Educational (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 553

Dated 31-8-98

INDEXED.

87-87

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm.r of the D.P.I. for report, certain extracts from the address presented to H.E. the Governor at Berhampore by the Managing Committee of the Kalikota College and from his reply thereto

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1410/98

[Edl. 5]
1,000—5-3-97.

Educational (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1021

413-13 & Pencil
27 7 98
143/98 Sec
210/97
438/97
772/93

From [redacted]
The Public Dept

Order 553 dy 31-8-98

The following extracts from the address presented to H.E. the Governor at Berhampur by the managing committee of the Kalikota College and from his reply thereto will be communicated to the D.P.I. for report: —

[Here enter the portions marked with red chalk on pp 544 & 546 of the book]

WA 29 8 98
29848

26/8/98.

To The D.P.I. 940.

Copy sent 2/9/98
Dcpd 2.9.98

Note. On the matter referred to in the address from the managing com-

No. 1641

Dated 4.8.98
Received 6.8.98
Registered 6.8.98
Enclosures 1
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwd a copy of the address presented to H.E. the governor & the replies made by him during his VIII th tour for necessary action.

244/98

JMR
Put up as precedent
WA 29.8.98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	413-13	Agc Revc	27-7-98
	143-a	Esl	3-3-98
	438-a	—"—	2-8-97
	210 Mis	—"—	10-4-97 (abs)
	472-a	—"—	30-10-93

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Given for copying
Copied
Examined
Signed
189 .

Public

CHIEF SECRETARIAT MADRAS.

Memorandum No. 1641.

READ the following paper :—

From Mr. H. A. Sim I.C.S. Pri
Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, dated 2

I enclose four copies of the addre
presented to His Excellency the Governo
replies made by him during his VIII tour
such action as may be necessary.

Copies will be forwarded t
Financial and Educational Departmen
for such action as may be necessary.

for Chief Secr

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
26 JUL 1898
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR A. E. HAVELOCK, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,

ON HIS

EIGHTH TOUR

IN THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

MADRAS:
PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1898.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO,

AND

REPLIES DELIVERED BY,

HIS EXCELLENCY

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ADDRESSES AND REPLIES.

ADDRESS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF THE TOWN OF NELLORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of the town of Nellore, do hereby beg leave to approach Your Excellency with feelings of deepfelt respect and submission, and offer our cordial welcome to Your Excellency on this auspicious occasion. We are extremely grateful for Your Excellency's condescension to honour this place with a visit, and thus to afford us a fresh opportunity of expressing our boundless loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, under whose benignant rule we have been long enjoying the blessings of peace and prosperity.

2. This district has been all along classed as a backward one, and this town itself is hardly of third-rate importance in this Presidency. This is principally due to its long isolation from the civilizing influence of the metropolis. One of Your Excellency's predecessors, during his visit to this place some years ago, was pleased to accept our prayer to extend to this town the benefit of railway communication, and this step has considerably advanced our position. The railway, which is shortly to connect this place directly with the capital city on the

south and the commercial cities of the Northern Circars, will undoubtedly develop our resources, and in no long time enable this town to attain a conspicuous position. Your Excellency's name will be particularly remembered in connection with this railway, as it will be completed and opened for traffic during Your Excellency's administration.

3. As Municipal Councillors we are trying to improve this town as far as our income permits; but, owing to a defective drainage and scarcity of water during the hot season, a part of this town is not always what it should be. To remedy these evils, substantial pecuniary help from the Government is absolutely necessary, as our poor income is hardly sufficient to make both ends meet.

4. To better the drainage no extraordinary help is needed, as a gift of twenty-five thousand rupees will go a great way towards improving its condition; and we earnestly pray Your Excellency would be graciously pleased to grant that sum to this municipality.

5. The problem of water-supply is a more difficult one, and is capable of being solved in two ways. One solution is to construct water-works throughout the town, and to furnish them with water with the help of steam-engines from the adjoining river Pennar, similar to what is being done at Madura. But this project is an exceedingly costly one, as it requires not less than two lakhs of rupees.

We cannot raise loans as our income, even supplemented by a heavy water-tax, may not be sufficient to pay even a third part of the interest thereon. We dare not apply to Government for help, as the amount required is considerable, and may not be spared during these days of famine and frontier complications. Under such circumstances, we have to abandon this costly scheme for the present. But the want may, however, be supplied in a more easy way. The Government seems to have approved of the construction of a new supply-channel to the Nellore tank from the Sangam anicut for the improvement of cultivation. If this work be undertaken and finished during this famine year as a part of the relief works, not only the poor will find some food and the Government some profit, but this town also will find an unfailing source of water-supply. Irrigation channels abound all around this town, issuing from the Nellore tank, which, in their usual course, will serve to fill our fort-ditch directly and replenish our wells indirectly by percolation. By this means we can, to a great extent, give relief to the people, and flush our drains more frequently and satisfactorily. This is a feasible scheme, and well worthy of consideration. And if Your Excellency be pleased to get it carried out during this famine year, our wants can be easily supplied, and we shall ever remain grateful to Your Excellency for the inestimable blessing.

6. In conclusion, we again express our heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency for your kindness to

notice our condition personally, with a view to ameliorate the same.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF NELLORE,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your town, and I wish to express my gladness in being able to pay your town a visit comparatively early during my term of Government. It is always to the advantage of the Governor and of the places that he visits that he should make their acquaintance as early as possible. It appears, for some cause or other, however, that Nellore, although so near the capital city, is looked upon as somewhat remote, and consequently the visits of Governors are not as frequent as they ought to be. I am very glad to receive from you your assurances of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty. Such assurances are unnecessary, as your loyalty is sincere and devoted, as one knows, but it is satisfactory to receive from Her Majesty's subjects such feelings towards Her person and throne. You say that your district has been long classed as a backward one, and you speak in a modest way of the importance of the town. You make some enquiries as to the progress of Nellore, but I am surprised to find that though it may not be among the first and second rank of towns in the Madras Presidency, it has a population of something like 28,000. When the District Manual was drawn up about 20 years ago,

the population was 22,000; consequently, in 20 years, although there was no special reason why any development on a large scale should have taken place, your town has increased by 6,000 inhabitants. I have no doubt, indirectly, if not directly, the completion of the East Coast Railway, which will bring your town into communication with the rich trade ports, and will also improve its communication with Madras, will show beneficial results. I am glad to hear that you are doing your best to improve your town as far as your means permit. You allude to two special difficulties, the want of good drainage and the scarcity of water; and you maintain that the means at your disposal are not sufficient to supply these two important wants. With respect to drainage you tell me that if you are given Rs. 25,000 by Government, it will go a great way towards improving its condition. I am afraid I should only be raising false hopes if I were to say there is the least chance of giving you such a grant. It is always understood, in all Municipal works, in every district, that Government give towards improvements, as advance, one-half of the estimated cost, which has to be refunded by monthly instalments with interest. In the case of the drainage of this town, from what I have been able to gather, there is no need for any large or expensive scheme, and I am afraid, I must tell you, that improvements in this direction must be left to yourselves. From what I have gathered from the Collector a moderate income annually will do much to put matters on a more satisfactory footing than at

present. With regard to your claim for water-supply, you are aware that Government has always shown the greatest interest in improving water-supply, and has done a vast deal in this direction in recent years. Only the other day I went to Conjeeveram to perform the ceremony of opening a large water-supply scheme there, and I remember then being told that it was the ninth scheme completed within the last six or seven years. This shows that the improvement of water-supply in the Presidency of Madras has met with the support of Government and is fully appreciated by Municipal bodies themselves. With regard to your own particular case, you reject, as being too costly, a scheme suggested, and you fall back upon one which you think is more feasible, and will be more economical, by constructing a new supply channel to the Nellore tank from the Sangam anicut for the improvement of cultivation, and you mention, in connection with this, that a work of this kind has already been sanctioned by Government. Here I must tell you, as the result of enquiries made on the spot, that I think it is likely that objections may be discovered to the carrying out of this particular scheme, and that it may not be as feasible, and may not appear to be as profitable, as it appears to be at first sight, and although you say an estimate was approved in 1895, you must be prepared for the work not being carried out for some time to come. I am told, however, a very modest, but still fairly effectual improvement of water-supply might be procured by improving the channel, which

already exists, from the Mudunboodee village into your town, and if, on enquiry, it is found that this work would really be of any benefit to you, I assure you that the Government will be very willing to consider, as they always do, any suggestion which may be made in connection with the scheme and any application for assistance. It is useless to hold out the hope that you will get more favourable terms than those accorded in other places, for it would be unfair to other towns which are more in need of a water-supply than Nellore. I think I am right in saying that the largest grant given at any time for the provision of water-supply is three-fourths of the estimated cost, but the usual course is not to grant more than one-half. I think I have now dealt with the prominent parts of your address, and I will only say in conclusion that any fears which you seem to entertain that a serious famine is awaiting you may prove to be not thoroughly well founded. There will certainly be distress as there is at present in certain portions of the district, but I am in great hopes that the distress will not extend very wide, and that by God's blessing you will get a good monsoon, tolerably early in the season, and that the district and, in particular, the locality to which I refer will soon be free from distress. I will have an opportunity to further confer with the District officers as I pass through the district, and therefore what I say now is merely the expression of a hope based upon what at present is slight information. I have now to thank you once more for your kind welcome and I

can only express my regret that I am not able to give you as pleasing and hopeful answers to your representations with regard to your want of good drainage and water-supply. It would be useless for me to say things which will merely raise false hopes and lead to future disappointment.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF NELLORE AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the inhabitants of the Nellore district, we, the members of the District Association, Nellore, beg leave to offer Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on this, the first occasion of Your Excellency's visit to the principal town of this district.

2. We beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the anxious attention that the Government is and has been paying to the needs of all such parts of the Presidency as are, or are likely to be, affected by famine. It was only quite recently that relief works were closed in some portions of this Presidency, and the failure of the north-east monsoon has placed other portions in such a critical state that the distress, which therein at present exists, may not, unlikely before long, develop into a famine of unquestionable severity. Knowing as we do the excellent way in which famine has been combated in other parts of this Presidency, we have every hope that the Government will never, when the time comes, fail to

exert its utmost to save the people from starvation and distress. With us here in Nellore a succession of bad years has caused the failure of the monsoon to make its effects felt sooner than elsewhere, and the promptitude with which test relief works have been started shows the anxiety and the solicitude which the Government feels for the happiness of the millions committed to its care, and we take it as an indication of such anxiety that Your Excellency has chosen to travel through this district now, to ascertain personally from the District officers the magnitude of the distress and the measures adopted to cope with the same. It is unnecessary on our part, therefore, to submit that the time has now come, when relief works on a larger scale have to be started or to point out that over and above finding work for able-bodied persons, relief kitchens have to be opened for the feeding of all classes, who, from age or bodily infirmity, are unable to work and maintain themselves. In this connection, we cannot fail to mention that we are glad we have in Mr. Scott, a Collector, who sympathises so largely with the people, that we have no fear that the people's wants will not be prominently brought to notice or their needs properly or carefully attended to.

3. The people of this district owe to the Government a deep debt of gratitude for its having granted their prayer to connect Nellore by railway with Madras, and with the northern districts by a route along the coast. The Bezwada-Madras Railway has almost approached completion. We have

no doubt that this improvement, in the means of communication, will, to a large extent, minimise the effects of scarcity, whenever it may prevail, in this district.

4. Much as the advantages of railways are, they are scarcely of much practical utility in the prevention of famines. What is wanted in a country like this is a more thorough investigation of projects of irrigation and a larger expense year after year in placing a copious supply of water in the control of the ryot for cultivation purposes. We beg to be permitted to state that this district is in this respect at a disadvantage in that the subject of irrigation has not received at the hands of Government that attention which it deserves. The means of irrigation at present available are few, though there are facilities for increasing them. Several rivers, such as the Palar and the Musi, bring down heavy floods in the rainy season. Provision may be made for storing and using for agricultural purposes the water now carried by these rivers into the sea.

5. We are glad that the Government has, after a thorough and searching investigation, accorded its sanction to the project for improving the source of water-supply to the Nellore tank, and we beg to submit that the present is the most opportune moment for commencing work in connection therewith. No doubt the parts of this district which are suffering most from the failure of the monsoon are the northern taluks, but in portions of the Nellore and Atmakur

taluks there has been considerable distress for some time, and unless adequate work is provided in or near the affected area for the poorer classes of the people, there will be little chance of preventing death by starvation. If, in these circumstances, work is started in connection with the Nellore tank, it will relieve distress to a large extent, and if the Gandipollem and Annangi projects be also taken in hand, the Government will not merely have done its best to provide opportunities for all people to obtain sufficient work, but there will be the further advantage of the Government having carried through projects of utility which, while being a source of profit to the State, will, in a large measure, prevent the recurrence of famines such as that from which we are now suffering.

6. We beg to submit that the present arrangements for storing water by means of the anicuts at Nellore and Sangam, and for distributing the water stored, are not satisfactory. The tanks and the channels are not kept in proper condition, nor are repairs effected in due time to enable them to receive the supply of water in season. Much water is allowed to overflow the anicuts in the earlier parts of the period of cultivation. There is not sufficient provision for a fair distribution of water among the cultivators without corruption or partiality on the part of the officers in charge of such distribution. In this connection we beg to be permitted to repeat the request which the people of this district made to Lord Connemara in 1888, namely, that the

distribution of water to the agriculturists should be entirely in the hands of the Revenue Department, the Public Works Department officers merely standing in the position of professional advisers when irrigation channels have either to be constructed or repaired.

7. Even in parts where works of irrigation have been properly carried out, and facility exists for an easy and abundant supply of water to the cultivating ryot as under the Sangam and Nellore anicut projects, much inconvenience is being felt in that the Government has given up most of the village tanks and disposed of the tank-bed lands by auction-sale. We cannot help bringing to Your Excellency's notice that the procedure adopted has been altogether retrograde, and the effects of the system which had been carried out is only now being unmistakably felt when the chances of the ryot getting a steady and a continued supply of water at a time when he most needs it, are becoming year after year less hopeful. These tanks, so long as they existed, supplied the cultivators with sufficient quantities of water, whenever needed, in the several stages of the growth of the crops, a contingency unattainable under the present system. They were also a source of great help to the people by supplying drinking water to men and cattle in seasons when they most wanted it. We earnestly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased, if necessary, to call for a report on the working of the system at present carried out, and to remedy the inconvenience felt by the ryots by

retaining the tanks which the Government still own, and by reclaiming and rendering useful to the agricultural population the tanks which have either been abandoned or disposed of.

8. This district is a purely agricultural district, and any improvement in the methods of agriculture will greatly increase the prosperity of the people. Cultivation is still being carried on by the old and expensive methods, and it will be highly useful if the people could be educated to understand and appreciate new, cheaper and more profitable methods of cultivation. The Government is the only agency that can educate the people in this respect, and it is our prayer that the Government will be pleased to institute experimental farming in convenient parts of the district.

9. We beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the working of the Religious Endowments' Act now in force has been a source of great dissatisfaction to all who are interested in the up-keep or the well-being of religious institutions. The provisions relating to the control of the endowments are not sufficiently strict, and can be made much stricter. We do not believe that the enactment of a law which would put a stop to the spoliation of temples and misappropriation of trust properties can, in any sense, be construed into an interference with the religious or the social conditions of the people, and there is no reason to suppose that any measure in this direction will meet with much serious opposition from the orthodox community, such community

being already familiar with the control of the Government in matters relating to the management of religious endowments. We, therefore, pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to obtain the sanction of the Government of India for the passing of a local Act to check the abuses largely prevailing in the management of religious endowments in this Presidency.

10. We beg to thank Your Excellency for having allowed us this opportunity of bringing our wants to Your Excellency's notice. We pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to communicate to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress our feelings of deep loyalty both to her person and to the throne which she occupies—a loyalty which can never die out so long as we have a system of Government, which allows to the ruled all opportunities of coming in contact with their rulers, and of representing to them as occasions may arise both their needs and their difficulties.

11. In conclusion, we pray that the Almighty Providence may be pleased to bless Your Excellency with a long, prosperous, and happy life.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE INHABITANTS OF NELLORE AND MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,—I thank you very sincerely for the welcome accorded me on this my first visit to Nellore, and I am glad to see you recognise the efforts made by

the Government to meet the distress and difficulty arising from famine. During the serious part of the distress and scarcity of last year, I think, I might be justified in saying, the efforts that the Government made met with a very large measure of success. As you point out, early steps have been taken, by test works, to prove the reality or otherwise of the dangers of famine in your district. I am in great hopes, from the information I have been able to collect during the few hours I have been in the district, that it may be found that you anticipate a worse condition of things than is likely to arise. No doubt, at the present moment, four taluks of your district are in very considerable scarcity, but I am told by the Collector that, if we have an early south-west monsoon, the distress will not be of long duration. It is also hoped that nothing serious will extend to other parts of the district, and I particularly hope that your apprehension with regard to the immediate neighbourhood of Nellore may prove to be somewhat exaggerated; but you may feel assured that, whatever happens, the Government is on the watch, and you may rest satisfied that every step will be taken to prevent loss of life and any increase in the degree of want and misery. You dwell in your address on the great advantages of irrigation works, and you point out that the district of Nellore has, perhaps, received less attention from the Government in irrigation works than it deserves. I am quite at one with you with regard to the enormous

value of irrigation works for the prevention of distress and famine, but, in connection with this subject, I might point out to you that, in order to have irrigation works, you must have your water and you must have a suitable site for putting up storage tanks. It is one of the fixed principles of the Government of India not to embark upon irrigation work except it can be shown that a fair amount of return can be obtained from it. I had a conversation with two Public Works officers, one of whom is employed in making special investigations in this connection, in the hope of being able to select a profitable irrigation work. These officers have executive charge of the public works in this district, and I am told by both that there is not any very hopeful prospect of finding a suitable site for irrigation works in the district, that in places where, during heavy monsoons, water is obtained, it escapes to the sea, and where, during the dry season, rivers used to have water largely, it became necessary to have large storage reservoirs, and that some difficulty was found in obtaining suitable sites. The investigation is still in its infancy, and I hope you will be able to find some satisfactory undertaking to recommend to Government. You make special allusion to the work of improving the Nellore tank by adding to its supply from the Sangam. I believe you are right in saying that the estimate for this was approved in 1895, but from what I am able to gather, I fear it is not as desirable or likely to be satisfactory as was at one time thought. I am

therefore obliged to warn you that probably this work, in particular, will not, at present, be undertaken. There is another simple scheme for supplementing water to the Nellore tank, to which you made allusion, and, if this is carried out, it will be an economical one. You make allusion in paragraph 7 of your address to the procedure adopted by which village tanks have been disposed of and tank-bed lands put up to auction sale. I have made a few enquiries on this point of the Collector, and he has told me without having had time to refer to the records of the office that, as far as he knew, this procedure had been carried out, but not in any way likely to cause any harm. I will ask the Collector to make further enquiry and report upon it. You next allude in paragraph 8 of your address to the fact that this district is a purely agricultural one, and that any improvement in the methods of agriculture will greatly increase the prosperity of the people. I have no doubt there is room for improvement in cultivation, although, as a general rule, the cultivator in Southern India might have been working through many generations, and has probably exhausted most of the devices which may be likely to lead to the best yield which the land can give. I am told in Nellore there is one particular branch of agricultural work to which attention was not paid, that is to the system of transplanting paddy. In this connection I will recommend this point to agriculturists of the district. You ask that Government will be pleased to institute experimental

farming in convenient parts of the district. Government has a scheme of this kind, as you know, in contemplation, and two localities have been chosen for such experimental farming, but neither of these places is in the Nellore district. You allude in paragraph 9 to the necessity of improving the working of the Religious Endowment law in the Madras Presidency. This appears to be a matter to which the people of this country attach the very highest importance. I have hardly heard an address during the two years I have been in the Madras Presidency, in which allusion was not made to the abuses in the administering of the religious property of the country. I dare say, you know, there is a Bill before the Legislature of the Government of India and we also in Madras have a draft Bill on the same subject before the Council, but until the Bill before the Supreme Legislature is decided, it will be inconvenient and even unbecoming to press our own Bill before the Council. You must be prepared to wait a little longer to see the result of the measure which the Government of India proposes to accept in connection with this. I am glad to receive from you your assurances of the deepest loyalty to Her Majesty's person and throne. It is always satisfactory to get a repetition of these very proper and loyal sentiments. In conclusion, I have to thank you for your kind wishes for my own long life and prosperity.

ADDRESS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION OF NELLORE DISTRICT.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the agricultural population of the district, we beg to tender our most heartfelt welcome to Your Excellency and request at the same time that Your Excellency will convey our most loyal sentiments to our Most Gracious Sovereign, under whose benevolent sway we have been living in peace so long.

We feel it our first duty to thank Your Excellency for the opinion expressed by Your Excellency as regards the special importance which the development of irrigation requires in this famine-stricken country in preference to the construction of railways which are not in themselves of inferior consideration as regards the enlargement of trade and for strategical purposes. It is undoubted that there is much scope for extension of irrigation in this district, and we trust that the Investigation Party recently delegated for special duty will hasten its work and bring as many proposals as possible for the development of irrigation in the more barren taluks of this district, which, at this date, are threatened by famine and its concomitant evils. It needs hardly to be stated that large irrigation projects are a blessing to the backward tracts, and will soon throw open to cultivation lands hitherto unbroken by the plough, thus extending the food-supply of the country and protecting it from famine, as strongly evidenced in this year by the state of things under the Nellore

and Sangam anicuts in this district. In this connection we beg to thank Your Excellency for having sanctioned the improvement of the Nellore tank; and all that we hope in this matter is that Your Excellency will find it convenient to provide the necessary funds for the work as early as possible. We are, of course, not competent to tell a ruler of such statesmanlike abilities as Your Excellency the pre-eminence of ample supply of water near such a populous town.

We have to repeat our complaints which we made in 1888, when we had the good fortune of welcoming His Excellency Lord Connemara in regard to water-distribution. Save, in exceptional cases, the present agency has not given satisfaction. The work should be more under direct control of the Revenue officers, Public Works Department officers standing in the position of professional advisers. The chief defect in the present arrangement is that Revenue officers are not allowed a free hand in the matter, and naturally they feel themselves incompetent to exercise any effective control in questions of irrigation disputes.

We regret to hear that the policy of Government in regard to periodical settlement of land revenue appears to have slightly changed, thus rendering the rent payable by the ryot on his holdings more changeable than ever. We have been under the hope that Government will see its way to give permanency to the rents once settled, reserving to itself the right to increase them in cases where

improvements made from public funds have given additional value to the land.

We feel thankful for the excellent way in which the forest policy of the Presidency has been handled by Your Excellency, especially as it tends to free the public from unnecessary interference by the petty officials of the Forest Department. We beg to submit for Your Excellency's consideration a few points which appear to us to require modification.

The management of trees on Asalminhas (porambokes) may, with advantage, be left in the hands of the Revenue Department, instead of leaving it in the hands of the Forest Department as is now the case.

The Babul trees (*Acacia Arabica*) in unreserved lands may also be excluded from the classified list and be made available to ryots without payment. These trees are mostly required for agricultural implements, and as such they form an essential necessity for the ryots; they are quickly grown and are calculated to meet the wants of ryots readily.

Rule 7 of the rules passed under section 26 of the Forest Act expressly says that all, except the more valuable kinds of forest produce in unreserved lands, should be left to the free enjoyment of the villagers, but unfortunately permits are being issued to others on payment even for such articles, thus rendering the concession practically ineffective and useless.

The Government ruling that, for the present, the number of cattle to be grazed in a reserve is not to be limited, requires modification, in consideration of

the fact that this is well known to be a cattle-breeding district, and as such that it requires especial concessions. Under the system formerly in vogue, the waste lands in a village were divided into two classes, viz., (1) those allowed for the free pasture of village cattle, and (2) those available for leasing to known cattle-breeders of other villages. Out of the available waste in any village, an extent equal to 150 per cent. of the occupied area was allowed as the free grazing ground known locally as the shekhada, the rest known as kancha being available for renting to important cattle-breeders. This system has, however, been lately upset, and both shekhada and kancha have been reserved under section 16 of the Forest Act (IV of 1882), and all free grazing has been done away with. The late Collector, Mr. Macleane, formulated a well-thought-out plan of fixing the amount to be paid by the villagers for the privilege of grazing over the free-pasture or shekhada now included within reserves. It had barely worked a year or two, when the present system of issuing permits has been forced upon the district. The latter is fraught with many hardships to the ryots and entails much interference with the details of village economy which had better be left to the village communities themselves. Under the unrestricted number system, ryots have to pay the prescribed fee for *all* the village cattle for the privilege of grazing on the old shekhada lands included in reserved forests which generally afford pasture for fifteen days or so. Your

Excellency can easily perceive the ever-recurring annoyance caused to ryots by the existing system of capitation tax as compared with the simple system of fixed rent on the 'shekhada' land introduced by the late Collector Mr. Macleane.

We are sorry that the condition of the district is causing great anxiety to every one, and we are sure that our energetic District officers will be able to tide over the impending calamity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I accept with pleasure and satisfaction your kind words of welcome and your assurance of continued loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. I am glad you appreciate the expression of opinion which you attribute to me, as a means of preventing the evils of distress and famine. But I am not able fully to agree with you when you say there is much scope for extension of irrigation in this district. As far as I have ascertained from officers best informed on the subject, there is not a very large scope for such work in the Nellore district, unless it be that a very large sum of money is expended in its introduction.

His Excellency next reiterated his remarks set out in the previous speeches on the distress, and the want of irrigation in the district, and assured the deputation that, so far as Government was concerned, every endeavour would be made to meet the wants of the people.

of Sub-Collector, whereby his interests in the welfare of the division are lost, and to place always the division in charge of an officer of no less status than that of a Sub-Collector.

VI. And to establish at Ongole for the sub-division a women's hospital, so that our women may be exclusively treated by their own sex.

2. In this connection we humbly beg to submit that, for the sake of brevity, discussion has been avoided, and that the Collector of the district and official records may be consulted for further information.

3. In conclusion, we humbly pray Your Excellency's career as Governor of the Presidency may be marked with conspicuous success and happiness and that Yourself and Lady Havelock may be blessed with long life and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The Governor promised to give his best consideration to all the wants. In regard to the request about the cattle-show, he said he had heard of the famous Nellore-breed of cattle while he was in Trinidad, and had then encouraged the importation of some. He would do his best to consider the matter favourably.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE, BEZWADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipality and of the Reception Committee, Bezwada, have the pleasure to welcome Your Excellency to this ancient town.

2. It is needless here to dwell upon the manifold blessings Your Excellency's administration has conferred upon the Presidency.

3. We beg to express to Your Excellency our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the great boon conferred upon this town by the recent completion of the bathing ghauts, the want of which had been keenly felt for years past.

4. We beg to take this opportunity to urge upon Your Excellency's kind attention the willingness of the Southern Mahratta Railway Company to undertake the Bezwada-Masulipatam branch line; and to solicit the favour of Your Excellency to recommend to the Government of India the desirability of accepting the Company's voluntary offer, in consideration of the present financial pressure that precludes the possibility of the State undertaking the work itself.

5. We beg to thank Your Excellency for the kind concern with which Your Excellency urges on the speedy completion of the East Coast line: and to venture to cherish the pleasing hopes of a speedy journey to Madras in the near future.

6. We further pray that the scheme of water-supply, of which the plan and estimate are now before the Government, may soon receive Your Excellency's approval and thus enable us to meet as expeditiously as possible the continual growing need for good drinking water of this daily increasing town, which has a grand junction station between Calcutta and Madras. In this connection, allow us, Your Excellency, to express our earnest prayer that it may please the present benign Government to kindly bear one half of the cost of this all important project; for it is too heavy to be borne by an infant municipality of our standing, with such meagre finances.

7. We beg to approach Your Excellency with one prayer more, which is the desirability of ordering the removal of the spoil banks between the main canal and the river, which stand out like hills shutting out the southern wind, and thus preventing the whole town from enjoying its salubrious effects. We beg to point out to Your Excellency that, by the removal of these, not only will the health of the people be benefited, but also a suitable ground will thus be secured for a public park. It is our earnest request that, after the removal of the said bank, the land may be made over to the municipality which would convert it into a nice park to be named in honour of Your Excellency's visit.

8. We cannot close this, our brief and humble representation to Your Excellency, without expressing our deep regard for the Honourable A. T. Arundel and J. N. Atkinson, Esq., for the interest

they have evinced in the welfare and improvement of this town and for R. Morris, Esq., our worthy and popular Collector.

In concluding this short welcome by cordially thanking Your Excellency for your esteemed visit in this trying season, we earnestly pray that the welfare of this rising town may have a prominent place in Your Excellency's mind and be worthy at all times of your kind consideration.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. President and Members of the Municipal Council and the Reception Committee of Bezwada,—I accept with thanks the address which you have just presented to me, and I beg to express my acknowledgment of the kind welcome which you have given me during my present arrival in Bezwada. I use the word present advisedly, because my time here will be so short that it can hardly be held to constitute a visit. I might explain to you that the object of this my short visit is principally to inspect the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám, which are a long distance from Madras; and therefore, I have to make a hurried tour to those districts, reserving for some future time a more lengthy visit to the Kistna and Gódávari districts. If it gives you pleasure to see me here to-day, it is a pleasure to me to find myself in this marvellously fertile country, for since I left Bapatla and came rushing through the country, I noticed its extreme fertility and can only describe it as a gigantic garden. It

gives me satisfaction to hear that you are satisfied with the completion of the bathing ghauts of Bezwada. It is a matter which I know has been very much pressed by you for a considerable time past. With respect to your remarks upon the construction of the line between Bezwada and Masulipatam all I can tell you, at the present moment, is that the local Government had considered the scheme and was satisfied that it would be a useful scheme and a profitable and paying scheme. Our recommendations are before the Government of India, and, until after these recommendations have received their consideration, nothing further can be said or done in the matter. I join with you in hoping that the East Coast line may soon be completed, and myself and others may thus have greater facilities for entering your district from the south. You next touch on the subject of the water-supply for your town. I understand that a scheme is under the consideration of the Sanitary Commissioner, and that estimates have been prepared. But, before we have seen the scheme and know what it is likely to cost under the estimate, I think it is premature to decide who is to provide the funds to carry on the work. You are aware that the usual principle which guides the Government in these matters is that, when need is shown on the part of any municipality by reason of their not having sufficient money, the Government provides half the original cost to be repaid in instalments with a certain rate of interest. I have no doubt that, in the case of Bezwada,

which, I believe, is not a particularly rich municipality, the Government will, when the time comes, be willing to extend its usual liberality. You next deal with the question of spoil banks between the main canal and the river which stand out like hills shutting out the southern wind, and which need removal. I understand that the removal of these spoil banks is under the consideration of the Public Works Department. In due course, I have no doubt that whatever proposal they may have to make will come before me personally, as it is a part of my special duty to look after the Public Works Department. I must tell you that, before your mention of this matter in your address, I had heard nothing about it, and I am therefore unable to give you any information on the subject. But I promise you that, when the matter comes before me, it will receive the most kind consideration that I can give it. You next ask that, on the removal of these hills, the land may be made over to the municipality, which will convert it into a park to be named after me in commemoration of my visit. Upon this I am unable to give you any decided answer. I think I already told you that I did not know that there was any such work as clearing of such embankments or hills in contemplation. But in the matter of the opening of a park, I will have to remind you that it is rather in the nature of a luxury, and until you have supplied yourselves with the pressing need of water-supply, I hardly think that it will come within the scope of your finances. Before you close your address,

I see that you make pleasant mention of the Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel and Mr. J. N. Atkinson, who have been previous Collectors in this district, and also of Mr. R. Morris, your present Collector. I can tell you with respect to Mr. Arundel that he retains an affectionate interest in your district. He strongly recommended to me the desirability of my paying a long visit to Bezwada. I am sure that it will be a disappointment to him, as I say it is to me, and he will be almost displeased when he finds that I have been unable on this occasion to do more than fly through your town. I promise you that, on some future occasion, I shall pay you a longer visit. Mr. Atkinson, your former Collector, is, as you know, now holding the important position of Collector of Sea Customs at Madras. And I am glad to hear that Mr. Morris who has only just arrived here is an officer with whom you have good relations, and in whom you have confidence. You may be assured from what I have already said that the town of Bezwada, which I know is a very important and growing one, will occupy a prominent place in my interest, and in the consideration which I will give to all towns in every matter in connection with the administration of this Presidency.

ADDRESS FROM THE GUNTÚR MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In the name of the Municipality of Guntúr, we most respectfully

beg Your Excellency to accept our humble and respectful assurances of joy at your advent to our district, heralded as it has been by a reputation for just administration and paternal solicitude for the welfare of Your Excellency's subjects, and cheerfully and loyally accord you welcome though we have not been fortunate enough to be given an opportunity to do so in our own town. In the first place, we offer our hearty thanks to Your Excellency's Government for the network of railways which encloses our district, linking it with other parts of this Presidency and the Empire. We are happy in being able to approach Your Excellency without any grievance, there being none so pressing as requires to be brought to your notice just at present, as we shall avail ourselves of the ordinary official channels to bring our little wants and grievances, if any, before Your Excellency. We, however, beg to be pardoned if we avail ourselves of this rare opportunity to directly lay before Your Excellency the most pressing need of our town. It is wofully in need of water-works to supply the town with wholesome water, as well as a complete system of drainage to carry away the surface water and drainage which at present percolate through the soil and contaminate the wells, which form the only source of water-supply; but the introduction of water-works designed in accordance with modern sanitary science and a drainage system would, in a great measure, remedy these evils and improve the health of the town. The existence of this want has long been recognised, and the

necessity of supplying it acknowledged: but what we earnestly crave for is that, as the survey operations have been undertaken and almost completed, Your Excellency will be pleased to do all that is needful to make this long cherished project an accomplished fact in the near future, and thus confer on the townspeople a boon with which they will ever gratefully connect Your Excellency's name. We humbly beg to represent in this connection that ever since the scheme of local self-government was extended to this Presidency, we have been successfully striving to do our duty to the satisfaction of the townspeople and the approbation of the Government, and we trust that Your Excellency's sympathetic and encouraging attitude and support to local bodies will be vouchsafed to us so that we may, with your munificent liberality, be enabled to carry out these sanitary schemes at as early a date as possible. May Your Excellency be pleased to receive the assurances of our deep feelings of loyalty and devotion to Your Excellency as the worthy and trusted representative of our Gracious Queen-Empress, and our humble prayer that the Great Giver of all good may grant Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long and prosperous life with attendant blessings.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GUNTÚR,—I thank you for your very pleasing address and for your kind words of welcome.

I congratulate you on being placed so favourably with regard to railway communication with the rest of the world. But I must disclaim any credit to myself for your fortunate position in that respect. It is very pleasing to hear that you are able to approach me without any grievance. It is as rare as it is pleasing that such is the case. They say that happy is the country that has no history. I should say still more happy is the municipality that has no grievances. Although, however, you say that you have no particular wants and no grievances to lay before me, you have entered at some length into the particular question of water-supply. You wish to have this very important blessing of water-supply conferred on your town. I believe I am rightly informed in saying that the scheme for the water-supply of the town of Guntúr is now in the hands of the Sanitary Engineer. Beyond that I know nothing about it. I am glad to notice that there is an earnestness on the part of the municipal council in furthering a work of this kind, which is of the first importance. A good water-supply is the best thing that a municipality or a Government can give a town. I will, therefore, promise you that, as soon as I get back to Madras, I will make it my duty to learn the exact position of the scheme. You may rely upon my paying my best attention to it, having regard possibly to the superior claims of other places. There are, I may tell you, many places in the Presidency which I have already visited which are sadly in want of a water-supply. At

present I am not in a position to satisfy myself as to the relative importance that Guntúr occupies in this list of places. With regard to the other points raised in your address, you may trust to my doing my very best in the matter for you. As you say in your address, I am a sympathiser with local self-government, and it is with great satisfaction that I have been able to read that the general opinion, not only of this Government, but also of the Government of India, is that municipal government in the Madras Presidency during the last year has been on the whole very favourable. I thank you in conclusion for your kind words of desire for the health and prosperity of myself and family. I reciprocate them with regard to yourselves and the people of Guntúr.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF RAJAHMUNDRY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Rajahmundry, on behalf of its people, bid Your Excellency welcome to our ancient and historic town, and thank you for giving us this opportunity of meeting you, and expressing our sentiments of loyalty and gratitude to Her Majesty the Queen Empress through Your Excellency, Her Majesty's representative in our Presidency. When about four years ago, we were favoured with a visit to this town by Your Excellency's predecessor, we thanked His Excellency for the facilities of communication afforded us by the construction of

the East Coast Railway, and expressed a hope that the Gódávari bridge would soon be constructed; now we are happy to express our gratitude to our Government for pushing the bridge work on towards speedy completion in spite of financial difficulties, and we hope we shall ere long have the honour of welcoming Your Excellency with Lady Havelock for opening the Gódávari bridge to the public use. While thanking Your Excellency for this boon of the Gódávari bridge, we venture to submit that no provision is made for a footpath over it, which is a great necessity, as it would greatly promote the convenience and comfort of the people, and minimize, if not completely prevent, loss of human life while crossing this large river, and we pray that Your Excellency's Government will view with favour the memorial on the subject, submitted to it through our energetic and benevolent Collector. A protective bund for the old town on the river side has been a great want, and the Council begs to express its gratitude for the favourable attitude taken by Government with respect to it, and hopes that it will soon be able, with the help of Government, to remove this long-felt want. Our main road is very narrow, and the Council cannot at present think of widening it, as the cost would be prohibitive, and it will be for the present content with the prayer that Government be pleased to sanction the bund scheme, as it includes the laying out of a broad road by the river side, which would be the means of diverting much traffic from the

congested main road. As this is not an occasion for laying our grievances before Your Excellency (and we are happy to say they are not many) and as we are confident that the Council will always be given a patient and favourable hearing by Your Excellency's Government, we conclude with a prayer to the Almighty that Your Excellency will enjoy this journey and carry with you good impressions of this part of the country, and that we may soon have the pleasure of next, though not now, welcoming Lady Havelock also to our town.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council of Rajahmundry,—I accept with thanks the address which has just been read and I beg to express my acknowledgment for your kind welcome to Rajahmundry. I can only say I regret that my time among you on this occasion should be so very short. I must live in the hope that on some future occasion I may have time to see more of the town of Rajahmundry and its inhabitants. I am glad to learn that you appreciate the great benefits which are likely to be conferred, not only upon your town, but also on its neighbourhood and a very wide extent of the Empire of India through the construction of this great work of the East Coast Railway. With you I shall be very glad to see the completion of the great work of building a bridge across your fine river. My experiences of this morning have been sufficient to show that it would be an enormous

convenience to passengers by rail to cross the river by means of a bridge instead of having resort to the expedients now in vogue which at present occupy so much time and entail so much labour. I made inquiries of the Engineer in charge how long it will probably be before it is completed. It is a work, as you all know, of great difficulty and of vast extent. I fear I cannot hold out hopes to you that it will be ready for traffic until about three years from the present time. You mention the need there is for a footbridge or footpath in connection with this girder bridge. I have also made inquiries on the subject. I have seen a plan of possible work of this description. The Engineer in charge told me that it would cost roughly about one lakh of rupees. It remains now to find out how much revenue can be derived from the payment of toll, before we can come to any decision as to recommending any addition of a footpath to this bridge for the consideration of the Government of India. As soon as I am in possession of these statistics, measures will be taken to recommend the Government of India to give its decision on this point. I say the Government of India, because, as you are aware, this railway is being constructed under the order of the Government of India and the local Government in Madras has directly no concern with it, nor has it control over it. You mention next your desire to have a protective bund for the old town on the river side; you mention this in connection with the narrowness of your streets,

which you say you are at present unable to remedy on account of the great expenditure to be incurred, and that you will rest content for the present with the construction of this protective bund which will serve as a means of communication. The Collector informs me with regard to this subject that, in his last administration report, he remarked that the scheme of constructing a protective bund and road by the river side would be matured soon, and, if necessary, that the tax on lands would be raised from seven to seven and-a-half per cent. of the rent value. The attention of your Council has, I believe, been drawn to the Collector's remarks, but up to the present time we have not received any expression of your views and wishes with regard to it. It is probably clear to you that if you wish to have this work constructed, you must be prepared to pay for it; and it will be satisfactory for us to know what you propose to do. As soon as a representation coming from the Municipal Council is received by the Government, it will meet with the very best attention of the Government. And in connection with this point, I would beg to remark to you that Government hope, and I hope, that you and all other municipal bodies will not think it necessary to wait for the initiation by Government of works which you require for your improvement. It will be well for you to take up such matters yourselves and work them up and submit specific schemes to Government by showing the ways and means available and all other details in connection with the works which will enable

Government to carry them out satisfactorily. You will, by these independent exertions in your own affairs, probably relieve Government of a considerable amount of trouble and difficulty in arriving at a proper knowledge of the wants in your case. In this way it is probable not only that your wishes—if they are well founded—will be effectually met, but your objects will promptly be carried out. Do not wait for the Government to do everything for you. Do as much as you can by your own work and with your own heads. I am glad to observe in paragraph 6 of your address that you are happy to say that your grievances are not many. This is not a very frequent experience, and I have had the pleasure and honour of replying to many municipal addresses in the Madras Presidency. It was generally found that their grievances were not few in number, and their wants many. I congratulate you on being in a more happy position in this respect. I have listened with pleasure to your kind words of good wishes for myself and family. I beg to thank you heartily for them. In conclusion, I have to say that the impressions that I have formed from my very short experience of your part of the country are most favourable. I was for a few hours at daylight passing by rail through the Kistna district yesterday evening, and I was immensely struck with the exuberant fertility which I saw on all sides. I believe a similar treat, if not a greater one, is in store for me when I pass through the Gódávari delta. I congratulate you on being among those who inhabit

this much favoured part of the Indian Empire. I am pleased at having made your acquaintance.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS OF ELLORE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Ellore, most respectfully beg to accord to Your Excellency a most hearty welcome on this, the occasion of Your Excellency's passing through the limits of our ancient town, and to thank Your Excellency for permitting us to approach Your Excellency to express our sentiments of gratitude and feelings of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne. Although we cannot now claim renown for Ellore for the existence of powerful forts or flourishing manufactories, yet we are proud to acknowledge that this ancient town once enjoyed a reputation for its formidable fort, and famous carpet manufactories which produced carpets of the finest and the best kind in the Presidency, if not in India. We beg permission to avail ourselves of this opportunity to lay before Your Excellency a few of our most pressing needs, in the hope and confidence that they will meet with Your Excellency's kind consideration. The first and the foremost is the long-felt want of a good and sufficient supply of drinking water. In bringing the same to Your Excellency's notice, we beg to represent that this town is in a most unfortunate position. This town, as its very name Uppu Ellore

indicates, is noted for its salt earth, and its sub-soil water is, with few exceptions, brackish. Hence the supply of fresh water is defective. We further beg to submit that, before the excavation of the Kistna canal, the town had its main supply of water from two big tanks, known as the Pedda and Chinna Cheruvus, which not only supplied water to the town for domestic and drinking purposes but also to a large area for irrigation. The Kistna canal having passed through the said two tanks, divided them into two, turning Pedda Cheruvu into Powerpetta and Chinna Cheruvu into fields and gardens. Since then, the chief sources of the drinking water-supply of this town with a population of about 30,000 are the Kistna canal, a small conserved tank, and a few wells. The Kistna canal, running as it does from Bezwada, carries all manner of filth with it and its water has been highly condemned for drinking purposes both by the Sanitary Commissioner and the District Medical Sanitary officers. The Council had, consequently, during the recent outbreak of cholera, strictly to prohibit the use of that water. Thus practically the only source of water-supply is a few wells. We further beg to submit that in 1896 and 1897, owing to want of sufficient rains and from the unusual heat of the weather, most of the wells in the town became dry during the hot season, and that great was the distress that people had suffered from scarcity and scantity of water. We feel it our duty to express here our thanks to our popular

Collector, Mr. V. A. Brodie, and the sympathetic Sanitary Commissioner for their having readily realised our difficulties and for their promptly recommending to Government a water-scheme for our town on proper representation made by us. While we are profoundly grateful to Your Excellency's Government for having referred our water-scheme project to the Sanitary Board and the Sanitary Engineer, who prepared a rough estimate for Rs. 3,00,000 and an approximate estimate for Rs. 1,70,000 or Rs. 1,28,000 with certain items omitted, we respectfully venture to approach Your Excellency with a request that in the difficulty and unfortunate position of the townsmen, Your Excellency will be pleased to take, at an early date, the water-scheme project into favourable consideration and thus remove one of the crying wants of the people. We would, in the next place, venture to lay before Your Excellency the necessity for constructing a bridge over the Kistna canal at Powerpet, and for enlarging the existing iron girder bridge, as well as for opening a small railway station at Powerpet, for the convenience of the public and the facility of traffic. The Town station is situated at a distance of about 3 miles from some portions of the town, and the traffic within the most populous part of this city is very heavy. We, therefore, venture to request that Your Excellency may be pleased to order a small station in Powerpet to save inconvenience to passenger and wheel-traffic at inconvenient hours of the day and night. Lastly, we beg

to submit that even now the work of our carpet manufactories (though small in number and comparatively poor) is still superior in make, texture and finish to any in the Presidency, and to request that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to revive the carpet manufacture, by opening an industrial school here and thus preserve superior art.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council of Ellore,—I thank you heartily for your kind welcome and beg to say I am sorry that, on this occasion, I was not able to halt at Ellore on my way northwards, but I have no doubt that I shall have some day the pleasure of meeting you on your own ground. I take it as a compliment that you have taken the trouble of coming so far to see me on this occasion and to present this address. You show good cause why a water-supply should be established in your town of Ellore. The description you give of your situation with respect to water, and the need there is on sanitary and other grounds for supplying you with this most important gift are, I think, very strong. You inform me that a scheme has been drawn up and has been submitted to you. I think it now only remains for you to say what you are yourselves prepared to do in regard to the matter. You ask me in your address that I will be pleased to take at an early date the water-scheme project into favourable consideration and thus remove one of the crying wants of the people. What the

Government is really waiting for, is some expression of opinion from yourselves as to whether or not you approve of the scheme that has been submitted to you, as also the means which you suggest for providing funds for carrying out the scheme. Let me, therefore, tell you that your first duty with regard to this is to take the scheme into consideration and see whether it is satisfactory in itself, and if you come to the conclusion that it is satisfactory, then you will sit down and count the cost and see how it is to be provided. You know, as well as I do, what the practice of Government has been in the past for assisting municipalities in carrying out water-supply schemes, and I dare say, perhaps, you may receive the same generous consideration in this matter that other municipalities in the same situation have received. You next dwell on the necessity for constructing a bridge over the Kistna canal at Powerpet and for enlarging the existing iron girder bridge. From information which the Collector has kindly supplied me, it appears that these two wants are reasonable in themselves; but here, as in the matter of water-supply, the Government would like to know how you propose that these improvements should be carried out. I beg of you to take the initiative in the matter yourselves and find out what you exactly want and to let Government know to what extent you are able to provide means for carrying out such works, and we will then see whether with the monies you are able to devote for it, the work can be taken in hand. With regard

to your request for a small station in Powerpet to save inconvenience to passenger and wheel-traffic at inconvenient hours of the day and night, I have to say that I suppose the Railway authorities are best informed on this subject and will do what they consider desirable in the matter. But in case they have overlooked it, I will take care that the matter is brought to their notice. With regard to the carpet manufacturers of Ellore, I may say that the excellence of their work has been known to me for a long time. I have often seen carpets that came from Ellore, which were excellent in manufacture, in design and in colour. I think, therefore, that, as far as actual improvement in the work itself is concerned, the carpet manufacturers of Ellore have, on the whole, very little to learn, but unfortunately they are in the position that the goods which they manufacture are subject to competition by machine-made goods, which are of course cheaper. I think you mention in your address, or, at any rate, it is a fact known to me, that the carpets made in the Government jails also compete with the work of private manufacturers. For these reasons, I am afraid your industry, sorry as I am for it, is such that one cannot hope to help very much by the establishment of such an institution as an industrial school for the reason that I have already hinted, that the manufacturers have attained a degree of perfection in the work itself, and the actual industry is, I fear, so much handicapped by circumstances over which you have no control that it appears to me

rather a hopeless matter to attempt to bolster it up. Therefore, sorry as I am, the carpet manufacturers of Ellore, in common with many other artisans, will have to face the competition as best they can in the circumstances of their case. I thank you once again for having had the kindness to come out and meet me here, and I express the hope that I may have an opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with you on some future occasion.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, VIZAGAPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipal Council, Vizagapatam, beg to heartily welcome Your Excellency to this town which has become the most important station on the East Coast of this Presidency after Madras, since the opening of the East Coast Railway.

2. We are extremely thankful to Your Excellency for the generous aid given to the Council by contributing 50 per cent. of the expenses of our water-supply scheme.

3. We are glad to learn that the survey of the line from Vizianagram to Raipur, lately sanctioned by the Government of India, is progressing rapidly. The importance of this line when constructed cannot be overestimated, as it will tap that portion of the Central Provinces which is commonly known as the Granary, and the produce wherefrom will

have to find its way for shipment to foreign countries through this port.

4. The project to provide this town with a boat harbour, sanctioned by the Government of India to be constructed out of funds to be provided from Provincial revenue without any aid from the Imperial Government, was taken up by a company in England, which had obtained a guarantee from that illustrious and generous prince, the late Maharajah of Vizianagram; but for his untimely and unexpected loss, which the whole country still continues to mourn, the work of construction of the harbour would have made some progress by this time.

We are happy to learn that Your Excellency's Government has been and is still in communication with the Government of India regarding this.

We are also very glad to learn that of late the Dowager Maharanee of Vizianagram has consented to the guarantee on behalf of the minor Maharajah.

We are confident that the harbour will be self-supporting; an impetus has been given to the trade of this port by the opening of the East Coast Railway, and it is certain that the opening up of the country between Vizianagram and Parvatipur by the construction of the line, will still more develop the trade.

5. We are glad to inform Your Excellency that the major portion of the fishermen's village which defaced the sea-front of the town and used to be designated "the plague spot of Vizagapatam," has just been acquired; but we now find that, unless

we acquire certain tiled houses which are situated near the huts of the fishermen, we cannot divide the land into blocks suitable for house-sites or public buildings, and unless these tiled houses are also acquired, the value of the land already acquired will be very much less than our original estimate, and we cannot recover the cost of the acquisition of the village from the sale-proceeds of the site as we originally hoped to.

The Government of Your Excellency's predecessor allowed us to borrow thirty thousand rupees for the purpose of carrying on the scheme; we borrowed twenty thousand rupees from the District Board and supplemented the remainder from the Municipal fund balance.

We hope Your Excellency will give your best consideration to another application that will shortly be made by us, for sanction of a further loan, to complete the undertaking.

6. We also beg Your Excellency to order that as much of this site as possible be utilised for public buildings, as this will effectively secure our objects as well as those of the promoters of the scheme in removing the fishermen's village, viz., to improve the seaface of the town and to prevent the sea-breeze blowing into the town from being infected by noxious exhalations from dirty houses bordering on the sea.

7. In conclusion we beg humbly to thank Your Excellency for the opportunity allowed to us to meet Your Excellency here and the kindness with

which you have been pleased to hear us, and we pray that Almighty God would be pleased to shower His choicest blessings on Your Excellency and Lady Havelock.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council of Vizagapatam,—I thank you heartily for your kind welcome to your town. You justly state that Vizagapatam is growing to be a place of considerable importance; in some respects perhaps next to Madras, the most important place on the East Coast. But I think I can foresee that, before many years have passed, Vizagapatam will hold a still higher place among the important towns of the Madras Presidency. I am glad to think that the scheme for your water-works has already been set on foot. The Executive Engineer in charge, whom I have seen during the last hour, told me that the work is not progressing quite as rapidly as he wishes. Still there is nothing either to cause great disappointment or alarm. The work will, no doubt, be finished in due course of time, though there may be some little difficulties before it is complete. But I think, no doubt, we will manage to overcome them. I rejoice with you in knowing that an order for the survey of the line from Vizianagram to Parvatipur has lately been sanctioned by the Government of India. It is not impossible that the opening out of that portion of India which this line will traverse, will be an immense benefit to the town of

Vizagapatam. I have this morning been over the proposed site of your boat harbour. The project has become well known to me through the frequent examinations of the plans and by consultation with Mr. Willock who, as you know, has for many years taken a deep interest in this scheme. But I am very glad to have been able to have seen for myself on the spot the bearings of the various arguments that have been brought forward in favour of the scheme. And the result of my morning's examination has certainly been to strengthen me in my belief, not only in the feasibility, but in the advantage of the project. But though I regret with you that through the death of the much-loved and respected Maharajah of Vizianagram, some delay in the financing of the scheme may have been caused, I live in hopes that this difficulty also will not be one that will be at all difficult to set aside, as soon as we persuade the Government of India that the project is one that can be taken up with advantage and profit. You state that you have heard that the Dowager Maharanee of Vizianagram has consented to the guarantee on behalf of the minor Maharajah in the undertaking entered into by her late son; but I have no official information on this subject. It is a source of congratulation that you have been able to remove the major portion of the fishermen's village which defaced the sea-front. You inform me that it now becomes necessary to acquire certain more property before this work of improvement can be thoroughly carried out, and that possibly additional funds will

be needed for the purpose. It appears that out of the advance of thirty thousand rupees which you received from Government, you have already spent twenty thousand rupees supplementing the amount by a grant from your own resources. I presume, therefore, that you have ten thousand rupees still to be obtained out of the loan promised by the Provincial Government for the purpose. If you need funds beyond that sum of ten thousand rupees, and if you put your case in a clear way before the Government, showing how you can give good security for its repayment, I think I may say that there will be no difficulty in getting the further advance that you need. With regard to your request that Government should order as much of this site as possible to be utilised in public buildings, I must tell you that this depends on two things. First of all, we must be satisfied that public buildings are required, before we can undertake to put them up. In the second place we must satisfy ourselves that the site is altogether suited for public buildings which we may require. Both these questions remain unanswered. In that position you will see that it is impossible for me to say more on the subject. I thank you in conclusion for your kind wishes, and I wish to express the satisfaction with which I make the acquaintance of this beautiful town and its neighbourhood and of the Municipal Councillors of Vizagapatam.

We most humbly request Your Excellency that, for the better administration of justice in the Agency tracts, District Munsif's courts be opened in the Senior Assistant's and Special Assistant's divisions, with jurisdiction similar to that conferred on District Munsifs in the ordinary tracts under Act III of 1873, and subordinate to the Governor's Agent, Vizagapatam, that men, qualified to fill the office of District Munsif in the plains, be appointed to preside over such courts, and that the civilized taluks of Gunupur and Rayagada be classed among the ordinary tracts.

We heartily thank Your Excellency's Government for the recommencement of the survey operations of the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway, which, if opened, would materially develop the resources of this district, and we beg to be allowed to express the hope that the construction of the line will be taken in hand at an early date.

Lastly, we beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice that the early construction of a bridge over the Govada river near Chodavaram, the former one having been washed away by floods in 1878, is imperatively necessary to prevent loss of life and to facilitate communication between the rich jaggery-producing taluk of Viravilli and the principal towns of the district.

In conclusion, we humbly hope that Your Excellency's visit may bring with it increased prosperity to the people of this district.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life and prosperity, we beg to subscribe ourselves, &c., &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN REPRESENTING THE RESIDENTS OF VIZAGAPATAM,—I thank you most heartily for your kind address of welcome. I am glad to see the expression of your appreciation of the efforts of the Government to avert the miseries and loss caused by the famine and distress of last year. I am glad to see that you recognise the devoted and successful way in which District officers carried out their duties on this occasion. The Government is extremely grateful to them and appreciates very highly the hard work and the devotion, the zeal and the success which attended their efforts. You observe that irrigation has, to a certain extent, been neglected in this district. I think it possible that there may be room for investigation of further schemes; but there is, as you, I think, appear to indicate in your address, some difficulty in carrying out irrigation schemes in this district on the ground that most of the land is zamindari property. You urge, as a reason for increased activity in the direction of irrigation, the prevalence of poverty and the constant recurrence of famine. As far as I could ascertain, however, the people of this district are not exceptionally poor as compared with their brethren in other districts of Madras. Without really much personal knowledge on the subject, but with what

little I do possess, and with such information as I have, at very short notice, been able to obtain, I should say that the people of Vizagapatam district were, on the whole, quite as well off as, if not better off than, the inhabitants of many other districts in Madras. Then with regard to the allusion of constant recurrence of famine, I must say that I cannot recollect from my reading of the history of this part of India, that famines have been of frequent occurrence. I rather think that the experience of last year was in a certain sense a new one for you and perhaps for that reason only the more painful to you. With regard to the question of education, I am aware, and I am sorry to be aware, that the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjám are behind some other districts in Madras in the matter of primary education. This probably is from want of funds. You know that the District Board is charged with the provision of most of the money that is spent on education, especially for the purpose of primary education in the Madras Presidency; and I am told that in your district the actual proportion of the District Board revenues spent on education at the present time is somewhat in excess of the proportion that was lately authorised by the Government. It has been found necessary to restrict the amount of funds available, which have to be spent on education, in order to leave more for the maintenance and improvement of ways of communication. It may be a matter of opinion as to whether roads and communications

or education are the more important. For my own part, I think communications and roads come first, and for that reason I think Government were right in giving this order, whereby, for the sake of improving communications, the progress of education has perhaps temporarily been checked. You make reference to the interest that I take in the extension of municipal privileges. I am glad to hear that you appreciate what has been done in respect of Anakápalle, one of the places in your immediate neighbourhood. With regard to your request that Government should take into consideration the grant of the privilege of having elected vice-presidents in the district and taluk boards and confer on rate-payers the right of electing members to the taluk boards, I would say that as soon as we are assured that you are ripe for this measure, as soon as we feel certain that there is a sufficiently large number of educated and intelligent members of the community to warrant such increase of municipal privileges, the Government will be perfectly ready to extend them. You next touch on the recent enhancement of house and water tax which I gather from your address has been raised to the maximum amount of sixteen and-a-half per cent. of the rental value. I am a little surprised that this matter did not form a subject of the address which I have just received and answered from the Municipal Council. However, as you have mentioned the subject, and although they have not, I will deal with what you say as well as I can. You ask that the

levying of the water-rate may be postponed till the municipality is in a position to actually supply water to the town; I am afraid that this is hardly feasible, and for one very simple reason. I understand that the money, or rather the share of the money advanced by the Government for the purpose, has already been advanced and interest has to be paid upon the advance; and it follows that if the Municipal Council has to pay interest, it must have the means to pay it with; and I apprehend if the tax is not raised to the original rate, that they will not be able to pay the interest, that is, they will be in default. I am afraid, therefore, that that request cannot be considered. But you go on to ask that the sum of two lakhs of rupees lent by the Government for the water-supply scheme, be allowed to be repaid in sixty yearly instalments, instead of thirty as at present fixed, so as to enable the municipality to reduce the water-rate to four per cent. This is an indirect way of arriving at the result which you sought to achieve in your previous request. At first sight it appears to me that there may be some possibility of considering this, if the money advanced by Government is not, from the Government's point of view, a very large sum: I think it very possible that we may be able to remain without receiving its full interest for a longer period of years than has been at first arranged for. I will, therefore, when I have an opportunity of consulting the Members of Government, bring this point forward for consideration. You next ask that for the better

administration of justice in the Agency tracts, District Munsif's courts may be opened in the Senior Assistant's and Special Assistant's divisions, with jurisdiction similar to that conferred on District Munsifs in the Agency tracts under Act III of 1873. I will observe that no demand to this effect has come from the people most interested in the matter, that is, the inhabitants of the Agency tracts; and, as at present advised, I am inclined to think that it will be premature and perhaps not quite safe to extend to the people of these districts the system of administration of justice which you here recommend. I join with you in rejoicing over the order for the re-commencement of the survey operations of the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway. But I must tell you that you owe no thanks to me for that. It is a matter which the Government of India regulate. It has been done by them in accordance with the advice of their own officers. I have no authority or power in the matter. But I join with you in hoping that the construction of this line will be taken up and carried out as soon as possible; for I believe even still larger benefits will flow to this part of the Presidency in which I am most interested. You last bring to my notice the desirability of the early construction of a bridge over the Govada river near Chodavaram, the former one having been washed away by floods in 1878, and you allude to the possible loss of life in crossing this river. I wonder if you have any information or any record of the number of lives that have been lost, if

any, in crossing the river. The Collector does not seem, from his knowledge of the case, to be aware that the absence of the bridge has brought about this disastrous result. I may say that the reason why the construction of the bridge is not attempted, is not that it is not wanted, but simply because there is not sufficient money to provide the means to carry out the works. I think I have now dealt with all the points brought forward in your address. In conclusion I have only to thank you again for your kind welcome and for the kind wishes which you express in your address.

ADDRESS FROM THE MANAGING COMMITTEE, MASTERS AND PUPILS OF THE HINDU COLLEGE, VIZAGAPATAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the managing committee, masters and pupils of the Hindu College, Vizagapatam, most loyally and respectfully beg to welcome Your Excellency into our institution. We feel grateful and proud that our humble institution has been honoured with a visit by the highest representative in this Presidency of Her Gracious Majesty the Empress Victoria.

With Your Excellency's permission we beg to lay before Your Excellency some account of this institution. The Hindu College, Vizagapatam, was started as an Anglo-Vernacular School in 1860 by the leading gentlemen of this town in consultation

with Sir A. Grant, the well-known Greek scholar and formerly an Inspector of Schools in this Presidency, with a view to provide for the education of the school-going boys on purely non-sectarian lines. The management of the school was vested in a committee with the Collector of the district as president. The school was raised to the standard of a second-grade college and affiliated to the Madras University in 1878. In 1895 a technical side was added to the college consisting of a carpentry section and drawing classes. The college has always done good work and many of its old students have held, and are holding, responsible positions under the Government and elsewhere.

During the last ten years the institution has been hampered for want of funds. The difficulty commenced with the withdrawal of subscriptions, to the amount of two hundred rupees monthly, by some of the leading zamindars in the district. In spite of the accumulating yearly deficit, the managing committee of the college and the staff have been working with unflinching courage, and, during the last seven years, the record of the work of the institution has been one of steady improvement in strength and financial condition. That our courage has been kept up is due to the generosity of the late Mr. Ankitam Venkata Narasinga Row who, when he died in June 1892, bequeathed a lakh and fifteen thousand rupees for founding a college in honour of his family. The executors of Mr. Narasinga Row's will, in consultation with Dr. Duncan, the

Director of Public Instruction, resolved, in January 1897, to take over this institution, with its assets and liabilities, and put the general side of it on a sound basis, and develop the technical side.

They communicated their resolution for the approval and sanction of Your Excellency's Government, and orders are most anxiously awaited. The extension of accommodation, the establishment of a students' hostel, the improvement of the college library and laboratory, the laying out of sufficient play-ground for students, the increased remuneration to the lower members of the college staff, are among the important questions affecting our institution which the managing committee has had to postpone pending the orders of Your Excellency's Government on the resolution of the executors of Mr. Narasinga Row's will. When this institution is re-organised on the broad lines recommended by them, it will, we are sure, become a strong second-grade college. Your Excellency has always shown much interest in educational questions, and we take it that Your Excellency's present opportune visit to this, one of the oldest educational institutions in this part of the Presidency, is a sign that better and happier days are in store for it in the very near future.

Thanking Your Excellency for the honour of this visit, we pray to God to give to Her Excellency Lady Havelock and Your Excellency long life, health, and happiness.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE, MASTERS AND PUPILS OF THE HINDU COLLEGE, VIZAGAPATAM, — I receive with many thanks the kind and interesting address which has just been read. I beg to offer you my sincere acknowledgments for the hearty reception which you have accorded to me. I have listened with much interest to the short history which has just been read of this institution. I congratulate you on your position. The application to Government to which reference has been made in the address, has not yet come before me personally, but I will make it my business on my return to Madras to make particular inquiries respecting it, and if I find it in my power to facilitate your desires and to hasten the reply to the application that you have made, you may rely on my doing my best. (Cheers.) The object that your managing committee, or rather one of the objects that your managing committee have in view, namely, the establishment of a students' hostel, meets with my special sympathy and approval. (Cheers.) We are endeavouring in Madras and other centres to introduce this very necessary improvement as an adjunct to our educational system. I have no doubt that here in Vizagapatam you stand as much in need of that kind of improvement as we do in Madras. (Cheers.) I thank you for your kind wishes, and I beg to reciprocate them very warmly for the increased development and success of this already important and interesting institution.

ADDRESS FROM THE PUPILS OF THE LONDON MISSION HIGH SCHOOL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the pupils of the London Mission High School, beg to give you a hearty welcome on this your visit to the oldest educational institution in the district, if not in the Northern Circars. We shall ever consider this a red letter day in the annals of our institution, as the highest representative of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress in the Presidency has been pleased to pay this school a visit to-day.

This school was opened in 1837; it was then an elementary school, and in January 1840 the late Rev. John Hay, M.A., D.D., thought it advisable to abolish the Telugu schools taught by untrained teachers and to devote all the strength and funds at the disposal of the mission to one Anglo-Vernacular school of a higher order. This was not an easy matter in those days, for English education of a superior kind was not thought much of. A little reading, writing and arithmetic with ability to speak or translate a few sentences in very broken English, was all that was aimed at or deemed quite safe to acquire. To go beyond that was to run the risk of being converted. But Mr. Hay patiently toiled on till at last the school became the centre of good and useful work in the Northern Circars. This was not accomplished till he had overcome many obstacles. Universities had not then been established in India to give an impulse to such high class education;

neither was it needed for obtaining lucrative employment under Government. Want of suitable text-books was another difficulty; spelling books, vocabularies and dialogues formed the library of a native student or an official of those days. Mr. Hay had therefore to undertake the preparation of books on Grammar, History, Reading, &c., which were printed at the Mission press. He also opened in connection with the school a monitors' class, as he termed it, corresponding to the Normal school of our days; young men were trained in English, the elements of Natural Philosophy, Mathematics, Mental and Moral Science. At this time a high Government official was deputed by the authorities at Madras to visit this town to see if a college could be opened here. This gentleman hearing of the existence of this school paid it a visit, and after examining the school, he was so pleased with the superior kind of instruction given here, that he strongly advised Government not to open a college in the town. This accounts for the existence of the Government College at Rajahmundry.

From these small beginnings the school has developed in strength and efficiency, and it now imparts instruction to nearly 500 boys of all classes and creeds, European and Native, from the Brahman to the Panchama. Five years ago the institution was thrown open to lady-students as well, and there are seven attending the school at present. At the recent Matriculation Examination 9 pupils came out successful out of 18 sent up, with one in the first

class—a percentage seldom equalled by any school or college in the Northern Circars.

The present success and prosperity of the institution are mainly due to the Principal, Mr. D. Lazarus, B.A., who has been in charge of the school for the last twenty years; we humbly request Your Excellency will be pleased to recognize his services in the cause of education in this district by appointing him a Fellow of the Madras University.

We take this opportunity of thanking Your Excellency's Government for the liberal monthly grants we are receiving from the Educational Department, as well as for the encouragement given to education in various other ways.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Havelock every blessing from above.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

His Excellency made a short reply in which he said their request to nominate their headmaster a Fellow would be considered at the time when nominations were usually made.

ADDRESS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, VIZIANAGRAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the fellow townsmen whom we represent, as well as on our own behalf, we beg to tender Your Excellency and party our most hearty welcome, and also our sincere acknowledgments of gratitude to Your

Excellency for so kindly condescending to grant us, in spite of the inconveniences of a fatiguing journey, and the many important matters engaging Your Excellency's valuable time during the short stay here, an opportunity of more directly representing the wants and requirements of our town, few though they are.

Before entering into other matters, we feel we cannot refrain from expressing how deeply we feel the serious loss that our countrymen in general and we in particular have sustained by the sad and premature demise of His Highness the Maharajah Sir Sri P. Ananda Gajapati Raj Maharaj Manyasultan Bahadur of Vizianagram, G.C.I.E. He was the mainstay of the prosperity and happiness of the town and of its remarkable development on all sides. He never spared either pains or purse with regard to any measure calculated to elevate its position or promote the comforts of its residents. The present prosperous condition of this town is decidedly due to the hearty support and co-operation and the great interest he had manifested in all its concerns. It was an admirable trait in the late Maharajah's character, that, though foremost he was to do good in a number of ways, he always tried to manage it, so that the real benefactor was not at once known. It was to his generosity that this municipality is so largely indebted for the improved state of its roads and its sanitary arrangements; we say this, because it has been saved from a heavy annual outlay upon two of the essential purposes to which the Municipal

funds should be applied, viz., medical aid and education, both of which have fully been provided for by the late lamented Maharajah. The Samasthanam maintains entirely, at its own cost, a hospital and dispensary where in- and out- patients of the town and its neighbouring villages are freely treated and dieted, with every kind of accommodation provided for males, females and accouchement cases. A first-grade College, with high school and primary departments attached to it, is likewise maintained; and nothing afforded him greater pleasure than the success of this institution, and its present elevated position was entirely due to his great liberality and the interest he invariably manifested indeed in the cause of education. He frequently used to remark that this college was one of the most precious jewels of the Vizianagram Crown. Had he been spared a little while longer, the benefits of both these institutions would have still more considerably expanded. His untimely end snatched away many a hope for substantial improvements to this municipality. We have more reasons than one to mourn his loss and there is hardly any amongst us who does not feel his demise as that of a great and real benefactor and at the same time one that is dearest and nearest to him.

We beg to represent that the councillors have been managing the municipal affairs with harmony among themselves and the people. We, however, regret to state that M.R.Ry. V. Venkatrayasastri Garu, who has been connected with the council as its

executive for four years in succession, has now been obliged to be absent at Vizagapatam on duty. His good services have more than once been favourably noticed by Government, and Your Excellency was also pleased to confer on him the honour of a certificate on the rare occasion of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

The town is two and-a-half square miles in extent with a population of 29,180 as per census of 1891 and has forty-two miles of roads to maintain. Its income averages between thirty thousand and thirty-two thousand rupees per annum and just covers the usual charges. It stands very badly in need of two important and essential elements of sanitation—one is the introduction of pure water-supply for drinking purposes, and the other is an improved system of drainage. Unless these two long-felt wants were supplied, the sanitary position of the town cannot be complete or satisfactory, nor can any amount of stringent measures adopted prove to be a successful safeguard against the attacks of such epidemic diseases as the town has frequently been liable to. These are costly projects and involve an expenditure such as we apprehend we can never meet, under the existing state of our finances, without substantial aid from Government. It is very unlikely that we can find fresh sources of income or enhance the present revenue, without creating very great popular hardships and discontent. There is no question that these wants are perfectly real and require to be supplied as soon as

possible. Judging from the kindly interest evinced by Your Excellency's Government in this direction with regard to other municipalities, especially in the case of Vizagapatam, and the preliminary steps taken so far on the subject relating to our town, we are sanguine that during Your Excellency's régime, we shall, in the near future, enjoy the good fortune of having pure and wholesome water to drink within the easy reach of the rich and the poor alike. We are not at all exaggerating when we represent that, for a population of 29,180, there are only five wells, whose water is considered pure and wholesome; and these are, as a rule, monopolised for the use of the rich and the influential portion of the community; and by their distant position, they do not serve the needs of the poorer classes. We submit it to Your Excellency to judge whether these wells can afford any thing like an adequate supply for our requirements, whether this difficulty can be endured much longer, and whether it is not high time to remove it.

The present drainage system is more a matter of nuisance than any thing else. The drains absorb the impurities and emit horrible vapours. They are, in a majority of cases, constructed without proper outlets to discharge themselves into. It goes without saying how very necessary it is to improve the existing drainage system; and this project also is much too expensive for the council to undertake unaided. We venture to say that, between these two evils, the drainage is the lesser one, and can afford to wait. We know we cannot ask too many favours at a time.

If, by Your Excellency's kind support, our water project has become an accomplished fact, and we begin to disburden ourselves of the financial encumbrance that it involves, we will submit proposals for drainage improvements; and we have, no doubt, that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to give them the best possible consideration.

May Your Excellency's benevolent Government be a perfect success in all its weighty and manifold responsibilities and continue to endear still more, if possible, the beloved and glorious name of Her Most Gracious Majesty Our Queen-Empress all over the land, is our ardent and sincere wish.

Before concluding we solicit Your Excellency's pardon for the detention that our representation has caused, and we have only one thing more to say before we are finished, and that is, that it would have afforded us much greater pleasure and satisfaction had Lady Havelock also been pleased to be here on this occasion to receive our hearty welcome and the humble yet very sincere homage that we, one and all, in one voice, so cheerfully and spontaneously tender. We earnestly wish Her Ladyship and Your Excellency long life, health, happiness and prosperity and a bright career of success on all sides.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VIZIANAGRAM.—I thank you very sincerely for your cordial welcome. I assure you that there is no

apology needed for asking me to meet you here, for I consider it my duty and it is also my pleasure, on all occasions, to take any opportunity that offers of meeting the municipal bodies of the country and hear from them directly the representation of their wants and requirements, and at the same time to express to them the praise for the conduct of their affairs they deserve and give them the necessary warning if such be required. I have listened to your touching eulogy on the merits and admirable qualities of your late Maharajah. I had not the privilege of being intimately acquainted with him, but I had met him on one or two occasions. I may be permitted to add the expression of my personal regret at his untimely death. Like everybody who came in contact with him, I was struck by his charming personality and by his courtly manners. This municipality is specially indebted to him in that he had endowed it with this admirable institution, viz., a first-grade college, magnificent in its scale and in the details of its staff, and he also, as you inform me, provided you with all matters connected with hospital treatment. In this way the revenues of the municipality have been considerably relieved. On that ground alone, apart from all others, the municipality of Vizianagram owes a deep debt of gratitude to their late Maharajah. It is with satisfaction that I hear that the municipal councillors have been managing the affairs of the municipality with harmony among themselves and the people. Without harmony and good feeling it

is impossible for any institution, especially one in which the popular voice is represented, as in municipalities such as this, to work smoothly and successfully. In reading the administration report on the working of the muncipality for the last year, I am glad to find that, in many respects, the administration was fairly efficient. In others, I am sorry to see there are matters pointed out in which the Government does not consider that the administration was altogether satisfactory. I have no doubt these points will be prominently brought to your notice. Allow me to express the hope that you will pay real, marked and living attention to what is said on the subject. You then describe your two principal wants. In common with most municipalities with which I have made acquaintance, you require a water-supply and you are in need of an improved system of drainage. With regard to your water-supply, it appears to me that you have made out a good case. I am informed that a scheme is now under preparation and is almost complete. It will, I suppose, in due course, be submitted to the municipal council, and it will then become your duty to make up your minds whether you will accept it and provide the necessary funds. It is possible that the scheme may be beyond your present possibilities, and if such be proved, I have no doubt that the Government will, in your case, as it has done in others, give you such help as is usual and customary. You inform me that the income of the municipal council now averages between thirty

thousand and thirty-two thousand rupees per annum. You may consider yourselves a poor municipality by comparison with others; but if you compare your present position with what it was about thirty years ago, in 1869, you are a very rich municipality. I learn from the manual that in the year 1869, the municipal revenue of Vizianagram was four hundred and fifty rupees, and at that time it was supplemented by the grant of an equal amount by the Government. Therefore, though you may consider yourselves poor now, you are in a very different position to what you were thirty years ago. Your next representation is with regard to drainage works. I agree with you that this work can be well postponed until the more pressing need of water-supply has been satisfied. Drainage works, as a rule, are very difficult really to plan in a perfect manner; and unless drainage works are really properly and perfectly planned, it is not seldom the case that they are a curse instead of an advantage. A great deal can be done in a very cheap way to improve your drainage simply, without any elaborate system, by levelling your drains and having a good system for removing rubbish, and various other simple and economical arrangements. You have also the sun in this country as your friend in matters of drainage. I remember a friend who, at any rate, posed as an authority in matters of drainage, used the expression "the sun is our great deodorizer." Well, you have the sun and he, as I assured you, is a very valuable ally in the matter of purification and

drainage. Therefore I quite agree with you that you can postpone the drainage works until you have completed your water-supply. I beg to thank you very much for your kind wishes for the success of my administration. I beg to offer you my thanks for the sentiments you express with regard to Lady Havelock. I have no doubt it would have given her great pleasure if she could have found herself suddenly transplanted to the town of Vizianagram. But she could hardly face the long journey that I have made, making it as rapidly as I have been obliged to do. But possibly on some future occasion, when communications between Vizianagram and Madras are more completely carried out than they are at present, it may give her pleasure to accompany me on a future visit. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind wishes and once more for the cordial welcome which you have given me.

ADDRESS FROM THE PRINCIPAL, &c., OF THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE, VIZIANAGRAM.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Principal, Professors, and Teachers of the Maharajah's College, Vizianagram, humbly beg to offer Your Excellency a hearty welcome.

This institution was founded in 1857 by His Highness Sir Pusapati Vijayarama Gajapatiraj, Maharajah of Vizianagram, K.C.S.I., and made a

second-grade college during his lifetime. His son, and successor, Maharajah Sir Ananda Gajapatiraj, G.C.I.E., raised it to the rank of a first-grade college in 1883.

It may interest Your Excellency to know that this institution, which attracts students from all parts of the Northern Circars, has turned out about a hundred graduates and five hundred undergraduates, and that, though it cannot rival some of the older colleges in the Presidency in point of numbers, it holds a conspicuously high position as regards the percentage of successful candidates, especially in the B.A. Degree examination.

Our late lamented patron always took a deep personal interest in the college. Whenever a distinguished visitor came to Vizianagram, it was the late Maharajah's pride to bring him to the college, and point out the work done here. The college has been visited by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, Lord Wenlock, Lord Roberts and Sir Mansfield Clarke, among other notabilities, who have from time to time honoured the institution with their presence. The old college building was opened by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, and the corner-stone of the new building was laid by Lord Wenlock. Like so many of his illustrious ancestors, the late Maharajah was also a great patron of learning, and liberally encouraged those who wished to acquire knowledge. He was himself an example of a remarkably learned man, who was well versed in both the Eastern and Western philosophies. His ambition was to develop

this institution, so as to pave the way for making Vizianagram the seat of a University for the Telugu country. While we cannot too deeply mourn his premature death as a great loss to the cause of higher education in these parts, we are thankful that the noble and enlightened Maharanee has resolved to maintain the college, and to continue the generous policy of encouraging education, a policy which was inaugurated by her illustrious husband, and considerably extended by her still more illustrious son.

While Your Excellency has earned the gratitude of the millions entrusted to your care by your kind and sympathetic administration, Your Excellency has, by your remarks at Ernakulam, given ample proof of Your Excellency's solicitude for the cause of education, and inspired us with a hope, that, when the question of the development of an Oriental side to our University, which, if rightly solved, will mark an era in the history of the intellectual progress of Southern India, comes before Your Excellency, it will receive such support as may be expected from a statesman of Your Excellency's broad and liberal views. Before we conclude, we beg to express our humble and sincere thanks for the great honour Your Excellency has conferred upon us by paying a visit to our college.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. PRINCIPAL, PROFESSORS AND TEACHERS OF THE MAHARAJAH'S COLLEGE OF VIZIANAGRAM,—I beg you

to accept my best acknowledgments for your kind welcome. I have listened with great interest to the short history which you have given me of your college. I congratulate you on its rapid progress in the path of success. The returns to which you allude show that, as you say, the college holds a high position as regards the percentage of successful candidates, especially in the B.A. Degree examination. I think, as you observe, your numbers are not as large as they are in some of the other leading educational institutions of the country. No address of this sort coming from you could possibly omit a touching allusion to the services done to this town of Vizianagram, and to this college in particular, by the late illustrious Maharajah and by his predecessors. This college is one of the many magnificent monuments of the late Maharajah's munificence and enlightenment and those of his predecessors. I am glad to find myself in succession to such men as Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, Lord Wenlock, Lord Roberts, Sir Mansfield Clarke, in being received here with the honours which you have shown me to-day. Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer, except to express my wish and the hope that this college may continue to progress and show, as it appears to have done in the past, that the Telugu race is able to hold its own with the other races of South India in educational and intellectual matters.

ADDRESS FROM THE RAJAH OF BOBBILI ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING VICTORIA TOWN HALL, BOBBILI.

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN,—Before I request Your Excellency to perform the ceremony for which we are all assembled here now, it seems fitting that I should briefly relate the circumstances that led to the erection of this building. When in the year 1893 I had the high privilege of paying my most humble and loyal respects to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, I thought it my duty to perpetuate the memory of such an auspicious event in some enduring form, and accordingly I applied to Her Majesty, through the Keeper of the Privy Purse, for permission to associate Her Majesty's name with the Town Hall which I proposed to build in Bobbili as a memorial of my visit. That permission Her Majesty most graciously accorded me, and the letter of Sir Henry Ponsonby, communicating to me Her Majesty's sanction, is inscribed on the tablet here, as you see. After my return to India, in consideration of the importance of this building, I requested Your Excellency's noble predecessor Lord Wenlock, to honour me by laying the foundation stone, a request which he was kind enough to comply with, when on his visit to Bobbili in October 1894. Such, very briefly, is the history and explanation of the Bobbili Victoria Town Hall, my humble tribute to that gracious lady whose name it bears. After the completion of the building, I felt solicitous that it should also have the honour of being opened by an

equally high and worthy representative of Her Majesty, and Your Excellency has laid me under deep obligation by so readily acceding to my request that you would perform the ceremony. Since then I have been most anxiously looking forward to the joyful event of Your Excellency's visit to this district. Gentlemen, we cannot sufficiently congratulate ourselves on our happiness and good fortune in being privileged to welcome Sir Arthur Havelock to this town. His Excellency has, I venture to say, a peculiarly large claim on our devotion and gratitude, as one who, by reason of the statesmanlike qualities with which he is so highly endowed, and the wide official experience which he possesses, is so pre-eminently fitted to rule over, and to guard the interests of, the people of this Presidency. I now beg leave to thank Your Excellency once more on my own behalf, and in the name of the people of Bobbili, for your kindness, and the honour which you have conferred upon us, by coming here to open this Town Hall to-day. I now request Your Excellency to be graciously pleased to open this Victoria Town Hall.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

The Rajah has so fully and clearly explained the history and objects of this Town Hall that there remains little for me to say except that I feel it a pleasure and honour to be asked to consummate the work which was begun by my distinguished predecessor. I appreciate very heartily and deeply the

sentiments which have moved the Rajah to carry out this work, and I trust that the usefulness of the building with which he has endowed the town of Bobbili will be extensive and long lasting. With these words I now declare the Victoria Town Hall to be duly opened.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN AND THE ZAMINDARI OF BOBBILI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We, the inhabitants of the town and the zamindari of Bobbili, beg to offer Your Excellency a most hearty and loyal welcome to our town. This is the second time that we have had the high privilege to welcome a Governor of this Presidency.

The previous illustrious history of the house of Bobbili is too well-known to need any special reference, and the benevolence and the liberality of the Rajah who is now its representative, are fully borne out by the numerous public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and other charitable institutions founded by him, not the least important of which is the building that has just had the honour of being opened by Your Excellency.

Our wants as regards education, medical aid, sanitation, and fresh water-supply, have been more than supplied and safe-guarded by our worthy Rajah, with the co-operation of the Government and the local boards.

The requests that we now have to make at Your Excellency's hands are therefore few in number. Nevertheless, the liberal attitude maintained by Your Excellency on all questions of public interest; the solicitude evinced by Your Excellency to learn the grievances of all classes of people; the philanthropic spirit that has been inducing Your Excellency to make frequent visits to jails and hospitals; the large-heartedness with which you have safeguarded the interests of the rural population by passing a very liberal-spirited resolution on the forest administration; the impartiality and the breadth of view with which you have been giving effect to the Parliamentary Enactment of 1833, and to the Queen's Proclamation of 1858, by appointing natives of proved merit to the highest appointments in your gift; your fearless and conscientious expression of opinion on the question of Provincial finance;—all these are more than sufficient, not only to engrave your name on the hearts of the people of Southern India, but to encourage us to approach Your Excellency with two requests, to the consideration of which we crave Your Excellency's kindest attention.

The first of our requests is the speedy construction of the Vizianagram-Párvatípuram Railway, without which ramification the East Coast Railway can never be so lucrative to the Government, or convenient to the people as it ought to be; and we are glad to hear that a survey party is already in the field in connection with the said branch

railway. We now therefore request Your Excellency to give effect to that scheme as early as possible.

Our second request is of a political nature. We venture to request Your Excellency to grant to our Union which has been successfully working for the last twelve years, the right of election under sub-section (*b*) of section 16, and under sections 121 and 123 of Local Boards Act.

In this connection we beg leave to remind Your Excellency that the Government of India in its review of the working of the Local Boards Act, notes with satisfaction that the local self-government scheme has been most successfully working in the Madras Presidency.

In conclusion, we cannot omit to congratulate ourselves on our having been enabled to face the last famine successfully, through the generous efforts made by the British Government and by the British nation, as well as by our Rajah who liberally helped his people in various ways; and the excellent and orderly manner in which State relief was given in this, as well as in other, affected districts, is in a large measure due to Your Excellency's administrative skill, and to the energy, conscientiousness, and the high sense of duty of our District and Divisional officers, to whom we can never feel too highly grateful.

We once more welcome Your Excellency to our midst, but we sincerely regret the absence on this interesting occasion of Her Excellency Lady

Havelock, to whom we pray Your Excellency to convey our most respectful and hearty good wishes.

Trusting that Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Havelock may be blessed with every happiness and prosperity which a loyal people can wish for you.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Representatives of the People of the town of Bobbili,—I thank you for your kind address of welcome. It is with the greatest satisfaction I have heard the tribute of praise which you have bestowed upon the Rajah of Bobbili, who, as you say, has endowed you with many useful public institutions, and they are valuable works to that extent. You admit that you are supplied with schools, hospitals and other charitable institutions, and that education, medical aid, sanitation and fresh water-supply have been more than supplied and safe-guarded. This is a very high tribute of gratitude and praise to your enlightened Rajah. In consequence of his munificence towards you, you say that there is very little left for you to ask at my hands. You first deal with the question of the Vizianagram-Párvatípuram Railway. In connection with this, I am happy to be able to tell you that the Government of India, as you appear to know, has sanctioned the survey of the line from Raipur towards the coast. The scheme has been sent to the Local Government of Madras for remarks, and certain modifications have been proposed. I have

no doubt that in due course the work will be undertaken, and whatever may be in my power to hasten and facilitate it, will be done; but you must remember that works of this kind are not under the orders and control of the Local Government, but are regulated by the Government of India. It is, therefore, with them that rests the beginning and carrying out of the work and not with the Government of Madras. You next make a representation with regard to your Union and ask that elective powers may be bestowed upon it. Before I can give you any positive answer in this direction, it will be necessary that I should make inquiry, and I have not yet had the opportunity or the time to do so. But I will promise you that I will do so and with the strong sympathy that I have with all institutions of this sort, you may be sure that if it be possible your request will be considered. I have not failed to notice the tone of approbation with which the Supreme Government has been able to express its opinion with regard to the work of municipal institutions in the Madras Presidency. I myself endorse most heartily what has been said by the Government of India on that subject. I am glad to be able to join with you in congratulating ourselves on the success of the efforts of the Government to withstand the horrors of famine and distress during last year. I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the Government for the efforts that were made by the Rajah himself to assist the people in his own immediate neighbourhood,

and I wish also not to lose this opportunity of expressing the high appreciation of my Government of the skill, zeal and devotion of the District officers under extremely difficult and trying circumstances. I thank you once more for the welcome you have accorded to me here.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF CHATRAPUR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of the little town of Chatrapur, the headquarters of the District Collector and Magistrate, most respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency to offer the warmest of welcomes from the bottom of our hearts and beg to assure Your Excellency that, poor and humble as our reception may be and wanting in all the splendour and princely character of that accorded by wealthier towns in the South, still we hail Your Excellency with hearts as loyal and grateful as they are proud and cheerful. We are exceedingly glad to avail ourselves of this golden opportunity to give expression to our inherent and inherited feelings of loyalty and affection towards the British Raj and of filial duty and deep devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Empress of India. We are most thankful to Your Excellency's Government for the generous, prompt, and efficient manner in which famine relief was distributed and many a poor soul most opportunely saved from the pangs of hunger and clutches of sickness through the

exertions of our District officers under the able and energetic guidance of our esteemed and popular Collector who worked day and night visiting village after village, unheeding wind, sun, and rain and undaunted by cholera and small-pox. Grateful as we are for the many and varied benefits which we have enjoyed and are still enjoying under the benign British sway, and especially fresh as our memories are of the unbounded munificence of Your Excellency's regimé in protecting several thousands of lives during the late famine, yet, prompted by the principle of "Ask and it shall be given," we are emboldened to approach Your Excellency to ask for more favours which, our experience of Your Excellency's generosity in other quarters vouches, will not be denied. Water, pure drinking water, has been a long and much felt want at Chatrapur. Yet, the town is within a couple of miles from a ramification of the Rushikulya project, one of those innumerable works of grandeur which trumpet to the world the glory of the British administration. An extension of the canal these two miles is all that is needed not only to serve as a feeder for all the drinking-water tanks in the town, but to irrigate more lands and be a source of revenue to Government. Our next prayer is for the construction of the Goomsur-Gopalpur Branch Railway. We are deeply indebted to the Government for the inestimable boon of a railway, and with it the enjoyment of all the advantages of easy communication in common with our brethren of the South—in particular, the unique

pleasure of the gubernatorial visits, which had previously been few and far between, to this far-off northernmost part of the Presidency. The opening of such a branch line will be beneficial in various ways to the people of this district. The produce of the fertile lands of Goomsur and Atagada and of the hills and forests will find its way out to the seaport, the imports of which, together with common salt, will be placed within the easy reach of the people inhabiting the Agency tracts and the country bordering on the hills, where such articles as salt and tobacco find a ready market. If the construction of the whole branch line is not feasible so soon, we respectfully beg to submit that at least the chief port of the district, namely, Gopalpur, may be connected with the main line at or near Berhampur, the most important town in the district. We hear that this subject has engaged the attention of our good and able Collector and confiding in his wisdom, we rest assured that all our real wants will be readily supplied. Once more, we beg to welcome Your Excellency with hearts overflowing with joy and gratitude and pray that Your Excellency will convey our best wishes to Her Excellency Lady Havelock to whom we have not the fortune and honour of tendering a hearty welcome in our midst. May the most merciful God grant Your Excellency and Lady Havelock a long life of peace, happiness and prosperity for the continuance of your noble and generous efforts to ameliorate and elevate the condition of those entrusted to your care!

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INHABITANTS OF CHATRAPUR,—I am glad to find myself in Chatrapur, which is the head-quarters of the Ganjám district—a district which, perhaps with the exception of South Canara, is the most remote of all the districts in the Madras Presidency. I thank the inhabitants of Chatrapur for their kind words and demonstrations of welcome, in the sincerity and warmth of which I fully believe. I am glad to find that you express yourselves in a thankful manner for the measures taken by the Government to relieve distress and avert famine during the past year. I have listened with particular satisfaction to the tribute of gratitude which you pay to your Collector and the District officers for the devotion, skill and zeal which were displayed by them in meeting the difficulties of famine under circumstances that were not at all easy to face. You follow your thanks for what has been done in the past by requests for favours in the future. The first request that you make is that something should be done towards securing good drinking water for your town of Chatrapur. I am informed that you are at present dependent mainly on the water to be got from tanks, and that Chatrapur, by reason of its bad supply of drinking water, is still subject to attacks of cholera. Your request seems to me to be a very reasonable one, and the scheme that you suggest has the appearance of being at any rate economical. Of its

feasibility I am not at present in a position to express an opinion; but the Collector tells me that the District Board Engineer is about to make a survey which will probably settle the question as to whether or not water can be brought to the town in the manner you describe, viz., by a channel from the Rushikulya project, starting at a point about two miles from here. If it is found that there are no engineering difficulties in the way, it seems to me that this scheme is one that might deserve encouragement. The only difficulty that will present itself will be the provision of the necessary funds. I understand that the District Board funds are at present rather in low water. But on this matter I have not yet had time to consult fully with the Collector. It will be time enough when it is shown that the work can be carried out without any engineering difficulties, to face the question of expense; and I hope that some means will be devised for doing so. Your next prayer is for the construction of the branch railway. I understand by the expression Goomsur-Gopalpur Railway that you mean, in point of fact, two branch lines of railway, one starting from the main line of railway and striking inland through Goomsur and Atagada in the direction of the agency; and the other starting also from the main line somewhere, I think you say in the neighbourhood of Berhampur, and reaching to the port of Gopalpur. With regard to the first of these, viz., the branch line to intersect Goomsur taluk and Atagada zamindari in the direction of the Agency, I will say that

at first sight it appears to me to be good policy that such a line should be considered. I understand that these districts are fertile and that possibly if a line is constructed in a cheap manner, it might prove to be remunerative. I shall have pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Government of India a proposal for this purpose. Now with regard to the other branch line, the one from the main line to Gopalpur, or some other port within the district of Ganjám, two questions are involved; the first is whether or not it is desirable that any port in Ganjám should be connected by railway with the main line, and, secondly, if any port is to be connected, which port is to be chosen for that purpose. It was considered necessary in order to decide the first of these questions, that is, whether it will be desirable from a paying point of view to connect any port of Ganjám with the main line, to obtain certain statistics of the amount of business carried on there. The Collector informs me that these statistics have been completed; but they have not yet reached me, either privately or officially. I am therefore unable at present to base any opinion thereupon. But I venture to say that in my opinion it will be both fair and politic to connect the main line with some port of the Ganjám district. But with regard to the particular port that should be favoured in this way, I am not able to express any decided opinion on the subject; but as I am advised at present, the evidence that I have before me would go to show that, all things being considered, Gopalpur

should be the port selected for the purpose. I think those are the only two points which involve the granting of any favours or concessions to you. You end your address by again repeating your kind expressions of welcome to me for which I again thank you, and I assure you that it will give me pleasure to convey to Lady Havelock the kind wishes which you send her.

ADDRESS FROM THE BERHAMPUR MUNICIPALITY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, Councillors of the Berhampur Municipality, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with this address of genuine, though humble, welcome on this happy occasion of your visit to our town.

2. Your Excellency's sympathy with the millions of Her Majesty's subjects who own your sway has endeared you to the hearts of us all, and we are equally proud and grateful for this gracious visit, which is but the outcome of Your Excellency's solicitude to see with your own eyes the condition of the people in these distant parts.

3. No more convincing proof of Your Excellency's anxiety for our welfare can be found than in the way in which suffering was relieved during the terrible famine we have just tided over, and our heartfelt thanks are due to Your Excellency's Government and to our able Collector, Mr. H. D. Taylor,

and his willing assistants for the unparalleled promptitude and thoroughness with which all relief measures were carried out. In this connection we thank those charitably disposed persons of all nations who contributed to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund—a fund which, working as it did side by side with Government relief, has rescued innumerable respectable, but indigent, families from starvation and death.

4. That great national calamity, the plague, is exercising the minds of the public more than anything else at the present moment, but we are happy to be able to assure Your Excellency that we have been carrying out as strictly as possible the rules for plague observation framed by our ever-vigilant Sanitary Commissioner.

5. This town of ours, like the rest of the district, has suffered of late from cholera, which happily has left us, but small-pox, in a more or less severe form, is prevailing now in our midst as elsewhere in the district. The mortality hitherto has been mostly confined to adults and re-vaccination is being vigorously carried on to minimise it.

6. We are keenly alive to the fact, that without an abundant supply of wholesome water, disease can hardly be kept out of the town, and pending the Sanitary Engineer's water-supply scheme, which, when matured, we shall have to apply to Government for help, we have resolved to lead water from the Rushikulya canal into our tanks through

Raneegunge pipes instead of along a feeder channel as hitherto. But this at best is a makeshift, for we shall not have filtered water, and a Rushikulya canal is liable to more or less pollution in the many miles of country over which it passes.

7. In this connection we respectfully pray that the branch of the Rushikulya canal which it is proposed to carry along the northern limits of the town, may be undertaken at an early date, so that we may have Rushikulya water within easy reach.

8. We are glad to tell Your Excellency that we have been doing our duty as usual in our humble way with the kind co-operation of the District authorities and without any hitch amongst ourselves.

9. But the time at Your Excellency's disposal is short as our temptation to detain you is great. We therefore conclude with expressions of sincere and devoted loyalty to our Queen-Mother and with prayers for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity in whatever sphere of action Your Excellency may be placed.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council of Berhampur,—I accept with pleasure your address and I thank you for your kind welcome to your town. I am glad to hear that you appreciate the strenuous and successful efforts made by

the Collector of the district and the other District officers for resisting the inroads of distress and famine during the last year. Our thanks, our gratitude are due to all those who in England and elsewhere contributed so liberally towards the great Indian Charitable Famine Relief Fund. We also owe a debt of thanks to those local bodies and persons who, in such a very disinterested and successful manner, administered the distribution of that fund in this country. You make allusion to the plague which prevails in the Bombay Presidency and in some parts of the Punjab. Happily, up to the present moment, we have not had that visitation within the precincts of the Madras Presidency; and as the warm weather apprcachés, I am glad to say, the chances of its spreading among us decrease. I hope during the next few weeks we may succeed in keeping it at bay; and then we may begin to congratulate ourselves on being saved from it, at any rate, until the next cool season approaches. I am aware your town has rather an evil name for cholera. At the present moment I am glad to hear that you have an immunity from it. Small-pox, I hear, is one of your greatest enemies. I am glad to see that you are so fully alive to the necessity of having a good supply of drinking water as a preventive, if not a cure, of these visitations that I have just mentioned; and I am gratified to find you are able so far to help yourselves as to resolve to lead water from the Rushikulya canal into your tanks through Raneegunge pipes, instead of along a feeder channel as

hitherto. You remark that this is merely a make-shift and I think evidently it is so. I am not aware that any regular scheme of water-supply has yet been designed by our Sanitary Engineer for the town of Berhampur. And I am aware that there are a great many other schemes for other towns in the Presidency which are considered to have precedence of any schemes for Berhampur. I would therefore join with the Sanitary Engineer in advising you for the present to make the very best of your existing circumstances, which you appear to have made up your minds to do; but when I return to Madras I will make inquiry as to the exact position of your town with regard to the water-supply schemes, and if I find the scheme that the Sanitary Engineer has in mind of a very simple, easy and economical description, I will see if it will be possible to hasten its preparation. You next mention that you would like a branch of the Rushikulya canal, which it is proposed to carry along the northern limits of your town, to be taken in hand at an early date. From enquiries I have made with regard to this work, I am obliged to tell you that I think there is no chance of its being taken up as an irrigation work, at any rate, for the present. The funds appropriated to the Rushikulya scheme will not, as I understand, admit of this particular work being carried out just now. I am glad to hear that you are able to tell me that you, of the Municipal Council of Berhampur, are doing your duty in a humble way and that there is no hitch among you. Dissension in a body such as yours

is fatal to all useful work. If you can work with unanimity, half the battle is gained. I have made some enquiries with regard to the position of your municipality, and I find that you consist of eighteen members, of whom eight are nominated and ten are elected. I have also looked through the administration reports for the last two years, so as to form for myself some opinion of the character of the work done by the Municipal Council here. For the year 1895–96 your work is described as fairly efficient, but not satisfactory in the important subjects of roads, vaccination and registration. In the report for the following year, I regret to have to say that the mention of you is even less satisfactory. It appears from that report that the matters connected with improvements of roads, with education, vaccination and registration, have advanced far less than during the previous year, and your sanitation is described as defective and, in fact, as I have already had occasion to remark, Berhampur has a bad name for its insalubrity. Now, gentlemen of the Municipal Council, I commend very strongly to you active improvement in the matters in which Government has found you to be deficient. More especially do I call upon you to attend to matters connected with the sanitation of your town. I shall take particular pains to watch the progress of this municipality in these matters and especially in the important matter of sanitation. I beg in conclusion to thank you for your kind expressions for myself and to join with you in your testimony of sincere and devoted

loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHICACOLE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Chairman and the Councillors of the Municipal Council, Chicacole, respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with our humble address on this the first occasion of Your Excellency's visit to our district, to which we beg to welcome Your Excellency with our heartfelt joy and gratitude, though we have not been afforded the opportunity of doing so in our town, which was once the capital of the district and is now second in importance to Berhampur.

2. We may be permitted to take this opportunity to thank, firstly, Your Excellency's Government, and, secondly, the District officers, for the timely and energetic measures taken for relieving the severe distress which prevailed throughout the district last year; and we regret that people are not entirely free from the apprehensions of further scarcity, considering the high prices obtaining at present in the market; and we are fully confident that they will have a ready relief under Your Excellency's sympathetic administration in the event of those apprehensions being realized.

3. We feel bound to express our warmest thanks to Your Excellency for having recently vouchsafed

to our Council the elective franchise to the extent of one-half the number of the Councillors.

4. Acknowledging with our deepest gratitude the undeniable benefits of the railway communication through our district, we respectfully beg to represent that our town, whose population is about nineteen-thousand, is not in a position to enjoy those benefits fully on account of the Chicacole road station being situated so far away as nine miles from our town, and that, in consequence, the commercial progress of our town is being considerably retarded. The situation of our town so far away from that station, we venture to think, is one of the reasons, if not the main one, for its not being honoured with a visit from Your Excellency at this time. We humbly pray that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to favourably take into Your Excellency's early consideration the desirability of remedying the want of a branch line, which our town has been sorely feeling, by sanctioning a feeder-line to pass through our town to Calingapatam, which is an important seaport and has extensive salt manufacture, *viâ* Arasavilli and Srikurmam, noted places of pilgrimage in the district.

5. We further beg to represent that, in case sanction of the feeder-line cannot be accorded at present owing to financial exigencies, at least the construction of an ordinary road from Dusi station to the main road that leads to Chicacole, which would bring the railway nearer to us by about three miles, would be of no small benefit to our town, and

we, therefore, pray that the construction of the road may be sanctioned as early as possible.

6. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we are hopefully awaiting the favourable response of Your Excellency's Government to our prayer in regard to placing, for the purposes of conservancy, the bank of the river in the Vizagapatam district opposite to our town, under the control of our Council.

7. Expressing once more our regret that our town has not been honoured with a visit from Your Excellency, we beg in conclusion to offer our thanks from the bottom of our hearts for granting us this opportunity of representing our needs, which, we feel sure, will be supplied under Your Excellency's kind and generous administration, and we fervently pray that the Almighty will bestow on Your Excellency and Lady Havelock long life, sound health, and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CHICACOLE,—I thank you for your kind expression of pleasure and satisfaction at meeting me here to-day, and I thank you for your kind welcome to the district. I must repeat what I said in reply to the last address, that it gives me satisfaction to find you so highly appreciate the excellent efforts made by the Collector and the District officers to meet the difficulties which arose during the last

year through scarcity and fear of famine. Those efforts which were so successful are thoroughly appreciated by the Government. I am glad it has been possible to extend to your municipality the elective franchise to the extent of one-half of the number of Councillors, and I hope before long you will deserve even further extension of these municipal privileges. You make a representation with regard to the construction of a line of railway which will bring your town and Calingapatam into connection with the main line of railway. I must explain to you, in the first place, that the construction of railways in this country is not a matter which depends upon the Local Government of Madras. It is a subject which is dealt with by the Supreme Government at Calcutta. It is true that the Local Government is called upon to make recommendations in these matters, but the final decision with regard to the recommendations and with regard to all works of this kind, rests with the Supreme Government. It has not before to-day been brought to my notice that such a line of railway as you describe is amongst those works which will be of advantage. I have, therefore, not had time to go at all deeply into the question, but from very casual examination of it I am bound to say I do not think the work is one of those which the Local Government can cordially and conscientiously recommend to the Supreme Government. I am inclined to think that the expense of it will be far in excess of any return which is likely to be derived. You next ask, failing

the construction of the railway line, for the construction of an ordinary road from Dusi station to the main road that leads to Chicacole, which would shorten your access to the railway station by about three miles. The Collector informs me that this will be a somewhat costly piece of work and that the District Board are unable to undertake it. If it is done at all, it must be done only from Provincial funds; and before I can undertake to say anything of the possibility of this being undertaken by the Provincial Government, I must have further information both as to its possible usefulness and probable cost. The matter will, in due course, be referred by the Collector to the Government, who will take action thereupon. You refer in paragraph 6 of your address to a communication which you appear to have addressed to Government applying that the bank of the river on the Vizagapatam side may be placed under the control of your council. This application has not yet come under my notice, but I have no doubt it will do so in due course; but I may tell you if the Collectors of this district and Vizagapatam are able to support it, the Government will give the matter their best consideration. In conclusion I beg you to accept my best thanks for your kind wishes on behalf of Lady Havelock and myself.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BERHAMPUR ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned Members of the Berhampur Association, beg to offer Your Excellency a most cordial welcome on the occasion of your first visit to this town.

2. We are all deeply and sincerely grateful to Your Excellency for the manifold blessings conferred on the people of this Presidency during Your Excellency's regimé. First and foremost among them is the prompt and adequate relief given to the poor and the distressed during the famine which we have just passed through unscathed, owing to the forethought and vigilance of Your Excellency's Government. Your Excellency's visit to some of the most affected parts at considerable sacrifice to your health and personal comfort and convenience, is a clear proof of Your Excellency's solicitude for the welfare of the people. In this connection, we may be permitted to express our gratitude to our able and energetic Collector and his District subordinates for the alacrity with which all relief measures were executed, and privation and want anticipated and combated in every part of the district.

3. While on this subject it behoves us to render our heartfelt thanks to the subscribers of whatever clime, color or creed to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, whose disinterested generosity has rescued rom the jaws of death numberless fellow-beings,

whom Government relief could not reach; and the gentlemen forming the various committees to whom the administration of the fund was entrusted, and who discharged their honorary, though onerous, duties with single-hearted honesty and devotion.

4. We would respectfully suggest that, as a measure for the prevention of famine in this district, the Rushikulya scheme may be completed in all its branches and distributaries and the Vamsadhara project undertaken and completed at no distant date. Another means of protection against future famine would be, in our humble opinion, the opening of a railway line connecting the East Coast Railway with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway *viâ* Aska and Russellkonda, thus throwing open to traffic the grain-producing districts of the Central Provinces and finding an easy route for the exportation of the forest produce of our Agency tracts.

5. While acknowledging the many benefits conferred on us by the East Coast Railway, we humbly submit that a branch line to Gopalpur port is badly wanted in the interests of the mercantile community of the district and another branch of the East Coast Railway from Dusi or Chicacole road *viâ* Arasavilli and Srikurmam (both holy places of pilgrimage) to Calingapatam would be a great boon to the public, and it will also prove a success from a pecuniary point of view.

6. We also beg permission to bring to Your Excellency's kind consideration the absolute necessity that exists at present for a branch dispensary in Berhampur, a necessity which was recognised by the District Medical and Sanitary officer, and which we feel to be so great that we are constrained to mention it to Your Excellency in spite of the fact that the proposal of the Municipal Council to open a branch dispensary has been vetoed by the Government. The Jubilee Hospital is situated a long way off from the most thickly populated portion of the town, the inhabitants of which are generally poor and ignorant and cannot afford to pay for cart hire to take them to the Jubilee Hospital when disabled to walk.

7. We take this opportunity of offering our best thanks to the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada for his liberal offer to build a Town Hall here in commemoration of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and make a free gift of the same to the Berhampur Association whose duty it will be to allow its use for all purposes of a public nature.

8. We have detained Your Excellency long, and beg leave to conclude with expressions of loyalty and affection to our Queen-Empress and with prayers for the long life and prosperity of Lady Havelock and Your Excellency.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE BERHAMPUR ASSOCIATION,—I thank you for your cordial welcome. I beg to

express my interest in the work which your association has set itself to do in Berhampur. I can only repeat, what I have now said on several occasions, that we all very highly appreciate the hard work, the successfully hard work of the District officers in combating famine and distress during the recent year. We also highly appreciate the liberality of our fellow subjects in England and all over the Empire in contributing towards the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, which has served to allay much misery and to set people going who had almost lost the means of gaining their livelihood. This fund, so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, has been admirably administered. We have to congratulate ourselves much on the success of those who were connected with the distribution of this fund, and we owe to them our grateful thanks. With regard to the branches of the Rushikulya scheme, I believe I am right in saying that they are for the most part already undertaken, and I hope will approach completion before long. From what I can learn with regard to the other project which you mention, viz., the Vamsadhara project, I am inclined to think that it is not one which will commend itself to those who are responsible for the undertaking of irrigation works. Now with regard to the extensions of railways which you mention, the first is a line connecting the East Coast Railway with the Bengal-Nagpur line *viâ* Aska and Russellkonda. On a previous occasion, in answering an address presented to me at Chatrapur, I said,

what I repeat now, that I think it will be good policy to make an investigation, at any rate, of the earlier part of this line, that is, of a section of perhaps about 50 miles in length from somewhere in the neighbourhood of Berhampur through Aska into the country beyond towards the Agency tracts. I believe that this is a rich and fertile part of the country and it might possibly prove to be a work that would be sufficiently remunerative to justify its construction. The next railway line which you mention as being one which you desire to have, is a branch line to the Gopalpur port, and here again I have to repeat what I said to those who presented me with an address at Chicacole. It has to be decided in the first place whether any port in the Ganjám district should be connected with the main East Coast line, and if that question is settled in the affirmative, it then remains to be decided which of the various ports that you possess should be the chosen one. My own opinion, as at present advised, is that, in the interests of the country generally, and the Ganjám district in particular, it will be advisable to connect the East Coast Railway with some port of Ganjám. I am disposed, with the information before me at the present moment, which will be supplemented by statistics which the Collector has just got possession of, to think Gopalpur has a better claim than any of the other ports. With regard to your proposal that a branch line should be constructed from Dusi or Chicacole road *viâ* Arasavilli and Srikurmam to Calingapatam, I can only

repeat what I said in my answer to the previous addresses, that, as at present advised, I do not think that it is a line which the Local Government can conscientiously recommend for construction. Your address next deals with the necessity, as you say, for a branch dispensary in Berhampur. I have just visited the Municipal hospital. I am glad to be able to say that I am very much pleased with it. The building is, I think, constructed on an admirable plan. On the whole the institution seems to be carefully and satisfactorily managed. I made inquiries there with regard to the numbers which attend the out-door dispensary; and I found, having regard to the popoulation of the town, that the number was somewhat small. I think, if possible—in fact the Medical officer in charge told me—that some persons may be deterred from coming for treatment by the distance. The greatest distance, however, is only about two miles, which, after all, is not very far to go if you really want medical treatment or remedies; but the Medical officer in charge is, I think, fairly strongly in favour of the opening of a dispensary somewhere about the thickest part of the town, about the middle of the town of Berhampur. I understand from my friend, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, that the municipality is willing to pay all the expenses of the opening and maintaining of such a dispensary. In these circumstances, I will undertake to bring the matter again before my Government. It had been brought before the Government once; on further representation it

was brought a second time, but the application was declined. However, having been on the spot and having received the opinion of the District Medical officer, and also the assurances of the Chairman of the Municipal Council that his Council is willing to pay, I think I have fair grounds upon which to bring the subject up again. You next proceed to offer your best thanks to the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada for his liberal offer to build a Town Hall here. Your thanks are most undoubtedly due to the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada, not only for this liberal offer, but for his munificence in many other matters connected with your town. But I think it right, with reference to your mention of this particularly liberal offer, to point out what I believe to be a slight inaccuracy of statement. You say that the Rajah has offered to build the Town Hall here in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and make a free gift of the same to the Berhampur Association. Now I am authorised by the Zamindar himself to say that it is not quite what he meant; that his intention was that a building was to be erected in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty, and that that building was to be a free gift to, and for the benefit of, the town and the public of Berhampur and the people of the Ganjám district generally; not your association in particular. It is not to be confined to any particular class; but the premises are to be at the disposal of Europeans, Hindus, Mussalmans, and others alike. There will be certain

conditions of a minor kind attached to the grant, and the gift will be placed in the hands of trustees. I thought it right in answering your address, for your own sakes, and also for the sake of accuracy, to put you in possession of what the real intentions of the donor, the Rajah, are in connection with this matter. I join with you most sincerely in thanking him for his extreme liberality, not only in this, but in many other things. In conclusion, gentlemen, I am glad to hear the expression of your profound loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty, and I thank you very heartily for the good wishes that you express on behalf of myself and my family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE KALLIKÓTA COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Kallikóta College Managing Committee, beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency a hearty welcome on the occasion of your visit to this institution.

2. When, in pursuance of the educational policy of Government, the local second-grade college was abolished in 1888, the college with its building, library and furniture was transferred to a committee who managed it by collecting subscriptions from the several zamindars and other gentlemen of this district.

3. In the beginning, however, of 1893, the subscriptions began to fall off and the very existence of the college was threatened, when the Zamindar of Kallikóta and Atagada came forward most opportunely with a promise to pay an annual subscription of two thousand and four hundred rupees for its maintenance. The committee in its gratitude named the college after its benefactor with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction.

4. Anxious to secure the permanency of the college, the zamindar, with characteristic forethought and liberality, subsequently endowed the college with a lakh of rupees; and this disinterested and princely act is, so far as we are aware, without a parallel in the zamindari annals of this Presidency. He has also promised to make, under certain circumstances, a further contribution not exceeding one thousand and five hundred rupees per annum. The college has also an endowment of ten thousand rupees made by the late Rao Bahadur T. Sivaramayya Pantulu Garu, a pensioned Deputy Collector.

5. The Zamindar of Dhárákóta has instituted two scholarships in each class to enable poor Uriya students to pay their school fees. Besides collecting only half fees from the Uriya students of the institution (and they form about thirty-five per cent. of the total strength), the committee has established an Uriya Students' Home which at present accommodates about twelve boys and is capable of further expansion as occasion may arise.

6. The institution is managed by a committee of fourteen members appointed partly by the Zamindar and partly by election by the members themselves with the Collector of the district as President who, in his capacity of the President of the District Board, has to sanction all appointments and approve the budget.

7. The number on the rolls at present is two hundred and fifty which is an increase of at least sixty-six per cent. over the number in 1893 when the Zamindar of Kallikóta undertook the maintenance of the college; and both the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Schools, Northern Circle, have repeatedly borne testimony to its high standard of efficiency.

8. We take this opportunity of bringing it to Your Excellency's notice that our college, which has, on its staff, five Licentiates in Teaching besides other technically qualified teachers, gets Government grants only on behalf of two of them, the Director of Public Instruction being unable to sanction grants for the others for want of funds. This inability arises from the circumstance that colleges in the southern districts get more grants than their less favoured sisters in the north for the mere accident of their having been able to employ technically qualified teachers earlier. We, therefore, pray that an early redistribution of Government grants may be made on equitable principles so as to give all institutions a fair proportion of State aid.

9. In conclusion we beg to tender Your Excellency our heartfelt thanks for having been graciously pleased to allow us to approach you with this our humble address and pray that Your Excellency may be blessed with a long life of usefulness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE KALLIKÓTA COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE,—I beg you to accept my best thanks for the pleasant reception and kind welcome you have given me here. The address which you have read to me contains a very interesting history of the initiation and working of your school. It serves as a monument amongst many other monuments of the large-hearted munificence of the Rajah of Kallikóta. It is to his generosity that this college owes almost its existence and certainly its present prosperous and well equipped condition. You are also indebted to the late Rao Saheb T. Sivaramayya Pantulu for his liberality. I am glad to see that the Zamindar of Dhárákóta has also contributed handsomely towards the advancement of the college. I am glad to notice that there are special advantages given for Uriya students, who form about thirty-five per cent. of the total strength. I am particularly gratified to hear that you have a Students' Home for Uriya students in the town; I should think that this must supply a want that is greatly felt. Your numbers appear to be steadily and rapidly on the increase. In your address it

is stated as being two hundred and fifty. The Principal has, in the course of conversation, told me that it is already considerably in excess of that number and he expects still further accessions. In the last paragraph in your address, you bring to my notice what you consider to be a desirability. You state that you are less favoured than other educational institutions in the southern part of the Presidency with regard to the grant for technically qualified teachers, and you ask that a redistribution of these grants may be made. You are aware, I suppose, that the settling of these grants rests with the Director of Public Instruction. The Director of Public Instruction, in common with all other public officers, is responsible to the Government for accuracy and fairness in these matters. I have no doubt that he has done his best in the matter, but it is possible that there may be some truth in your representation. I will, when I get back to Madras, direct the Director of Public Instruction to put the matter before me, and if we can see that there is any means of redistributing the grants, so that important colleges and educational institutions in the north may receive what appears to be a very equitable share, your wants in this respect shall certainly meet with the best consideration. I have to thank you in conclusion for your kind wishes for myself and family.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, COCANADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Municipal Council, Cocanada, on behalf of the inhabitants and rate-payers, whom we have the honour to represent, beg respectfully to offer Your Excellency a cordial welcome to our town, and at the same time to give expression to our deep-felt sentiments of loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Empress of India, who is so ably represented in this Presidency by Your Excellency.

2. It is a great pleasure to us to be able to state that, owing to the liberal support afforded to us from time to time by Your Excellency's Government as regards the more pressing improvements needed in the interests of our town, we have but few requests to make on this auspicious occasion. Among the improvements in respect of which we have thankfully to acknowledge the generous help rendered by Government, is the large measure of financial assistance we have received in the matter of the water-works, which, when completed, will undeniably constitute the greatest boon that could be conferred on the town. These works have already been commenced under the energetic supervision of the Public Works Department, to whom Your Excellency's Government has been pleased to entrust their execution, and we are glad to know that they will be brought to completion at an early date.

3. Quite as important, perhaps, as the water-works for the health of our town, is a satisfactory system of drainage; but as the limited resources of the municipality have already been pledged to a large extent in connection with the water-works, we are afraid that it will be some time before we can find the means for undertaking a comprehensive drainage system. We are confident, however, that, when the time arrives, we may rely on Your Excellency's Government extending to us sympathy and assistance similar to that accorded us in the case of the water-works. We will only add here that, until an effective system of drainage has been provided for the town, we cannot feel that its sanitary requirements have been adequately met, and the health of the public fully safeguarded. This feeling is all the more deeply impressed on us by the harassing accounts of epidemics which we receive from Bombay and other places in Western India. We are, however, endeavouring, in conformity with the regulations and rules issued by Government, to carry out the necessary precautionary measures and to keep the town as clean as possible. In this task, it is our pleasant duty to bring to Your Excellency's notice that we have received cordial help from some of the leading residents who are not members of the Council.

4. Next to a drainage system, the matter of most importance to us is the relaying of our roads, of which we have about twenty-four miles. We had hoped to raise a loan for this purpose, but the proposal did not commend itself to Government. A reconstruction of the roads with good material would considerably reduce the future cost of their maintenance; and in the event of our approaching Your Excellency's Government with a fresh application for a loan for this object, we trust that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to accord our request favourable consideration.

5. In the matter of the contribution from Provincial funds to our hospital, we regret that Government has found it necessary to reduce the aid hitherto rendered to us. Formerly the Government contribution was six hundred rupees in addition to the gratuitous services of the Civil Surgeon. We still enjoy the invaluable services of the latter, but the monetary contribution has been reduced to rupees two hundred and two and annas eight. Considering the rising importance of the town and the large commercial interests bound up with its welfare, we trust that Government will be pleased to restore the original contribution to our hospitals. In this connection, we beg to point out that the District Board has also resolved to gradually reduce its contribution to our hospitals from four thousand to two thousand and five hundred rupees.

6. It is our pleasant duty to gratefully acknowledge the privilege of electing our own Chairman, which has been generously restored to us recently by Government.

7. We beg, on behalf of all our citizens, to thank Your Excellency for the honour conferred on our town by Your Excellency's visit, and to say that we feel sure that amid the multifarious duties which ever engross Your Excellency's attention, any representations we may have to submit on behalf of our town will not fail to secure Your Excellency's kind support to the extent that they may deserve.

8. We need hardly say that it would have greatly added to our pleasure, had it been possible for us on this occasion to also welcome Her Excellency Lady Havelock.

9. In conclusion, we fervently hope that Your Excellency's administration may be characterized by abiding peace and prosperity among all sections of Her Majesty's subjects entrusted to your care, and pray that Your Excellency and Lady Havelock may enjoy uninterrupted and unalloyed happiness and prosperity.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF COCANADA,—I thank you for your cordial welcome, and I wish to express the gratification I feel at the pleasant and kind reception which you have accorded me here. I am much struck with the elaborate and beautiful preparations which you have made to do me honour. This pandal is as beautiful as it is convenient. I have also listened with satisfaction to the renewal of your expression

of your loyalty towards our Gracious Sovereign the Queen-Empress. It is as satisfactory for me to hear, as it is for you to tell me, that your more pressing wants have already been met, and that you have on this occasion but few requests to make. I congratulate you very sincerely on the undertaking of the important work of providing yourselves with a good water-supply. I am glad to learn from you that this work is now making rapid progress. I am indeed glad, as everybody must be, that this important and growing town should be endowed with this great blessing of a good water-supply. I am glad to see that you recognise the liberality of the Government in connection with this work. From the figures that have been put before me, I learn that the Government have contributed half the total estimated cost of the work, that total being three lakhs and thirty-seven thousand rupees. Government have also undertaken to advance one lakh and eighteen thousand rupees towards the other half at four and a half per cent. interest, the capital being repayable in thirty years. You have in this respect, I can assure you, received more generous treatment than has been accorded to most municipalities in the Madras Presidency. But in taking action in this way, I have no doubt that the Government were rightly influenced by the growing importance of this place and the consequent necessity of reducing as far as possible its liability to cholera and other serious epidemics. It is with great satisfaction that I have observed that private liberality

has also contributed generously towards the funds required for the water-works. This generosity is all the more admirable on account of its unostentatious nature. The names that have come to my notice—I had the pleasure of being introduced to two or three owners of those names—as having contributed largely and freely to this work are Messrs. Pydu Subbarayudu, Venkatachelapathi and Chelamayya, Mr. B. Venkataratnam Garu, and Mr. K. Basivireddy. It affords me pleasure to thank them publicly for their generosity in this matter. You next deal with the question of drainage. I am inclined to agree with you that water-supply should take precedence of drainage. A proper system of drainage, really carried out in a complete and scientific way, would cost a sum of money probably far beyond your means; and for that reason I fear that anything like a complete drainage system will have to be deferred. But, in the meantime, it is quite possible for you to improve the sanitation of your town by simple and ordinary means, ordinary sanitary precautions and measures of conservancy and other expedients to which I have no doubt the Municipal Council are now directing their attention. It is possible also that your new water-supply may assist you in this direction by giving you sufficient surplus water to flush the drains which are already in existence. I am very glad to learn from you that in these matters of sanitation you have received assistance from leading members of the community, who are not

members of the Council. You next refer to the desirability of relaying your roads. You refer to an application which you made to the Government some time ago to raise a loan for this purpose. From the facts that have come before me, I fear that the means at your disposal will hardly allow you to contract a loan for a purpose of this kind. I will suggest that you should as far as possible increase your revenues by a very careful collection, and, if necessary, by an increase of the rates, for the purpose of obtaining funds to carry out this important object. It would probably be a good plan to lay by from your Municipal revenue a certain fixed sum every year for the purpose of reconstructing roads; that is to say, a sum over and above what is necessary for their ordinary maintenance; and in this way I have no doubt that, in course of time, you will effect the object which you have at heart. It is as gratifying for me to note, as it is for you to receive, the recognition of the Government that municipal work is progressing satisfactorily in Cocanada. The Government have recognised that by restoring to you the privilege of electing your Chairman. I can assure you that the Government watches carefully every opportunity for fostering and promoting municipal government in this Presidency; and it is always with satisfaction that I pass a measure having for its object an increase of the privileges which can be accorded under the Municipal Act. I beg to assure you of the satisfaction that I feel in being in Cocanada and being thus in a

position to inform myself on the spot concerning several very important measures. I have in conclusion to thank you for your kind wishes and to say with what satisfaction I receive your assurances of loyalty to Her Majesty and to the British Government in this country.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, GÓDÁVARI.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the District Board, Gódávari, as representing the rate-payers of the Gódávari district, heartily embrace this opportunity to welcome Your Excellency to this district, and to testify our loyalty to you, the august and worthy representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India.

2. At the commencement of British rule, this district formed a portion of a neglected province. It was desolated by frequent famines and misgoverned by numerous land-owners. Since the introduction of the admirable system of irrigation which we owe to the genius of Sir Arthur Cotton and which sheds lustre on the Government which introduced it, the district has made much progress in every direction. Famine is almost unknown and revenue is greater than it has ever been. The population, which was declining when the anicut was

decided upon, has more than doubled. The commerce has flourished and the trade has developed to an extent far exceeding expectations.

3. Local and municipal boards have been founded on a fairly satisfactory basis in this district. The elective system obtains in all the municipalities and the municipal councils are presided over by non-official chairmen. The district and taluk boards have non-official vice-presidents. The taluk boards and the important union panchayats have been enlarged. The Departments of Public Works and Vaccination have been re-organized. It is to be hoped that, as time advances and the people give proofs of their capacity for self-government, the elastic provisions of the Act, which have been framed in a far-seeing and judicious spirit of progressive liberality, will be cheerfully extended, so as to transfer the whole responsibility of Local Fund administration to the people themselves. We are deeply thankful to the Government for having invested the municipal and local boards with the privilege of recommending their own representatives to the Legislative Council under the regulations framed under the reformed Councils' Act. We venture to hope that, in amending the Local Board's Act, further steps will be taken by Your Excellency's Government towards giving effect to the beneficent policy enunciated in the Resolution of the Government of India, dated 18th May 1882. We beg leave to suggest that nothing that can be safely guaranteed by the Legislature in the body of the law itself

should be left to the discretion of the Executive Government.

4. We respectfully beg to state that the Resolution of Your Excellency's Government, directing that not less than fifty per cent. of the land-cess and the net receipts from tolls should be spent on communications, encourages the tendency on the part of the local boards to reduce their expenditure on education, and we would therefore propose that the Act be so amended as to provide that a sum equal to not less than one-fourth of the land-cess shall be set apart for expenditure on education, and that the same shall be credited under a separate heading in the accounts, to be styled "the school fund," in accordance with the recommendations of the Education Commission.

5. Another matter to which we would invite Your Excellency's attention is the hardship caused by the policy of casting on local boards the duty of establishing and maintaining relief works in times of famine and scarcity. No such responsibility was thrown on these boards by the Local Fund Act of 1871, and it was imposed for the first time by the Local Boards' Act V of 1884, without any grant being made by Government from Provincial revenue for the said purpose. We submit that the resources of the local boards are too limited to admit of this additional expenditure. The maintenance of local public works cannot be postponed without serious impediment and injury to the administration. Moreover, the employment of labour on these works

affords relief to many labourers whom the suspension of regular works subjects to special hardship in times of high prices. Expenditure on education, sanitation, vaccination and medical relief cannot be suddenly suspended or reduced, and is, in some respects, even more urgently required during periods of distress than in ordinary times. Practically, local boards cannot be required to spend on famine relief more than the amount allotted for local public works for the year. It is also to be noted in this connection that the Provincial grants made for roads and other purposes were withdrawn, and the maintenance of highways, which was formerly an Imperial charge, is now completely thrown on Local funds. We trust, therefore, that Your Excellency will give your best consideration to this matter in connection with the amendment of the Act and urge on the Supreme Government the expediency of relieving local boards of this additional responsibility.

6. We respectfully venture to urge upon Your Excellency the desirability and indeed the necessity that exists for the opening up and development of the country by means of feeder lines and light railways, wherever there is a fair prospect of such lines proving self-supporting financially, and we humbly submit that the prospects of such lines in Gódávari are superior to what they are in most districts. We are not unaware that it is sometimes said that such works may be left to private and co-operative enterprise, but, until the co-operative principle in commerce gains a firmer footing in the country, we

would urge that it behoves local boards to encourage local public confidence in enterprises of the kind and that it is to the advantage of Government to assist such efforts in a liberal manner; for, one instance of success will naturally lead to other and more independent efforts to the immense benefit of the State and people alike. In this connection, we beg specially to refer to the proposal that has already been made by this board for the construction of a light railway from Samalkot to Yeleswaram, in the hope that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to consider the question in all its bearings and accord its sanction and assistance to the project. Financially, we have every reason to think that the proposed line would be a success, for there are no natural difficulties to contend with and its construction involves no expensive bridge work, as the existing masonry bridge over the Yeleru can, our Engineer assures us, be safely utilized. It is unnecessary to inform Your Excellency that the Agency tracts of the district are, in all respects, as backward as the coast tracts are advanced and have never been properly or adequately opened out. So long as this isolation continues, there can be no satisfactory development of the natural resources of the Hill tracts, whilst the condition of the inhabitants of the hills cannot be raised, except by bringing them into closer contact with the more intelligent and advanced people of the plains. Development of forest revenue and "efficient conservancy of forest produce" are also important considerations which

should influence the decision of this question. The Tanjore District Board has received certain concessions from Government regarding the Muttupet Railway, and we respectfully crave for the exhibition of similar indulgence in our case. The Samalkot-Yeleswaram light railway proposed is, by no means, the only one that, there is good reason to suppose, would be successful, but, as its prospects appear to be superior to those of other projects and it will most easily lend itself to extension and improvement in the event of success, we have elected to press for it as an initial measure, well knowing that, should it prove the success we anticipate, there will be no difficulty in locally raising the capital required for its extension and similar projects.

Thankfully expressing our acknowledgments to Your Excellency for the kindness with which you have allowed us to approach you with this address of welcome.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the District Board, Gódávari,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your district and for the assurances you give me of your real and sustained loyalty. You have, in your address, given a gratifying picture of the progress of your district. The evidence of good government and of the remarkable improvements in all industrial and physical matters is prominently before us. The two districts of Kistna and

Gódávari, with their magnificent irrigation works, are striking monuments, perhaps the most striking monuments in this Presidency, of the beneficence and enterprise of British rule. I am glad to hear from you the testimony you give to the advancement of municipal government within this district. The recommendations that you make for further advancement in this matter in connection with the Local Boards Bill which will be shortly before the Legislative Council will, I am sure, receive the fullest attention at the hands of those interested in it. At the end of the paragraph in which you deal with this matter, you beg leave to suggest that nothing that can be safely guaranteed by the Legislature in the body of the law itself, should be left to the discretion of the Executive Government. On general principles, I agree with the suggestion you make there, but you must admit that there are cases in which it is desirable, both in the interests of the Government and those governed, that there should be some such power in the hands of the Government. I think you will find it inconvenient yourselves and the Government will find it inconvenient also, in all matters to be bound hard and fast by the terms of the law. In certain cases, therefore, we must have recourse to the expedients by which Executive Governments are allowed to make regulations and rules coming within the scope and provision of the law. But, I repeat, on general principles I am in agreement with you that all matters with which law deals should be made as clear as

possible within the four corners of the law itself. You next urge in your address that the recent resolution by which a fixed proportion of the cess of the district board revenues should be appropriated to communications, should be modified, so that a larger amount may be made available for education. I fear that, if this be done, there will not be funds sufficient left for sanitation, vaccination, medical aid and establishments. I know that it is the experience of most district boards, within the last seventeen or eighteen years since they have had charge of the communications of the country, that it has been difficult, for want of means, to maintain the perfection and good order of these communications. It therefore became necessary that the Government should adopt some such measure as you now deprecate. I am inclined to think that, if the voice of the people were generally taken, you will find that a larger number of votes will be in favour of communications rather than education. I do not mean to say that people dislike education, or will reject it if they get it, but I think they will prefer their communications attended to first. I fear, therefore, it will be impossible in its entirety to carry out the wishes that you express in this paragraph of your address. At a rough estimate I find as much as the local board will be able to devote to education will be from fifteen to twenty per cent. of their revenues. You next deal with the question of the provision of funds for establishing and maintaining relief works from the District Board funds. You are aware

that the general principle in civilised communities is that the poor are relieved at the cost of the local community to which they belong. It would be impossible in this country to apply this principle; in fact we have no poor law in India, but I think we are justified in acting so far and in adopting that principle, so as to make it incumbent in times of distress for local boards to contribute as much as they could possibly afford. You must be aware that the amounts that the local boards have given towards the relief of famine are a mere drop in the ocean to what the Supreme Government has spent for that purpose. I do not think, therefore, that I can encourage any hope that we shall be able to relieve you of this charge. It seems to be right in principle that it should be carried out in very exceptional and exacting circumstances and, therefore, that you have no really strong ground of complaint in this matter. You next deal with the subject of feeder lines for the main line of railway by which out-of-the-way parts of the district will be opened out. We are all in strong sympathy with you in desiring to see works of this kind carried out as rapidly as possible. You make allusion to what has been done by the district board of the Tanjore district. I would commend the example of that board for your consideration. The particular line of railway which you advocate is one to which, the Collector informs me, he is able to give his support. The information that we have before us respecting this branch, is as yet imperfect. It is not such as to

justify the work being yet seriously undertaken. The Collector informs me that he trusts that, before long, he will be able to put Government in possession of further facts which might enable Government possibly to take action in the matter. The Collector will bring this matter forward at as early a date as possible. I thank you once more for your reception here and for the welcome you have given me. I beg to say it affords me pleasure to find myself in this great Gódávari district. It is the fifteenth out of twenty-two districts of Madras to which I have paid official visits during the two years that I have governed the Presidency. I have actually passed through every district in the Presidency, but I have paid official visits to no fewer than fifteen. Though Gódávari has been the last of these fifteen, it is by no means the least important.

ADDRESS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Managing Committee and Members of the Gódávari District Association, who have appointed us to wait as a deputation upon Your Excellency, we beg most respectfully to welcome Your Excellency on this your first visit to this district.

2. The past year has been a most disastrous and unhappy one in many parts of this Presidency. Prices of food were everywhere high, employment

scanty and famine afflicted several districts. All through it has, however, been a consolation to the people of this Presidency that Your Excellency's watchful and beneficent care and energies were presiding over their destinies and mastering their difficulties, as far as human agency can control such untoward events. Your Excellency visited most of the affected parts of the Presidency at great personal inconvenience, and encouraged, by your presence on the spot, the local authorities in the administration of famine relief. Such personal visits from the responsible head of the Government strengthen the loyalty of its subjects, and it inspires them with confidence when they see the head of the Government so untiring in his zeal and in the conscientious discharge of his onerous duties. In so saying, we feel that we only express the general sense of satisfaction with the measures adopted by Your Excellency to alleviate the suffering caused by famine. We are deeply indebted to our popular Collector, Mr. V. A. Brodie, for his sympathetic administration of famine relief in the Agency portion of this district.

3. There was a time in the history of this district when famine and distress were of frequent and periodical recurrence, and when the condition of the people was a source of great anxiety and embarrassment to the Government. Population declined. Adverse seasons were of frequent occurrence. Agriculture was an uncertain source of revenue both to the people and the Government. It was due to the genius of Sir Henry Montgomery, Sir Arthur

Cotton, the Marquis of Tweedale and other authorities that those measures were adopted, of which we witness the beneficent effects to-day. The anicut works have not only secured the district from Famine, but have enabled it to assist other districts to some extent in times of need. They testify to the humane intentions of the Government under which Providence has placed us. We gratefully acknowledge all the benefits which British rule has secured to us by maintaining undisturbed tranquillity and guaranteeing our safety against foreign invasion, by encouraging education, by developing a system of useful public works, and by introducing other improvements incident to a high state of civilization.

4. We, however, venture to earnestly urge upon Your Excellency the necessity of giving a legislative sanction to the policy of Government in regard to land settlements, notably in respect of guaranteeing by law the exemption of private improvements from all liability to extra taxation in revision operations. In the settlement of the much disputed land question, the authorities in India, as well as the Secretary of State, as far back as 1862 definitively pronounced themselves in favour of extending the permanent settlement in all the more settled districts of the country; but that despatch, though not formally overruled, has remained a dead letter to this day. As matters stand at present, the discretion of Settlement officers is, to a great extent, uncontrolled by fixed principles. There is no limitation of the possible increase of assessments at revision of settlements.

It was with a view to regulate this discretion that the Government of India under the Marquis of Ripon issued their famous resolution containing instructions for the guidance of the authorities in the North-West Provinces, and recommended the same to the Madras Government for its consideration. The Government of Madras has accepted the said policy in its essential features. The same was embodied in the Settlement Manual and Board's Standing Orders and other public documents as the policy that should regulate future settlements. We refer especially to the principle of revising the assessments solely with reference to changes in prices—a principle which, while securing to Government its due share of the land revenue, is calculated to give fixity and inspire confidence in the classes most intimately affected by these settlements. In the re-settlement of this district, we regret to note, however, that there has been a complete reversal of the past policy of Government in this respect. This question affects interests so great and so large a portion of the population—and that the most helpless portion—that it is not too much to say that no single measure of Government is likely to promote so effectively the well-being of the community as progressive reform in this direction. We venture, therefore, to hope that Your Excellency will signalize your administration by taking the necessary steps to grant to the cultivators of the soil in this district and indeed the Presidency, fixity of tenure and a legislative limitation of the

Government demand in order to give them confidence in the pursuit of their industry.

5. The subject of affording special credit facilities to meet the wants of the indebted agricultural classes by the constitution of Agricultural Banks is also one of paramount importance to the ryot population. Mr. Nicholson's proposals regarding the establishment of such banks will soon engage Your Excellency's attention. Your Excellency's acquaintance with similar undertakings carried out successfully in other countries, inspires us with a hope that the subject will receive careful consideration at Your Excellency's hands, and that the difficulties which have been raised will be satisfactorily solved.

6. The present system of cultivation is, as observed by Dr. Voelcker, one of gradual soil exhaustion which must end in a decline, slow though it may be, but still a decline of fertility and productive power. We beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the recommendations made by Dr. Voelcker regarding the opening of experimental farms for the purpose of showing how manurial resources can be best used and conserved, and for demonstrating the value of, and extending the better practices of other parts of the country. In this connection, we beg also to suggest the advisability of diverting a portion of Local funds to the establishment of agricultural schools in villages where primary but practical instruction might be imparted to the rising generation of cultivators through the medium of their respective vernaculars. If the curriculum of the

existing village schools be slightly altered, so as to make room for agricultural education by dispensing with some of the less important, because less practical, subjects, the association believes that, for the present, at least a good beginning will have been made.

7. We respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with a proposal which, if carried out, would conduce to a better and more uniform supply of water in the canals of the western section of the delta. The Gódávari project works are looked upon by Government as completed; still there remains, in our humble opinion, much to be done to fully utilize and conserve the existing supply. The Bank canal in the Western delta, which has cultivation only on its right, draws off too much water, depriving Narsapur canal of its fair share. Several Executive Engineers have advocated the construction of a lock at the head of the Bank canal. We pray that favourable consideration may be given to this proposal, in view of preventing wastage of water under the Bank canal. Similarly, do we pray for the adoption of measures which would have the effect of preventing the wastage of water under the Junction canal in the eastern section of the delta.

8. We are not aware of the reasons which induced Government to order the removal of the headquarters of the Superintending Engineer of the No. I Circle to Waltair from Dowlaishweram, where they had been located since the construction of the

anicut. Gódávari is the most important portion of the Circle, both as the site of the anicut and other important irrigation works and as the centre where the administrative experience and energy of the superior officers of the Public Works Department are often called into play. The Superintending Engineer is the appellate authority in the matter of water-supply and his presence is greatly needed in this district in the irrigation season, when the complaints of ryots are numerous. It is a great hardship to the Gódávari ryot to leave his cultivation and go to Waltair to represent his grievances to the Superintending Engineer in person. Moreover, his presence at Dowlaishweram and the chance of his visiting different canals without notice exercises a wholesome influence on the subordinate agency charged with the distribution of water. Added to this, an office for the Superintending Engineer was built a few years ago at Dowlaishweram at great cost. In the event of the permanent retention of the office at Waltair, another costly building will have to be built there. The East Coast Railway has placed Ganjám and Vizagapatam within easy reach of the office located at Dowlaishweram. We, therefore, respectfully suggest the retransfer of the office from Waltair to Dowlaishweram.

9. In regard to local self-government, we gratefully acknowledge that Your Excellency's Government is doing its best to give effect to the large-minded policy embodied in the measures passed in 1884. Both the measures contain elastic provisions

which will enable Government to satisfy the demands of the more advanced localities for a larger proportion of elective members, and the power of electing their presidents and vice-presidents. The amendment of the Local Boards' Act will soon engage the attention of Your Excellency's Council, and we hope that the local boards will be reconstituted on a more popular and independent basis, so that the main objects of the policy underlying the famous resolution of 1882 may be completely fulfilled. We submit that the success that has attended the introduction of the elective system into the municipalities fairly warrants its extension to local boards.

10. In conclusion, we thank Your Excellency for your kindness in condescending to receive this address of welcome at our hands and we fervently hope that Your Excellency's rule will be productive of lasting benefit to the people of this Presidency, whom kind Providence has entrusted to your care.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN FORMING THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,—I thank you for your kind welcome to your district. Last year there was, as you remark, a period of distress and sad calamity not only in Madras, but to a still greater degree in other parts of India. Here I hope we have got out of the worst, and even in the matter of high prices that we have turned the corner. I think there is fair reason to hope that, during the

ensuing year, we shall be gradually working back to our ordinary and former state of prosperity. I am glad to see that you recognise as fully as you do the services of the Collector and the District officers during the late distress in the district, and in common with all other officers charged with protecting the population against misery arising from dear provisions and scarcity, the Collector of the district did his duty with devotion and success. The history which you give of the advance of the Gódávari district is interesting as showing the good results of British rule. I am glad to read your testimony to those magnificent monuments of engineering skill and of good Government to which you owe so much in this district and in the neighbouring district of Kistna. I allude to the magnificent irrigation works initiated by the genius of Sir Arthur Cotton and others. In the next paragraph of your address you touch upon a subject which is a very difficult one, and at the same time, a most important one as regards the population of the country. That is the question of land settlement. The first request you make is an important one, too important a one for me to deal with now. You ask that Government should fix a legislative limitation on its own land revenue assessment, firstly, for the country generally and, secondly, for this district in particular. In regard to this district, I am, of course, aware that its resettlement is now in progress and that in connection with such resettlement, several important matters, both of principle and practice, have arisen.

But so large a matter demands a careful and lengthy consideration at the hands of the individual members of the Government, and the papers in their full detail have not as yet come before me for actual disposal. I am aware that for some months past, my honourable colleagues in the Government had been working with care and assiduity at the numberless difficult points which this land settlement question has raised, and at the present moment the papers are still in the hands of one of my honourable colleagues, and as I have already observed, have not yet reached my hands. Your arguments and opinions shall receive the fullest consideration on my part, as I am sure they will, on the part of my honourable colleagues. I have also, while here, had the pleasure of hearing your chief arguments from yourselves, at first hand, and have received special memoranda drawn up by you dealing with the more important points—the memorandum, for instance, on the commutation of prices, and reclassification of soils, and grouping of villages, on the consolidated wet-rate, and on the proposed graduated water-rate, and on some other points. In addition to these, I have promised to receive, later on, a deputation from this district and to discuss the matter more in detail with them, so that before the final orders are issued, we shall have had the advantage of understanding each other fully. Whether the results be favourable to you or not, you shall, at any rate, feel that it is the result of careful consideration. In regard to the Presidency generally, you must, I

imagine, yourselves feel that your request is bound to be refused. For no Government can be expected to tie its own hands in the way that you request; and even if it did so, it would be practically impossible for it to lay down on paper any limitations which would completely meet the ever-varying conditions of the case; and the result would be misinterpretation, litigation and much administrative inconvenience; nor is there any real need for such an enactment. Although Government may decline to tie its hands in the matter, still I think you may rest assured that its wishes and sympathies are in the direction of making the settlement of the district as permanent as is reasonably practicable. No class of the population has greater claims on the consideration of the Government, none has a greater share of the sympathies of the Government, than the agricultural classes, and the Government is not blind to the advantages and expediency of assisting these classes by all the means in its power, and notably by making its periodical settlement of land revenue as stable and permanent as, consistent with an adequate initial assessment, local charges, and justice to other districts, is practicable. On the question of Agricultural Banks, I am not able to express any definite opinion at the present moment. Mr. Nicholson's proposals have been before me, but I have not had time to go into this somewhat complicated and thorny subject in the full manner that it deserves. The one objection that has presented itself to my mind against the system of banks, such

as Mr. Nicholson, I believe, suggests is, that, I think, it will necessitate, as a preliminary measure, some restriction on transfer of lands. For myself, I should be very sorry to see any such restriction imposed and I imagine that such will be the sentiments of great many land-owners with whom I am in conference to-day. You advocate the extension of some system of education which will make the teaching of agricultural matters more generally followed than at present. I may tell you that the Government of India has recently proposed a scheme in this direction, by which it is intended to make the teaching of improvement in agriculture a part of the primary system of education. It will be a long time, I fear, before any teaching of this sort has much practical effect, but I have no doubt that in the end it may be of benefit. Unless one makes the beginning, one will never come to the end. We must be satisfied, therefore, with small beginnings. In the meantime, however, I will suggest as a possibility that some of the more wealthy proprietors should take in hand themselves the education of the people in this matter. They might make experiments on their own fields and impart the results of these experiments to their poorer neighbours. You next suggest measures which will conduce to a better and more uniform supply of water in the canals of the western section of the delta. This is a technical matter which I do not pretend, with the information before me, to understand, but I am able to tell you that the Collector takes much interest in it and has his own

views on the subject. At his suggestion the question will be referred for the consideration, and if necessary, for the action, of the Public Works Department. With respect to your proposal that the head-quarters of the Superintending Engineer should be retransferred from Waltair to Dowlaishweram, I may tell you that I made the matter a subject of enquiry while I have been in the Circars; and in this matter I have been assisted by the presence and advice of Mr. deWinton, the Chief Engineer. There are reasons on the one side and there are reasons on the other; but on the whole, we are distinctly of opinion that there are stronger reasons for keeping the head-quarters at Waltair, to which they were transferred in 1895, than for removing them to Dowlaishweram as at present advised. Therefore I am bound to tell you I do not think there is any prospect of your desire in this respect being gratified. I have read with much interest the remarks which you have made with regard to local self-government, and I have noted your hope that, when the Local Board Bill, that is being prepared for the consideration of the Council, is before it, these local boards will be reconstructed on a more popular and independent basis. I have no doubt that this matter, in connection with many others which will come for consideration in the Local Board Bill, will receive the consideration that they fully deserve both at the hands of the Government and the Select Committee, which will be charged to examine and report upon the Bill. I thank you in conclusion, gentlemen, for

the interesting and important address which you have presented to me, and I beg to assure you of my deep interest in the important subjects that you have brought to my notice, and to promise you that they will ever receive my most careful attention and consideration.

ADDRESS FROM THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT PORTS CONSERVANCY BOARD.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Members of the Gódávari District Ports Conservancy Board, desire to offer to Your Excellency our congratulations upon your visit to Cocanada.

We thank Your Excellency for receiving us and would request permission to refer to one or two points in connection with the working of the board.

The port of Cocanada was in 1871 most favourably reported upon by Mr. George Robertson, an expert specially sent by the Government of India, and, in the opinion of commanders of coasting vessels and steamers, it is held to be the only safe roadstead between Calcutta and Trincomallee, being the only one where shipping can lie at anchor during a cyclone.

The trade of this port, in 1862, aggregated only twenty-nine lakhs in value; in 1872 it was nearly seventy-four lakhs; in 1882 one hundred and forty-three lakhs; and in 1896-97 over two hundred and sixteen lakhs.

On this trade the merchants of the port pay annually about forty thousand rupees in landing and shipping dues.

The levy of these dues was spontaneously suggested by the local merchants as a voluntary contribution towards the maintenance of the port in an efficient state on the understanding that the administration and control of such funds were to be in the hands of a board chiefly representative of themselves.

These proposals were approved of and put into effect by Government orders.

To any one, who remembers the condition of the port before the board came into existence, the improvements which have since been effected must be patent; and the board feels that it may safely challenge criticism of its work and its economy in expenditure.

An extension of the groynes was effected by the board up to a certain point, and it was then thought desirable to discontinue any further extension and to carry out dredging operations in an energetic manner. With this object in view, Government was addressed for permission to obtain a dredger, but sanction has not yet been received, and the delay is much to be deplored as being very detrimental to the well-being of the port.

Last year Government further extended the groynes of their own motion and by their own officers, and the board has just now learnt that the cost thereof has been charged to the board's funds

and debited without reference to, or informing, the board of the same.

The board would beg most respectfully but firmly to protest against such action. The success of the recent extension by Government, which has cost nearly half a lakh of rupees, appears to be very doubtful, as sand is accumulating at the mouth.

The board would earnestly desire Your Excellency to issue immediate instructions for the cancellation of the above-named debit (which appears to have been made in direct contravention of the Government order constituting the board), and to sanction the purchase of a dredger through the board's own agents and of such type as they may be advised would be the best.

The chief reason for the formation of the board was that they might collect and administer funds for dredging purposes, and the board was placed by Government order in charge of the port. Unless they remain so, they do not see any need for their further existence.

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COCANADA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the two Chambers of Commerce and of the Mercantile Community of this place we desire to express to Your Excellency our gratification at your advent among us and at your visit to that part of

the Coromandel Coast in the prosperity of which we are deeply interested.

We especially wish to thank Your Excellency for affording us this opportunity of bringing to your notice a few matters connected with the trade of this port to which we beg Your Excellency's kind attention.

At a general meeting of the Mercantile Community held on the 4th instant, we were deputed to support the Gódávari District Ports Conservancy Board, in their view that the monies collected from the landing and shipping dues should be under their own control. The tax is a voluntary one, paid by us for the improvement of the port, and we are of opinion that the members of the board, the great majority of whom are our elected representatives, and in whom we have every confidence, should have full control over the monies.

The sugarcane, one of the principal productions of this district, has been subject, the past few months, to destruction by some insects. This is the cause of a considerable decrease in the crop, is a serious loss to the ryots and must ultimately result in a loss to Government, and we are desired to urge upon Your Excellency's consideration the necessity for sending an expert to enquire into the cause of the appearance of these insects.

We are also to respectfully draw the attention of Your Excellency to the police supervision of this town, the senior officer here being only an Inspector, whose authority is necessarily of a limited nature,

and we are of opinion that an officer of a higher grade should be permanently located here, more particularly as the Superintendent seldom visits the town.

Finally, and not the least important of the subjects that we desire to invite Your Excellency's early attention to, is the Collector's and district board's scheme for a light railway from Samalkot to Yeleswaram, for such a railway will be a powerful agency in developing the natural resources and trade of the Agency tracts and in bringing the hillmen under the civilizing influence of easy contact with the plains.

Resting assured that the well-being of Cocanada will meet with every consideration at Your Excellency's hands, we beg to remain, &c., &c.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

MEMBERS OF THE GÓDÁVARI DISTRICT PORTS CONSERVANCY BOARD, AND MEMBERS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS AND MERCANTILE COMMUNITY OF COCANADA,—I congratulate myself with you that I have been able to pay a visit to the town of Cocanada and to make myself acquainted on the spot with some of your needs and wishes. The figures that you give with regard to the port of Cocanada only impresses more strongly in my mind than ever before, the importance and growing value of the port of Cocanada. I regret that there seems to have been some misunderstanding with regard to carrying out certain works for the improvement of

the port and appropriation of certain funds in the carrying out of the work, to which you make allusion. It may be of use if I give briefly what I believe to be a correct statement of what has taken place in this matter. I am informed that the board had extended the north groyne one thousand and eight hundred feet in advance of the south groyne, and in this way considerable shoaling had naturally been produced in the channel. It was to remedy the shoaling, and on the strength of urgent petitions from persons in Cocanada, that Government undertook further extensions. In submitting an estimate for the proposal, the Superintending Engineer of the First Circle stated that he had asked for the opinion of the board on three alternative proposals for the improvement of the port, one of which was the extension of these groynes; but he added that no such information has ever been given. The advisability of contributing a portion of the cost from the Provincial funds in view of the importance of the port was also considered by the Government. It was found that the condition of the Provincial funds did not admit of such payment, and it was then ordered that the expenditure should first be met from Port funds and be subsequently charged off to landing and shipping dues as they became available. The Landing and Shipping Dues Committee was, at the same time, asked to consider whether the landing and shipping rates should not be raised at once for this purpose. Now I am afraid that on this point some oversight took place, and the wish of

the Government that this communication should be made to the committee, appears never to have been carried out. You may gather from what I have said that it is shown by our action in the matter that there was no intention on the part of the Government to pass over the Conservancy Board in this affair, and I will give you my personal assurance that there was no intention of that kind at all. We really had no wish to act in this matter without the concurrence of the board. I think you will admit, in fact I assure you such was the case, that the desire of the Government was to benefit the port; and the works which have been carried out being works in their nature debitable to Port funds under section 36 of V (*b*) of the Act, it is to be hoped that the Conservancy Board will itself, if need be, adopt the work as its own. According to Mr. Larminie, the Superintending Engineer, the extension of the groynes does not obviate the necessity for dredging, but it certainly diminishes the distance to be dredged, so that the board must admit the work, so far as it has gone, to have been more or less a beneficial one. I hope, gentlemen, that I have made clear to you that whatever mistakes might have taken place, whatever oversight might have been committed, there was no intention on the part of Government either to show discourtesy to the Conservancy Board or to act without getting its wishes and opinions. If there has been an oversight, as I think there has been to some extent both oversight and misapprehension, I beg to express on

my behalf and I think I may include, on behalf of the Honourable Members of Council, the regret that such should have taken place. I now come to what is really the most important point in your address, that is, your strongly expressed desire to sanction the purchase of a dredger through the board's own agents, and of such type as they may be advised would be the best. I am convinced that you are right in this matter. I have had several consultations on the subject of the port with Colonel Campbell and with Mr. Larminie. I remember distinctly that it was considered a perfectly inseparable part of any scheme for improving the port in the way which Mr. Larminie advocated, that there should be a dredger to keep the channel clear of any mud. The only question that remains unsettled, as far as I can understand from these papers, is the providing of ways and means. That, I am told, is under the consideration of the Government in the Marine Department. I do not think that I am divulging improperly any official secrets when I tell you that the Marine Department is not at present under my immediate charge. I am therefore not able to speak on my own personal knowledge how this question at the present moment stands; but I assure you that I shall consider it my duty, when I get back to Madras, to inform myself on the subject. I give you my assurance that if I can in any way forward what I believe to be the true interests of the board, by solving any difficulty that there may exist for the provision of funds, or for removing any

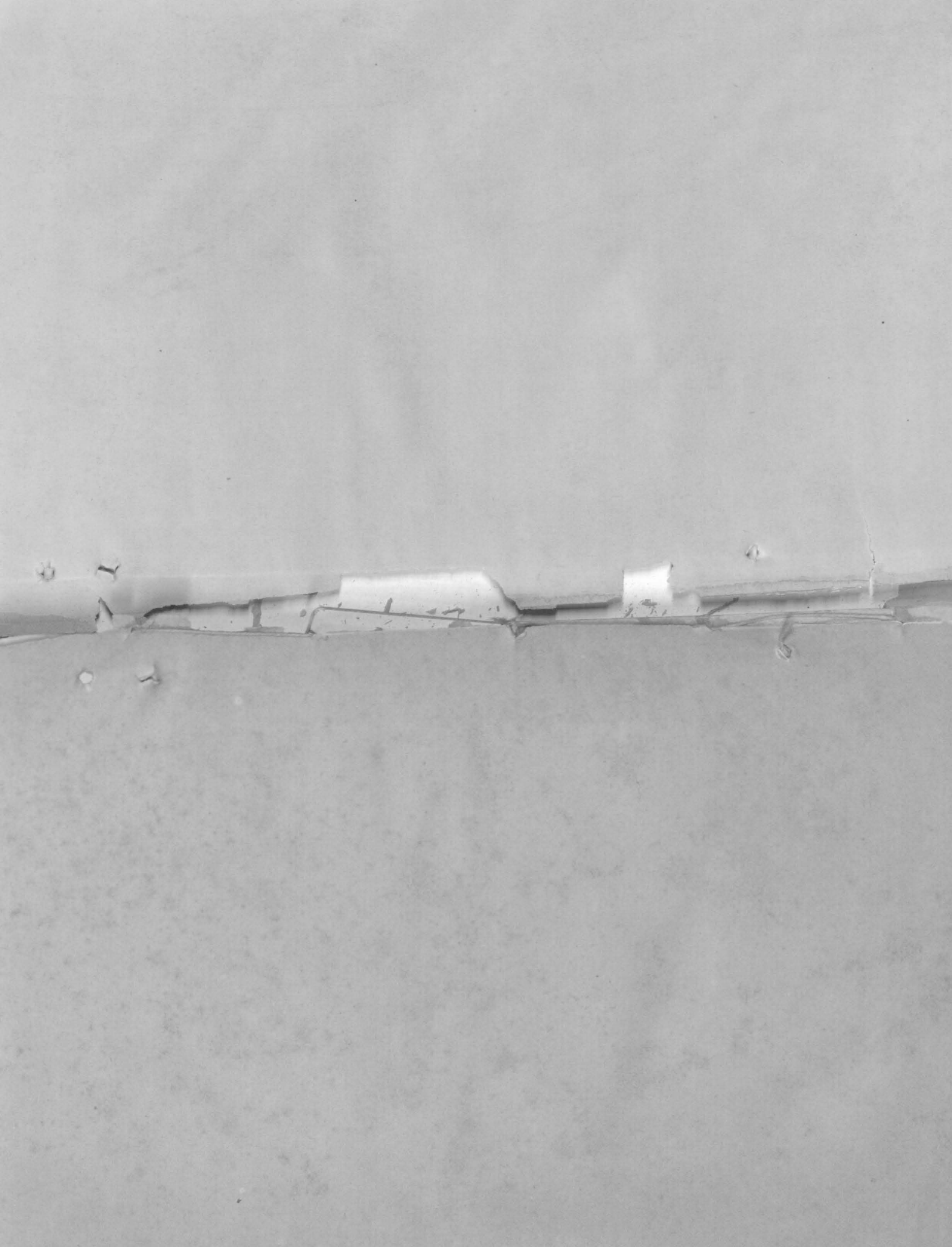
other obstacles in the way of providing you with the dredger you require, my best endeavours will be used to obtain them.

I now turn to one or two points apart from the question of the port, which are dealt with in the address of the two Chambers of Commerce and the mercantile community. You mention that disease has appeared in the sugarcane which is cultivated in this district. You say that this is the cause of a considerable decrease in the crop and is a serious loss to the ryots, and you request that an expert should be sent to enquire into the cause of the appearance of these insects. I think I am right in saying that your wishes in this respect have already been anticipated, and that a man possessed of the best knowledge on the subject, whose services we could command,—Dr. Bourne—has already been in this district to enquire into the pest injuring the sugarcane. I have not yet seen Dr. Bourne's report, but it will no doubt reach me before long, and in due course of time will be communicated to you. I may say that, personally, I am very much in sympathy with the cultivation of sugarcane. I attach great importance to it, because it seems to me to contain the possibility of a new industry in the Presidency or rather the extension of an industry that already exists. Where I can find any possibility of extending any industry or introducing a new one, I do not think that the opportunity should ever be lost. I am very much struck with the fact that a large portion of the sugar consumed

in the Bombay Presidency is imported sugar—sugar mainly imported from the island of Mauritius. The last return for 1894–95 shows two and a half million cwts. were imported into India, mostly into the Bombay Presidency, because in Madras, I believe, we provide locally to a great extent for our wants. Of these two and a half million cwts., one and three-quarters came from Mauritius. The cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius is subject to good many drawbacks and disabilities. In the first place, the cost of labour in the Mauritius is very large. They have a complicated and elaborate system of cooly emigration, supervised by Government, with high rates of wages and many appliances which cost a considerable sum of money. I myself had been several times in the Mauritius, and can speak from personal knowledge of these facts. The soil of Mauritius, too, is much exhausted by cultivation of many years. They have to use immense quantity of expensive manure to maintain the richness of their crops. Beyond this, in order to bring their sugar into the Indian market, there is a long voyage from the Mauritius. I believe freights are low, but of that I am not certain. On arrival in India, Mauritius and all other foreign sugar is subject to an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent. With all these difficulties and disabilities, it has always been a matter of surprise to me that the Mauritius sugar should have been allowed to hold its own in India. Charity begins at home : I will therefore commend it to the notice of merchants and others interested in the production

of sugar, that they should endeavour to find some means of shutting out the Mauritius market by supplying the demand themselves. The next point on which a request is made in the address of the two Chambers of Commerce, is that a senior Police officer, instead of an Inspector, should be appointed for service in this town. I have consulted the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police on this subject. I find from them that, so far as it is known up to this time, the question, viz., that of supplying an additional Police officer as Assistant Superintendent in Cocanada, has not been previously mooted. All that an Assistant can do, an Inspector can do, as regards the sanitary and police duties of the town. Crime, I am sure, is not heavy. Detection is fair. No complaint has ever been received from a public or private body of misconduct on the part of the police. The present location of two European officers is the best possible, and I do not think it will be possible to comply with the request the address embodies, viz., the appointment of a second Assistant, as under the circumstances you are not specially entitled to it. The District Superintendent, I am told, visits the town two or three times a year. It is difficult for him to do so oftener than that. Of course, it is added that if there is anything urgent requiring his presence at any time, he will no doubt come at once. The Police officer and the Collector inform me that, in their opinion, all that is required for the service of Cocanada is a smart and experienced Inspector. I think,

therefore, I am unable to hold out any hope of this request being complied with. Lastly, you touch on the scheme for a light railway from Samalkot to Yeleswaram. In an address which I have just answered, I said what I repeat now that this line is one that the Collector has much at heart, and it is believed it will be a very useful one as a feeder to the railway and also as opening out an important part of the country and bringing us nearer to what is called the Agency tracts. But the information before us is not sufficient to enable us to form any very decided opinion as to whether the line is likely to be a paying one. The Collector hopes to be able to give further information in a very short space of time, which will be placed before the Government, when the matter will receive the consideration which it so highly deserves.



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