural science was then in
 "its infancy. English farmers were still on the full tide of pros-
 "perity, and English experts were apt to condemn, root and branch,
 "every method of cultivation which differed from their own.
 "Again and again the Madras Government had shown its full
 "appreciation of the importance of improving the agriculture of
 "this Presidency, but it seemed impossible to secure good technical
 "advice. Even at the present day such men are scarce—in 1865
 "they were non-existent.

"So far back as 1873 the Board of Revenue made the prophetic
 "remark that 'the most difficult and important object of study
 "will be the way to influence the ryot.' To this day, this remains
 "the central problem, to solve which these splendid buildings have
 "been erected and our expert staff recruited. I can best give Your
 "Excellencies some idea of what we hope to do at Coimbatore by
 "briefly describing the preparations we have made to solve this
 "question.

Methods of
 teaching the
 ryot.

"The first requisite for influencing the ryot is to ascertain by
 "experiment and research in what respects his methods are faulty
 "and in what manner they can be improved upon. As Your

"Excellency so truly said at the laying of the foundation stone of July 14th,
 "this building, 'the first thing which we have to do is by experi- 1909.
 "ment and research here to realise what are the proper lines upon
 "which agriculture should be run.'

COIMBATORE.

Address. "The ryot is, after all, a professional farmer of long standing.
 "His methods have been evolved by hundreds of generations taught
 "in the hard school of experience. Were the world in which we
 "live an unchanging one, the ryot's present agricultural practice
 "might perhaps suffice for his own simple need; but change and
 "development is the law of human existence. Population increases,
 "prices rise and the struggle for life becomes ever more intense.
 "Hence the necessity for securing a larger return from the land.
 "Against the ryot's long and often painful experience we have to
 "pit the resources of Physical science. But the elementary
 "problems of plant nutrition in the Tropics and the formation of
 "plant food in Indian soil are still awaiting investigation. Light
 "must be thrown on these and similar problems before our advice
 "to the ryot can be based on the sure foundation of knowledge.
 "The experts of this Institute, however, have been generously
 "equipped by Your Excellency's Government for the struggle, as
 "Your Excellency's inspection of the laboratories will shortly
 "show, and there need, I think, be little fear for the result. The
 "secret of all progress is untiring and unceasing effort and—to use
 "the words employed by the Madras Government in 1854—if
 "the effort be general, generous and long continued it will ensure
 "success."

"Although of necessity time will be required for reaping the *Practical*
 "fruits of research, we are able to point with satisfaction to some *results*.
 "substantial work already accomplished. The new sugarcane
 "introduced into the Gôdâvari Delta by Dr. Barber to combat the
 "fungus disease which was threatening to destroy the sugar
 "industry have been a triumphant success. The new canes have
 "been universally adopted by the ryots, and it is now a difficult
 "matter to find any of the canes which were formerly grown.
 "Introduced into South Arcot, the same canes have in two years
 "gained a firm hold of the district; while their superior qualities
 "have revived the hopes that sugar-refining from country-grown
 "canes will be added to the list of successful swedeshi industries.

"Work on the Government farms has shown that much can be *Govern-*
 "and has been done already to improve the cultivation of paddy and *ment*
 "cotton, the most important food and industrial crops, respectively, *farms*.
 "of this Presidency. Similarly, in regard to ground-nut, pepper,
 "jute, cholam, indian corn and fodder crops, much valuable
 "information has been obtained.

"The manuring of paddy and the scientific feeding of cotton
 "are at present receiving the special attention of Mr. Harrison,

July 14th, "the Agricultural Chemist, and Dr. Barber, the Economic Botanist,
1909. "at this Institute. I mention these specific instances to show

COIMBATORE.

"Your Excellencies the practical spirit in which the experts of the Department are attacking their problems.

Address.

Aim of the College.

"But when Research has done its work, and can point with confidence to definite lines of improvement, the problem of how to influence the ryot will have only been half solved. It is in order to provide an efficient Indian agency for taking up the work at this stage and carrying it into the villages and fields that the Agricultural College has been founded. The District Agricultural Associations, some of which have been doing excellent work, are clamouring for such an agency; and Your Excellency is frequently asked to establish new Agricultural Stations which for want of qualified men to work them cannot for the present be started. While it is our ultimate hope that experts qualified for Research work will receive at all events part of their training here, it is primarily the practical expert that we hope to produce from the Agricultural College. The course of instruction will last three years, and embrace Chemistry, Botany, Physics, Veterinary Science, Agricultural Engineering and General Agriculture. Twenty students will, as already stated, be admitted each year, making a total of sixty when the College is full. The second batch of students has recently entered the College. When the time comes for the student to receive the Coimbatore Diploma in Agriculture—and I trust that it will be the ambition of every student to win it by dint of untiring industry and application—it is hoped that he will have a knowledge of the sciences on which the art of Agriculture is based sufficient to make him an intelligent, helpful and friendly critic of the ryots' ancestral methods. Special attention is also being paid to the practical side of his training, so that he may understand the actual difficulties under which the ryot labours, and may, if need be, show him how to meet them. In order to combat successfully the practical objections which the ryot is so fertile in raising, he must himself have a thorough knowledge of all the details of cultivation. It is mainly to provide the students with the opportunity for acquiring this absolutely essential practical knowledge that this large tract of fertile and highly cultivated land has been added to the College. Embracing as it does wet land, irrigated dry land and purely rain-fed dry land, it is admirably suited for the purpose.

Class of Students.

"The rules which have been sanctioned by Your Excellency's Government for the admission of students to this College have steadily kept in view the need for attracting practical men rather than mere students. Special care has been taken to profit by the experience of the past, and to avoid the danger of attracting an

"unsuitable type of men ready at the first opportunity to drift into July 14th, any line of life rather than adopt the profession of an up-to-date 1909.

"farmer. No scholarships are, therefore, granted, and no promise of employment in Government Service is held out. The ordinary standard of education expected is the Matriculation Examination; Coimbatore.

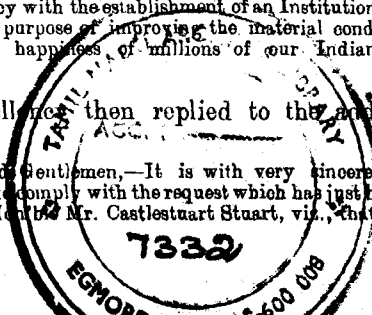
"but where the applicant can satisfy the Principal that he is a suitable student in other respects, even this standard is not insisted upon. In order to render the College as accessible as possible to the sons of the poorest ryots, no fees are charged for tuition, and no rent is charged for the use of the hostels. The students provide their own food, and can thus regulate their expenses according to their individual means. The hostels themselves have been built in ten separate blocks, each accommodating six students, so that there need be no difficulties in the matter of caste. Address.

"I trust this brief summary of the aims and objects of our Agricultural College and Research Institute and this description of the means which have been adopted to secure them, will have satisfied Your Excellency that the large sum of money expended on this magnificent College and farm has been well laid out. But just as walls without men do not make a city, so the most sumptuous laboratories and class-rooms will not by themselves make a College or centre of Research unless the men who work in them are inspired by the proper spirit. I have, therefore, much pleasure in assuring Your Excellency that the enthusiasm with which the expert staff of the Department, European and Indian alike, have entered upon their new duties, justifies the most sanguine hopes that their labours will be fruitful and will tend to the material advancement of our mutual friend and paymaster, the man behind the plough.

"It only remains for me to thank Your Excellencies for your patient attention to these explanatory remarks, and to invite you, Sir, to be so good as to open our Agricultural College and Research Institute by unveiling the slab whose inscription will record for this and every succeeding generation the intimate connection of Your Excellency with the establishment of an Institution founded for the express purpose of improving the material condition and increasing the happiness of millions of our Indian fellow-subjects."

His Excellency then replied to the address as His Excellency's reply.

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with very sincere pleasure that I proceed to comply with the request which has just been made to me by the Hon'ble Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart, viz., that I should



July 14th, "perform the ceremony of declaring this college duly open. It
1909. "is indeed a great satisfaction to me to find myself here to-day
Coimbatore. "because I take the very deepest interest in the welfare of this
"institution. I rejoice to know that my name is to be associated
His Excellency's "with the avenue by which future students are to pass to these
reply. "halls of learning, and my pleasure in taking part in the
"ceremony to-day has been enhanced by the very kindly and
"flattering allusions which have been made to the presence of
"Lady Lawley and myself on this occasion in the address which
"has just been read.

"Allusion has been made to the fact that it was I who
"performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of this
"college. That seems to me to have occurred only the day before
"yesterday: so short a time ago it seems to be! And yet when I
"reflect I realize that it was early in the first half of my tenure
"of office. And now to-day when I am performing the final
"ceremony, I grieve to find that I am well embarked on the
"second half of my tenure of office! I grieve to think that the
"time has gone so quickly. I only wish that I could wait here
"longer to watch the progress of the work in this institution, but
"when I shall have left this country I shall have left behind me
"my best wishes for its success. I had an opportunity, of which
"I gladly availed myself, to see this college and the dependent
"buildings in the course of their construction. To-day they
"are complete, and I should like to congratulate, if I may,
"those who are responsible for the beauty of their form as well as
"those who took part in their actual construction. I con-
"gratulate them the more because as we have heard just now
"success has been achieved in the face of considerable difficulties.
"I hope that nothing has been omitted which may be requisite for
"exhaustive research in all branches of agricultural science, for
"conducting experiments of all kinds and for the training of
"students as practical no less than scientific agriculturists.
"To-day it seems to me that the number of students is somewhat
"limited but nevertheless I hope that as the demand for
"scientific agriculturists grows, as the necessity for expansion
"arises, the Government will not hesitate to increase the
"capacity of this institution. You speak, Sir, in your address
"of the fact that no less than eight lakhs of rupees have been
"expended here by Government. That is a large sum, I know,
"but yet if you come to think of it, it is after all but a 'drop
"in the ocean' of all that has been given by the Government
"of India in the interests of the ryots of this country since
"the rise of British dominion in India. Before then, the people
"of this country, if one may judge by history, were generally
"occupied in tearing one another to pieces—Hindus against

Establish-
ment of
College one
of many
benefits of
British
rule.

"Muhammadans, province against province, Chief against Chief. July 14th,
"The peasantry were at the mercy of mercenary gangs and brigands; 1909.
"they were the victims of extortion and persecution. We have Coimbatore.
"given to the ryot—PEACE. PEACE! He may move to his rest
"and to his work secure in an unbroken, and let us pray God, an
"abiding peace. We have given him religious freedom, we have His Excellency's
"given him civic liberty; and as far as possible justice between lenency's
"man and man. We have not forgotten his material wants. reply.
"Think for a moment of the vast expenditure incurred in the
"construction of roads and railways! and in the building of irriga-
"tion works, be they protective or productive. What vast sums
"have been spent! I could not in the time at my disposal recite to
"you all the legislative measures which have been taken for the pro-
"tection of the cultivators in this land. One after another they
"have come upon the Statute Book, and so far as we are concerned,
"they have culminated in the recent passing of the Madras
"Estates Land Act, which was passed for the benefit of the
"cultivating ryot of this country. That is a measure which
"will always, I think and hope, be associated with the name of
"my late Colleague Sir George Forbes, whose departure from
"this country I regret exceedingly. I hope that his name will
"always be held in grateful remembrance by the ryots, for I
"can assure them that they never had a juster nor a truer
"friend. And then, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is the great field
"of education which we have laid out for the benefit of the people
"of this land. I think you must acknowledge that the work
"of the Government of India in the interests of the ryot
"has been great, single minded and marvellously successful,
"and it is in the interests of the ryot that we find ourselves
"here to-day. Mr. Stuart gave us in his address a short
"sketch of the past efforts which have been made in this Presi-
"deney to improve the methods of agriculture. I think we may
"agree that those efforts do not display any overweening ambition,
"nor do they betray any wild extravagance. They were modest;
"they were not very wisely conceived; but it is only fair to add,
"as he did, that this backwardness was not peculiar to India; *Progress of*
"it was not even peculiar to Europe, nor to America, nor *Agri-*
"Australia. It is only in recent years that the marvellous *culture.*
"change which has taken place in all these countries in the
"matter of agriculture has been made manifest. Agriculture used
"to mean merely the cultivation of the land. The practice was,
"as you know, to disturb the bosom of mother earth, to plant, to
"reap and to eat the crop. The difficulties that were encountered
"were not very different from those which were encountered when
"Adam lost his Paradise; and when they took the form of unfavour-
"able rainfall or weeds or fungus diseases, they were generally
"placidly accepted as 'blessings in disguise!'; Well! nowadays,

July 14th, 1909.
 COIMBATORE.
 His Excellency's reply.
 Modern view of Agriculture.
 Advances in the Science.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, all that we are certain of in regard to that is that the *disguise* was unquestionably good! We are not to-day quite so patient, we are not content to regard those difficulties and trials as being either inevitable or incurable. We are more inquisitive than our forefathers and I think we are more ambitious than they! Nowadays it seems to me that agriculture rather is taken to mean not only the cultivation of the land but also the culture of those who live on it. And by 'culture,' I mean the enlightenment and the discipline which are only acquired by mental training. I will have nothing to do with that mischievous interpretation of culture which defines it as the acquisition and exhibition of conventional manners and says that it is shown at its best in a life of idleness in the midst of beautiful and luxurious surroundings. Gentlemen, that is not culture. That is the corrosion and corruption of the fibres of moral, mental and physical life. Yes, I think we may take it that agriculture to-day means the cultivation of the land and the culture of the people on it. I think that it is universally recognized that there must be intelligent purpose in a farmer's efforts if he is to succeed in maintaining and increasing the fertility of the soil, if he is to succeed in raising and keeping a good livestock, and if he is to prepare his products for the market. And this means, does it not, education suitable to the farmer's needs, and so you find that in Europe, Australia, Canada, America and latterly in South Africa, the Department of Agriculture in every Government has become one of the most important parts in the machinery of administration, and it is extraordinary to observe what marvellous advance science has made in those countries and how not only science but also the material prosperity of those countries has advanced in exact proportion to the degree in which research and investigation, instruction and organization have been carried out on a liberal scale and conducted on intelligent lines. I do not propose to-day to put before you anything so indigestible as statistics, but I may mention as an illustration of what I say only a few figures. In the past year, the exports from Canada of agricultural products and of animals alone amounted to the enormous sum of very nearly twenty-five million sterling and this is very nearly three times as much as the similar value of exports twenty years ago. And so when we set up our laboratories here of investigation and research, when we establish our demonstration farms for illustration and experiment, when we open our halls of study to the students of this land, we are only marching in line with the rest of the civilized world. Now the question is: Are we marching to success? India with all the many luxuries that she can boast of is not without her pessimists. I am told that there is no comparison between the Canadian cultivator

"and the ryot of this land. I am told that such a comparison is altogether inept, that the Canadian people are not only intelligent, capable and energetic, but they are well educated, they are disposed to work together for the common good; they have a high standard of living; they live in comfortable homes; and are strongly imbued with the desire for self-improvement. I am told that, in all these respects, they are unlike the Indian ryot. I am told, and I think, there are some here who would endorse what I say, that at present except in a few rare instances the Indian ryot has no incentive to improve. I am told that he is impervious to the influence of science. I am told that, if you wish to introduce any new variety of cereal, plant or herb in this country, the efforts for its introduction are more likely to be rendered abortive by the idiosyncracies of the ryot than by any unsuitability of climate or any deficiency in the matter of soil. I am told that agriculture here is essentially practical and local, that the man in the deltas, for example, will not come into Coimbatore to see the methods of agriculture carried on here because the conditions of Coimbatore are entirely different from those which they have left at home. I am even warned that the students who come here to acquire a practical and scientific knowledge, when they return to their homes, however industriously they may apply the principles which they have acquired here, will have but an infinitesimal effect upon the agricultural development of this land. I admit all of these; but I am afraid that I am an incorrigible optimist, and I do not believe that every one of these difficulties cannot be overcome. I believe that everyone of them will be overcome by the dual process of education and demonstration, not, I grant you, without infinite patience and infinite labour; not, I grant you, without the expenditure of a considerable sum of money and constant disappointment. Firstly, I think a change will come by the influence of our rural schools. There I hope that we shall educate the young to a higher conception of the standard of living than they have to-day; that we shall imbue them with a desire for self-improvement and that we shall bring them into a closer touch with the practical needs of country life. And secondly, I hope that by establishing our centres of demonstration and instruction in all parts of the country, we may be able to study the peculiarities of each locality and apply the scientific principles to remedy defects and improve methods, having regard to the special characteristics of the tract in which our experiments are carried out. We have got in a word to prove that science pays. And so it comes to this if I may express an opinion as a layman that it is by the quality of the work in the demonstration farms which we are going to set up that success or failure will be ours. This college will of course be the home of research and experiment; and in this direction it seems to me that the field is practically

July 14th, 1909.

COIMBATORE.

His Excellency's reply.

Indian ryot compared with Canadian farmer.

Possibility of education.

July 14th, 1909. Coimbatore. His Excellency's reply. Demonstration farms. Students.

Government.

Teaching Staff.

limitless. Every day there is growing the demand for raw materials such as silk, cotton, tobacco, tea, coffee, sugar, cocoa, rice, gums and dyes, drugs and spices of all sorts. Now I venture to think that there is not one or hardly one of these products which I have mentioned which one part or other of this Presidency is not peculiarly well adapted to produce. And therefore the field of research here is practically limitless. But it is the demonstration farms set up in the country that I think we must look on as the battle-fields in which the contest is to take place between progress and reaction, between science and hide-bound conservatism, between materialism and mamool. These are to be our real battle-fields and the men who are to plan campaigns and carry them out are the students who work here in these halls. And it is upon the degree to which they take advantage of the opportunities which are offered to them here, it is upon the spirit by which they are animated here, it is upon the quality of the teaching which they will receive here and on their capacity to apply the principles which they here acquire in an intelligent manner in those lands which will be hereafter committed to their care, it is upon these only that justification or otherwise will exist for this great and costly enterprise. And so, I will venture, if I may, to say a word of advice to one or two of those who are interested in this great question of agricultural development. In the first place, I venture to express the hope that Government will set their face steadily against admitting to this college any students but those who mean to make agriculture their lifework. I hope that every Government will steadfastly refuse to allow this institution to be an avenue to Government service in any other than the Agricultural Department. I should like, if I may, to say a word to those who are to guide and control the destinies of this college, be they Europeans or Indians. Remember, if you please, that your students of to-day will be your colleagues of to-morrow carrying out your policy, expounding your doctrines, giving effect to your teaching, opening out the arcane of knowledge with the key which you will have put into their hands repeating, I doubt not, your very words, and so I would remind you that your responsibility is high and honourable. I would ask of you this favour and that is that one and all of you will to the best of your endeavour make prominent the necessity of having science as the basis of all agricultural training. That is the favour which I would ask of you and also especially upon the European members of the staff I would urge that, while you ensure that the quality of instruction in these halls shall be as good as it can possibly be, you will do all that you can to introduce the best traditions of English public school-life into all the phases of college life here.

July 14th, 1909. Coimbatore. His Excellency's reply. Advice to students.

"I would impress upon you what I said just now that, unless you come here with the determination to make agriculture your life-work, your coming here is vain, nay more, it is wrong, because you are keeping out others who would otherwise profit by the instruction in this college. There is work waiting reply. for some of you in the demonstration farms of the Government; there is work waiting for others on the lands which you yourselves possess; there is work waiting for you on lands which are lying unused for want of the men to manage it. I say this on no less excellent an authority than Diwan Bahadur R. Raghunatha Rao, a man whose name is held in high honour and esteem by Europeans and Indians alike throughout the length and breadth of this land. He says here in a letter which I read only two days ago: 'Many landowners require agriculturists, tree-growers, fruit-cultivators, engine-drivers and good carpenters and blacksmiths. It is a shame that Indians have to indent upon Europeans for such men and that fruits which grow magnificently in India should be imported into India from foreign countries. I and many thousands of people own lands having bought them for valuable considerations in which horticulture and arboriculture might flourish, but they lie unused for want of men to manage these concerns.' He then goes on to analyze the reason for this state of affairs and to indulge in some trenchant criticisms on the characteristics of his fellow-countrymen. I will not follow him into that field for indeed, Gentlemen, I have not the courage to do so. I can assure you that this institution is pregnant with great possibilities of service and benefit to the agrarian population of this Presidency. The degree to which we may attain achievement will depend upon the work of the students who come hither. Your responsibilities, you will see, are not small either to your college or to your Government or to your country.

"I have tried to indicate only in the briefest outline some of the Land-difficulties which lie before you, and I have ventured to express owners. with confidence that those difficulties will be overcome. It is for you to vindicate my confidence. And finally, if I may, I would like to say how glad I am that in this work which we have taken up we are to have the help and the advice and the interest of some of the leading landowners in this country. I am glad that they have been willing to identify themselves in this work with us and I am certain that it will be of great help and advantage in bringing it to a successful issue. I am glad to see so many of them here to-day, and I know that they will join

July 14th, 1909. "with me in expressing the hope that we may not fail in any single particular of the high purpose which we have in undertaking this work which in the words of Mr. Stuart is to improve the material prosperity and increase the happiness of millions of our fellow-subjects in Southern India. Indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope that we may not fail of our ambition."

His Excellency next performed the ceremony of unveiling the marble slab with its inscription and declared the Agricultural College and Research Institute open.

After inspecting the College building and rooms in company with the officers of the Agricultural Department including the College staff, and the Honorary Visitors and the Collector, which lasted for half an hour, Their Excellencies left the College for the Collector's bungalow at 1-45 P.M. when the Guard of Honour again presented arms to His Excellency.

At 2 P.M. His Excellency granted private interviews to the following gentlemen:—

- (1) The Hon'ble Raja Vasudeva Raja Valia Nambidi of Kollengode.
- (2) Muhammad Munir Sahib, Khan Sahib, Tahsildar.
- (3) J. J. Cotton, Esq., I.C.S., Additional Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.
- (4) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur A. T. Tiruvenkataswami Mudaliyar Avargal.

At 2-50 P.M. Their Excellencies accompanied by Mr. Vibert and the staff left the Collector's bungalow for the Municipal Hospital by motor-car.

The Hospital and Dispensary at Coimbatore were founded in the early sixties. In the year 1870 an endowment fund was managed by a President and members of the Committee for the management of the Civil Dispensary at Coimbatore. Probably

subscriptions were raised to permanently endow the Hospital and Dispensary of this town during the time of Mr. Patrick Grant, the then Collector.

The old hospital was built in 1850. For years it was found to be unsuited to its work being dark, cramped and situated amidst insauitary surroundings. So early as 1898 proposals for its renovation had been frequently made. The first proposal was to improve the existing hospital, and a fund called Victoria Memorial Fund of Rs. 12,000 was collected for the purpose. This idea was subsequently abandoned and one scheme or other was suggested for a new hospital and ultimately given up under the advice of expert officers. At last in 1904 the present site was pitched upon and acquired in 1905 after the approval of the Sanitary Board. The Government sanctioned the construction of the new hospital in 1906. The total estimate for the new hospital amounted to Rs. 1,08,750, of which Government paid a liberal grant of Rs. 85,000, the District Board, Rs. 6,600; M.R.Ry. Angappa Chettiyar Avargal, Rs. 1,750; the Zamindar of Uttukuli, Rs. 500; other subscriptions, Rs. 485; and the balance of Rs. 14,415 was met from Municipal Funds.

The hospital is well equipped with lights, cots and surgical tables and appliances. The attendance last year in the old building was 40,324.

His Excellency the Governor laid the foundation stone of the Coimbatore Victoria Hospital on 25th September 1906.

On arrival at the hospital, Their Excellencies were received by M.R.Ry. T. H. Govind Singh Avargal, Vice-Chairman in charge, at the entrance to the reception pandal.

July 14th,
1909.
COIMBATORE.

Municipal
Hospital.
Vice-
Chair-
man's
speech.

After Their Excellencies had taken their seats, the Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Council, made the following speech:—

"As representative of the Council and on behalf of the people of this town, I respectfully beg to accord Your Excellency and Lady Lawley a hearty and loyal welcome and to tender our humble thanks for Your Excellency's kindness in condescending to come amongst us at great personal inconvenience and trouble. I take this opportunity of expressing our grateful thanks to Government for the very liberal grants made towards the construction of this hospital. The first grant of Rs. 60,000 is in itself a princely gift and we are further very much indebted to Your Excellency for the second very liberal grant of Rs. 25,000 which was very much needed for its completion and without which this hospital would never have become an accomplished fact.

"In this connection I may bring to Your Excellency's kind notice that the thanks of the Municipal Council are due to two native gentlemen, i.e., M.R.Ry. Tiruppur Angappa Chettiyar Avargal and M.R.Ry. Kalingaraya Goundar Avargal, Zamin-dar of Uttukuli, for their very liberal donation of Rs. 1,750 and Rs. 500, respectively, towards the construction of this hospital.

"It only remains for me to request Your Excellency to formally open the hospital and inaugurate its career of utility and mercy."

The Vice-Chairman then presented to His Excellency the following members of the Municipal Council:—

- (1) William Fraser, Esq.
- (2) M.R.Ry. M. Sambanda Mudaliyar Avargal, B.A., B.L.
- (3) " C. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar Avargal, B.A., B.L.
- (4) " K. V. Srinivasa Aiyar Avargal, B.A., B.L.
- (5) " K. Chowdappier Avargal, B.A., B.L.
- (6) " N. Gira Chettiyar Avargal.
- (7) " B. Soobarama Chettiyar Avargal.
- (8) " I. Venkataswami Nayudu Garu.
- (9) " C. A. Venkatakrishna Aiyar Avargal.
- (10) G. A. Ghulam Hussain Sahib.

- (11) M.R.Ry. K. R. Subramania Aiyar Avargal.
- (12) " Vellinghiri Chettiyar Avargal.
- (13) " Velaswami Chettiyar Avargal.
- (14) " H. Rama Rao Avargal.
- (15) " Balakrishna Pillai Avargal.

July 14th,
1909.

COIMBA-
TORE.

Municipal
Hospital.

His Exce-
llency's
reply.

His Excellency replied as follows:—
"Mr. Vice-Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Again I find that I have a very pleasant task before me in formally opening this hospital. It has been, I can assure you, a great pleasure to me as the head of the Govern-ment to have been able to see completed during my tenure of office this hospital building which, I think, is in every way worthy of the town. I am glad that Government were in a position to afford substantial aid in the matter of funds for I can indeed conceive of no object upon which the Government money could be better expended. I have taken a great deal of interest in this work. It was not many months ago that I had an opportunity of seeing the building in actual construction under the guidance of Mr. Keeling. On that occasion I was able to make one or two suggestions whereby the capacity of the hospital has been in some measure increased. Thereby benefit will accrue to a greater number of people who may be laid low by sickness and suffering, and thus the ability of the hospital to meet the needs of the people has, I hope, been enlarged. I noticed at the time, and it must be apparent to anyone who stops for a moment to look at the way in which the work has been done, that it will stand for all time as a monument to the engineering skill of Mr. Keeling. The work which we saw this morning and the one accomplished here do infinite honour and credit to him. It seems to me that this work should be permanent. I only hope that it may last as long as the name of that great lady, Queen-Empress Victoria, whose name this hospital will bear. To countless generations the name of Victoria will stand, I am certain, before the whole civilized world for all that is pure and womanly, for all that is queenly and great.

"Now I am going to claim a privilege which I claimed this morning of asking a favour on the part of my friends. I hope the Municipal Council will make it their business to ensure that the spacious grounds which surround the hospital are well planted with trees. I am sure that the head of the Forest Department in Coimbatore will be ready to supply as many trees as are required for the purpose. I believe that the soil is good and I am assured that there will be no lack of water.

"The mention of water brings me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to Water—express my great regret that we have been again disappointed in supply.

July 14th, 1909. "the matter of water-supply to Coimbatore. When I first had the pleasure of addressing the citizens of this town now nearly three years ago, I hoped that it would be a matter of early consummation. Time went on and matters reached a point where it seemed as though the passing of the necessary orders were imminent, but unfortunately it appeared that vested interests were threatened and not only so but that additions had been made and alterations introduced in the original scheme which brought the cost up to so high a figure as to make it absolutely prohibitive. We were therefore obliged to put our pen through that particular scheme and to invite the Sanitary Commissioner to consider whether some alternative scheme might not be found. At the same time we pointed out to him the necessity of seeing to it as expeditiously as possible and we asked him to investigate whether advantage might not be taken of the artesian supply in and about Coimbatore. It would have been a great pleasure to me to have opened to-day a system of water-works which had been accomplished during my tenure of office, for then the crown of the works accomplished here would have been a triple crown. That is what I had at one time hoped but, alas! that cannot be, and I can only hope that during my term of office we may find it possible to initiate a scheme of water-supply to this town. That I am most anxious to do, because I know to what disabilities and sufferings the residents here have been subjected in consequence of those dread diseases of cholera and plague. As soon as a good water-supply is brought in to your midst, I cannot help hoping that those twin ogres will disappear and that in a new and good water-supply there may be found the best possible auxiliary to this hospital.

"Before I actually perform the ceremony of opening this hospital, I beg to express on behalf of Government how highly I appreciate the generosity of those gentlemen who have come forward and co-operated with us in supplying the town of Coimbatore with what, I pray God, may be a great and lasting boon to the citizens of the town."

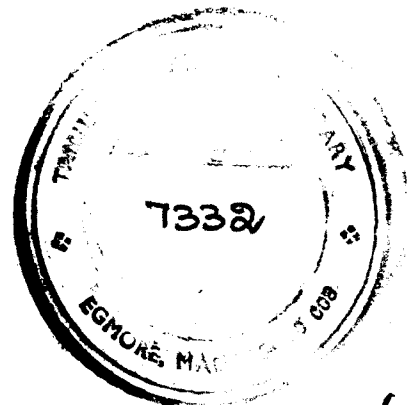
After His Excellency had replied, the Vice-Chairman presented to His Excellency a pair of scissors with which he advanced and severed the cord holding a curtain over the main entrance to the building and declared the hospital open. Their Excellencies then proceeded to walk round the building.

Their Excellencies then had tea with Mrs. Vibert July 14th, 1909. in tents pitched close to the hospital building where the Collector presented to His Excellency the following gentlemen:—

- (1) Muhammad Ghulam Hussain Sahib, Municipal Hospital. Councillor.
- (2) E. H. Elliot, Esq., Principal of the Coimbatore College.
- (3) The Zamindar of Uttukuli.
- (4) M.R.Ry. Tiruppur Angappa Chettiyar Avargal, a wealthy mirasidar and trader.
- (5) M.R.Ry. T. Ramaswami Aiyangar Avargal, retired Sub-Judge and Vice-President of the Coimbatore Agricultural Association.
- (6) M.R.Ry. T. S. Balakrishna Aiyar Avargal, Government Pleader.

The party left the Municipal Hospital at Departure. 4-15 P.M. by motor-car for Ootacamund via Gudalur and Méttupálaiyam and arrived at Government House at 9-30 P.M.

His Excellency's arrival at Ootacamund was Ootacamund private.



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