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OF 18

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OF 18

ADDRESSES, &c.

PRESENTED TO

AND

REPLIES MADE

BY

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

ON HIS ELEVENTH TOUR.

October 1893.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Address by the Native Christian Community of Calicut	1
His Excellency's Reply	1
Address by the Municipal Councillors of Calicut	2
His Excellency's Reply	2
Address by the Members of Kerala Mahajana Sabha	3
His Excellency's Reply	4
Address of the Townsmen of Calicut	6
His Excellency's Reply	6
Address of the Timber Merchants of Calicut	6
His Excellency's Reply	7
Address of the Mercantile Community of Calicut	8
His Excellency's Reply	10
Address of the Inhabitants of Palghat	11
His Excellency's Reply	12
His Excellency's Speech at Kerala Vidhyasala, Calicut, Distribution of Prizes	13
Address by the Municipal Councillors of Tellicherry	14
His Excellency's Reply	15
Address of the Inhabitants of Tellicherry	15
His Excellency's Reply	16
Address of the Mercantile Community of Tellicherry	17
His Excellency's Reply	19
Address of the School-going Section of the Moplah Community of Tellicherry	20
His Excellency's Reply	22
Address of the Inhabitants of the Town of Tellicherry	23
His Excellency's Reply	23
Address by the Fishermen Community of Tellicherry	24
His Excellency's Reply (through an interpreter)	25
Address of the Toddy-drawers of Kurumbranád Taluk	25
Address of the Residents of Cannanore	26
Reply to the Moplahs at Cannanore	27
Address of the Ticket-holders of the Fish-curing Yard at Ayekode, Cannanore	28
Address of the Muckuva Ticket-holders of the Old Town of Cannanore	28
His Excellency's Reply to Cannanore Fish-curers	29
Address from the Municipal Council of Cannanore	29
His Excellency's Reply	30
Address of the Municipal Councillors of the Town of Mangalore	31
His Excellency's Reply	31
Address of the Inhabitants of the Town and District of Mangalore	31
His Excellency's Reply	33
Address of the Muhammadan Community of Mangalore	33
Address of the Catholic Community of Mangalore	34
His Excellency's Reply	34
Address to Lady Wenlock by the Municipal Councillors of the Town of Mangalore	35
Her Excellency's Reply	36
Address of the Agricultural Community of South Canara	36
His Excellency's Reply	37

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

Address by the Native Christian Community of Calicut.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In the name of the Native Christian community of this town, we beg to offer your Excellency a most respectful and hearty welcome on the occasion of your Excellency's visit to this important province, one of the many interesting features of which is, as regards the Christian Church, its connection with the Apostolic times.

We beg to thank your Excellency for the opportunity given us to wait upon your Excellency and to offer our expressions of loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and to Her representatives in this land.

It will not be out of place, we venture to hope, to lay before your Excellency the following facts connected with the Native church in this town. The Protestant church here is represented, first, by the Basel Evangelical Mission which commenced operations 51 years ago. Year after year the work has been expanding and progressing, and to-day we are thankful to be able to say that the adherents of this church number about a thousand.

The Mission establishments of weaving, carpentry and tile works afford industrial training and occupation to a large number of the poor Christians of the congregation as well as to others. Apart from their value as an auxiliary to Mission work, they have been the means of giving an impetus to enterprises of a similar nature in different parts of the country.

The active interest taken by the Mission in educational work is evidenced by its High School and the Girls' School, which are the oldest institutions in the town.

The Mission has also a Medical branch which was started six years ago, and which affords medical relief to thousands.

In many parts of the world the missionaries have made the literature of the people, and we are proud to think that the Basel missionaries have contributed not a little to the development of the Malayalam language. Two standard works in the language, the Malayalam-English Dictionary and the Grammar by that great missionary and scholar, Dr. Gundert, who has just recently passed away, are a monument of his genius, and must long continue to win the admiration of every student of Malayalam.

There is a small Anglican Native congregation numbering some 150 souls worshipping in St. Mary's Church, unconnected with either of the Church societies. This congregation has been in existence for thirteen years. Like the congregations at Madura and Chittoor similarly circumstanced, it is under the personal direction of the Lord Bishop of Madras, and is solely supported by voluntary subscriptions and donations. The Pastor, whose services have been kindly lent by the C.M.S., does Evangelistic work among the Tamil population in the town.

In approaching your Excellency with this very brief account of Christian work in this place, we beg humbly to assure your Excellency that no section of Her Majesty's subjects appreciate the blessings of a Christian Government more than we, and we pray that Christian England's rule over India may continue to the end of time, to the enlightenment and happiness of the millions committed to her charge.

Praying that God Almighty may pour down upon your Excellency and Lady Wenlock all the blessings of this life and the life to come.—*Calicut, 14th October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you, on the part of Lady Wenlock and myself, for the very kind address which you have just presented to me on my coming to this town for the first time. I can assure you it is with great satisfaction that I heard the account which you have just read to me of your progress in this particular part of the country. As you say, you are a small community amongst a large one; and it is to us, as it is to yourselves, naturally a great satisfaction to think that you live in peaceful harmony with all those that surround you, differing as you do in point of religion. You point out that you have been in existence for 50 years and your numbers are gradually increasing. You point also with pride—as you may well do—to the material progress which you are making among those of your community who are poorer, and have to look for support in different kinds and branches of professions in life. You say your Mission has been able to introduce works of great interest and great utility, and different kinds

of industry, which are of great importance and are conducive to the welfare of those who are engaged in them. It is to us, on the part of Government, naturally a great satisfaction to see the industries flourishing and that you are quite able to keep them up. I hope sincerely that they may be the nucleus of still larger industries and be the centre of greater progress in technical arts in this part of the country. At the same time, you show that you are not behindhand in giving education to those that need it, that your High School and the Girls' School—the oldest institutions in the town—are in a flourishing condition, and that you are also, at the same time, not neglecting that useful science, useful not only to missionary life but to all life in this country and in all others, namely, medical science. I hope the medical branch, which you say affords relief to thousands, may long flourish and be the means of affording help and relief to the suffering poor. Another point you also bring to notice, which is of great importance in this country, viz., the way in which the missionary, who has unfortunately passed away, has been the means of assisting all those who took an interest in the administration of affairs in the country so as to be able to place themselves in closer communication with the native community by whom they are surrounded. The works left behind him have proved to be of great utility to those who are entrusted with this work. The knowledge of the vernacular is the most important one in this country, and I am glad to think your community has been the means of enabling those entrusted with the work of administering the country to obtain a better and more facile mode of learning the Malayalam language. In conclusion, I beg to thank you very much for the kind address which you have presented to us, and which we had great pleasure in receiving.

Address by the Municipal Councillors of Calicut.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the citizens of Calicut, we, the Municipal Councillors of this town, beg leave to approach your Excellency with this address of cordial welcome.

Calicut is one of the leading towns in the Presidency and has been from the earliest times an important trading port. It was the first to welcome European commerce and its civilising influences, being the port touched by Vasco-de-Gama, the earliest European navigator to the East. The town has been steadily advancing in commerce and population, which now numbers 66,078. It was granted municipal rights in July 1866, and since then our predecessors in the council, and now our humble selves have been discharging, with as much zeal and earnestness as we can command, the duties of limited local self-government entrusted to us. This being a trading seaport town, with its inhabitants increasing year by year, the public health is not always as satisfactory as could be wished. Important and costly sanitary works have yet to be carried out. The water-supply and the drainage of the crowded parts of the town are defective and have to be attended to at an early date, which can be done only by a large outlay. The municipal funds, limited as they are, cannot by themselves meet these large and extraordinary charges. We trust that when the papers in connection with these useful projects are laid before your Excellency's Government, your Excellency will be pleased to make an adequate grant towards such purposes and thereby confer upon the citizens of this town the blessings of health and happiness.

In conclusion, we once more offer your Excellency and Lady Wenlock a loyal and cordial welcome on the occasion of your Excellency's first visit to Calicut.—Calicut, 14th October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much for the kind address of welcome, and to say that it has given me much pleasure to have this opportunity of visiting your town and other places on the West Coast. This is the first time I have had the opportunity of coming down to this part of the country, and I assure you I look forward to it with the very greatest pleasure. On this, my first arrival here, I assure you it is with extreme satisfaction I have heard the address just read, because I understand from that address that you offer to me a hearty and loyal welcome as the representative in this part of the country of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. I can assure you that on my part I have heard all that you said with the very greatest pleasure, and I am glad to think that you are able to speak of yourselves as an important and progressive town, and as one of the greatest ports in this part of the coast. The points which you have raised in connection with sanitation, I need hardly say, will receive my utmost care when I have to deal with papers connected with this matter. You must remember you are not the only town, that ask the Government for support in matters connected with water-supply and drainage, but we are doing as much as we possibly can to assist, as far as our funds permit, municipalities and local bodies in different parts of the country so as to enable them to supply themselves with those extremely useful and necessary works. When your turn comes, I hope we may find ourselves in a position to give you such assistance as will enable you to carry out those works which you consider—and others advising Government consider—necessary for proper sanitation. I beg to thank you once more for your kind address of welcome on behalf of myself and Lady Wenlock, and to say that it has given us much pleasure to be present here.

To be noted
in L + M.
Dept.
(Ind. Ct. m.)

Address by the Members of Kerala Mahajana Sabha.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the members of the Kerala Mahajana Sabha—an Association of landholders of various classes in Malabar—beg leave to welcome your Excellency and Lady Wenlock to this historical land of Kerala, and in so doing we desire to express our strong attachment and loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty our beloved Empress and our appreciation of the manifold blessings we enjoy under the British Government, and also our gratitude personally to your Excellency for your indefatigable labours at considerable self-sacrifice on behalf of the millions committed to your care.

2. We are highly thankful to your Excellency for nominating the Honorable C. Sankaran Nair to the Legislative Council in consideration of the peculiar customs, manners and land tenures of this district, which are almost unknown to an outsider, and for which separate representation in council is indispensable.

3. Your Excellency's repeated endeavours to elevate deserving natives to public offices of trust and responsibility have never failed to arouse feelings of gratitude in the hearts of the people of Southern India, and your Excellency's latest act in that direction, viz., the raising of a native of this district, and that a member of the ancient and illustrious house of the Zamorin, to the status of Collector and Magistrate, has endeared your Excellency to our hearts.

4. While we are very grateful for the various benefits we have received from the British Government, we are constrained to bring to your Excellency's notice some of our grievances also. The most important subject which engages the attention of the people of this district now is the Land Survey and Revenue Settlement. It is no exaggeration to say that landholders of all classes, from the highest to the lowest, view the forthcoming settlement with very great apprehension. We desire to impress upon your Excellency's attention the fact that the conditions of land-holding in this district are quite different from those obtaining in other districts. From time out of mind Malabar developed a perfect system of "private ownership in land," which contributed not a little in uniting the Malayalee races into a body corporate in the civil and military organizations of the country. If the cultivated area has increased, and in some instances one-crop land is converted into two-crop land, it must be noted that the whole improvement is due to private capital and labour and there has not been the slightest State aid in that direction. There are no irrigation works maintained by the State to assist the ryots in the cultivation of lands. The unusually large quantity of rain water that we get in some seasons does more harm than good for want of any means to store water to be used in times of scarcity. The facts that all the lands in the district are rainfed or *manavari* and that rainfall is uncertain both as to the time and quantity are, we submit, important factors for consideration in carrying out settlement operations in this district. In these circumstances it is clear that the fixing of the assessment with reference to the value of the produce will work great hardship on the ratepayers. It is a fundamental principle of the Settlement Code that the improvements made at the cultivator's expense will not be taxed. If this principle be ungrudgingly applied to Malabar, we need not entertain much fear; but from what we have seen of the settlement in Wynaad—the first settlement of a proprietary tract in this presidency—we have reasonable grounds for apprehension that the settlement will result in an enhancement of revenue; we therefore most earnestly pray that the proposed settlement may be so conducted as not to end in an increase of taxation, regard being had to the various circumstances above referred to.

5. While we fully appreciate the motives of the Government in passing the Abkari and the Forest Laws, we may be permitted to observe that the zeal of the responsible officers to bring credit to the respective departments by a successful administration results in a rigorous working of the laws and oppression of the poor. The Salt Law, which taxes the most necessary article of life, and which has deprived several thousands of people on this coast of their means of livelihood by prohibiting the manufacture of earth-salt, and the Arms Act, which creates an invidious distinction of races and casts a slur upon a section of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, are viewed with great disfavour by the people at large. We therefore earnestly solicit your Excellency's kind and early attention to the defects in the administration of these laws.

6. We further request that the question of extending the railway to North Malabar from Calicut, and to Dindigul and Cochin from Palghat may receive the favorable consideration of your Excellency, since the opening of these lines is calculated to rapidly develop the trade and commerce of this coast.

In conclusion we most respectfully pray that, as this Sabha forms a recognised institution representing all the various landed interests in Malabar, your Excellency may be pleased to allow it an opportunity of expressing its opinion on all important public measures affecting the interests of the country.

Wishing Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock long life and prosperity.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you for the address of welcome you have addressed to Lady Wenlock and myself and for the expression of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. You first note with satisfaction that the Hon'ble Mr. Sankaran Nair has been appointed again to a place on the Legislative Council. With regard to that I can only say that I hope the presence of that gentleman there will give Government that assistance and advice which we hope to get from a gentleman in his position and knowledge, especially regarding matters connected with this part of the country, and more especially in connection with a matter which he himself brought forward in the Council—I refer to the revision of the Malabar Marriage Laws. You are also pleased to note that Mr. Manavedan Raja has been appointed to act as Collector of a district. This is the first time in the history of this part of the country under British rule that a native has assumed that position. I am glad to think you watch his progress in that position with much care and attention, and I only hope it may be found that the results of his labours in that position will be perfectly satisfactory to all concerned. As you know, he was appointed to act as Judge and now he acts as Collector. I hope we may find, what I might call the experiment, certainly as regards himself, will prove an unqualified success. It is naturally a post which we look upon with great interest, and I sincerely hope, as I said before, that we shall find the result of his labours will go to show that his career is marked as one of success.

THE SETTLEMENT.

You then mention a point which I have no doubt excites a great deal of apprehension in your minds at the present time, that is the survey and settlement of the district—a difficult problem which lies before the Government now as to how to bring the district of Malabar into line, as it were, with the rest of the Presidency. You are aware that almost every other district has been surveyed and a settled assessment has been levied on the people with a view to obtaining from them what may be considered a fair and just assessment, and I hope that, as far as we can say at present, our operations in that direction have not resulted in anything but what is fair and just to all parties. When we come to Malabar we find ourselves confronted with a different state of affairs from that which prevails in every other district of the Presidency. Naturally, this matter has caused us a considerable amount of anxiety. The subject can only be approached with great care, and as the matter has progressed only to a slight extent at present, it is impossible for me to say anything definitely to you as to what may probably be considered a proper and fair assessment. All I can say at present is, that we shall make a point in all our proceedings as we go on of fully taking you into our confidence and giving you an opportunity of expressing your views, so that we may be in a position to know, not only what you think, but also what are all the facts of the case. You say that the levying of the assessment with reference to the value of the produce works a hardship on the ratepayers; but I have some difficulty in understanding how else it can be possible to arrive at a proper assessment in the district if it is to be conducted on different lines to that of other districts. From time immemorial it has been the custom for the Sirkar to allot to itself a certain proportion of the produce of the land. In that connection I think it right to say it is impossible to assess the lands in Malabar on a different system. You also say that it is a fundamental principle of settlement operations that improvements should not be taxed. That, of course, is a well-known axiom which Government has always before it in questions of settlement. You must, however, also be aware that there is always a period in the fiscal history of a district in which settlement has to be taken once for all, after which periodical revisions of assessment are made without taking consideration of the improvements effected by the cultivator. At the first start I don't see how Government can proceed without taking a certain share of the produce of the land. On dry crops naturally the assessment is lower than on better lands, where the produce is rice or cocoanuts, which are a very valuable produce. So long ago as 1805, when Government went into the question, it was an understood thing that the Sirkar should take a certain proportion of the crops then growing on the ground. I don't see how at the present day, nearly 90 years after, we can proceed on different lines to those which have already been followed, and which are generally accepted as the principles which are to guide the settlement of assessment. As you are aware—though you do not actually say so—the survey has disclosed a large excess in the cultivation, and this naturally causes in your mind considerable apprehension as to what the result may be. I need hardly point out to you that the Sirkar considered itself entitled to a certain proportion of the produce of all cultivated lands, and all lands brought under cultivation will naturally be expected to contribute what is held to be a fair share of assessment due to Government. As regards this, it is intended at the next jamabandi to issue to all holders of land a *putta* showing what has been discovered to be the excess found by survey in the area of land a *putta* showing what has been discovered to be the excess found by survey in the area of land before the settlement is concluded what Government will consider the probable amount of land that will come under assessment, and that they may make any representation they choose. This will enable you to see what line the Government intend to adopt. We will not do anything in a hurry, but will give you every opportunity of representing your case and stating anything you may wish to bring forward. I don't suppose the settlement of Malabar will be concluded for some time to come, as it is a difficult and intricate question, and one which will give the Government a great deal of trouble and anxiety.

THE ABKARI AND FOREST LAWS.

The next point is with reference to the Abkari and Forest Laws, the rigorous working of which you say has resulted in oppression to the poor. You do not say anything definite as to the way in which the laws oppress the poor. I can therefore only give you a general answer, that if you have any particular case of oppression by a member of these departments, I would beg you to bring it immediately to the notice of the Collector, who, I am satisfied, will do his utmost to see that the people are not oppressed, and that justice is done in each case. I am not sufficiently familiar with the working of the department in the case of Forest Laws, and I am not aware that you are alluding to one forest more than another. But I understand that, as regards the people who live in them, the Kurumbers and various other tribes have every means of earning their livelihood, within certain limits, afforded them, so that I do not know that they are oppressed, and as regards the people outside, I was not aware that they were oppressed, at all events in the immediate vicinity of Malabar. With regard to the Salt tax, there is no doubt there is a great deal to be said against the Salt tax. All that I can say is that Government finds it absolutely necessary for the raising of revenue necessary to carry on the work of Government to impose such a tax as the Salt tax. I would, as you would, be glad to find it possible to do away with a tax like this, but as matters stand we have to see that it is raised with as little oppression as possible. It is, however, so long now since the manufacture of earth-salt has been done away with that I can hardly believe at the present moment there are many dependent on it for their livelihood.

THE ARMS ACT.

As regards the Arms Act, as far as I can understand it, it seems that in this district the Arms Act is intended to preserve the public peace, and as much as anything for the special protection of the gentlemen I see before me. I believe, owing to the introduction of the Arms Act, you gentlemen keep the possessions you do and live in the harmony which prevails. The past history of the district unfortunately tells us that such an enactment is necessary for the public peace, and I can hardly believe that at the present day its existence is oppressive to anybody. Those persons who wish to protect their crops are enabled in each district to obtain licences within certain limits, and I believe that 4,000 licences have been taken out in one taluk alone. I don't believe the existence of the Arms Act is a hardship on any one. As regards what you say about its being a slur on you, most of you are, I believe, exempt from its provisions; it can hardly, therefore, be called a slur on the gentlemen I see before me.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

You now go on to say that you wish to see the railway extended from Calicut to North Malabar, and from Cochin and Palghat to Dindigul. I have just answered a deputation at some length with regard to railway extension and I can only tell you, what I told them, that the extension of railways was not so much a matter for the local Government as for the Government of India. We can do no more than recommend certain lines to be constructed, and it is for the Government of India to take up the lines for themselves if they are able to do so. They have only a limited sum at their disposal each year, and I am afraid it will be some years before they turn their attention in the direction of Malabar. As you are aware, the Government of India has promulgated rules and regulations for the construction of railways by private enterprise, and I hope it will be found possible to find gentlemen with capital to come forward and take advantage of these rules to construct such a railway as you wish to see. I am not prepared, however, to say that the extension of the railway to North Malabar is in itself advisable at present, because I believe the right policy at the present moment in the history of the country is, not to extend the railways along the coast, where they will compete with the sea traffic, but to connect the interior with the different ports. Not only for this reason will a railway from Calicut to Tellicherry and Mangalore be inadvisable, but also because in that part of the country the cost of construction would be enormous on account of the bridging that would have to be done. It seems to me, therefore, that the railway to North Malabar should not be taken up; but if it should be, it will not do to oppose it, if any one should come forward and ask that the line should be made by private enterprise. You say in conclusion that you are a body from a recognised institution and ask for an opportunity of expressing your views on matters of public importance. I need hardly say that any representation you would like to make will receive the attention it is likely to deserve. Therefore if you feel it incumbent on you to make a representation on any matter connected with the interest and welfare of the people of the district you may do so, only I may express the hope that you will do it through the usual channel, viz., through the Collector, that he may have an opportunity of endorsing it with any recommendations or remarks he may have to make. In conclusion, I beg to thank you for your address and to state that it has given me great pleasure to meet you here to-day.

To be noted
in J. & D. Dept.
(and) O. & M.

Address of the Townsmen of Calicut.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the townsmen of Calicut, beg leave to offer our hearty welcome to your Excellency and Lady Wenlock to this ancient and historic city and we express our feelings of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress whom your Excellency represents in this Presidency.

As this is the first visit of your Excellency to this town, we beg leave to bring to your notice an important question regarding the administration of the municipal affairs of this town. The town of Calicut was for a long time enjoying the privilege of electing its municipal councillors and their Chairman, and that privilege we are sorry to state has been taken away by Government in the year 1890. It is a matter of great regret that the principal town in the district of Malabar should be deprived of this privilege, while the less important towns enjoy it. We therefore earnestly beg your Excellency to reconsider this and restore to us the privilege which we have lost.

Hoping that your Excellency will be able to visit our town once more.—*Calicut, 14th October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you very much for the address you have presented to me welcoming me to your town, and for the expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. In your address you bring to notice one important fact that you would like to see altered, that is you wish to have restored the privilege of electing your own Chairman. You say in 1890 Government deprived you of the privilege which you had enjoyed for some time. In this connection I can only say that as far as Government is concerned we are only anxious to see all the principles of local self-government carried out to the fullest extent. At the same time, I would remind you that Government has placed on it the responsibility of seeing that these principles of self government are properly used. It is absolutely necessary that those who are put forward to represent the people in such an institution as a municipality should watch over and take proper care of the interests of those committed to their charge. On looking back to see what were the reasons which actuated the Government of the day in coming to such a decision in 1890, I find that in 1890 the number of meetings were small and poorly attended, the average attendance being less than one-half; registers of taxes were out of date and no attempt was made to revise them; the arrear collections were grossly neglected; the current collections were very unsatisfactory; education was stationary; the results achieved by the schools were very poor, nearly half of the grants of this branch of the administration used to be allowed to lapse; the vaccination of children was wholly neglected; the registration of vital statistics was imperfect; sanitary defects remained unremedied and large liabilities incurred in years previous to 1889-90 were left unpaid. This, I should say, appears to be a strong indictment to bring forward against the Municipality of a large town like Calicut. Since then, and in consequence of this fact, a paid Chairman was appointed and Government looked for better results. With some exceptions I do not know that the reports submitted since then show any great improvement. Therefore, you may say, as you have said, we are no better off now than then; but, as far as I can see, there are good signs of improvement which I trust will be further developed before long. I can assure you that as soon as satisfactory accounts come in, Government will not oppose any recommendation the Collector is able to make that the privilege may be restored to you. I hope that date will not be long delayed, and that we shall find we are in a position to give back the privilege. As I said before, Government does not wish to take it away or keep it away from you longer than is absolutely necessary. As soon as we have better accounts of you, Government will restore the privilege. As matters are now, I am sorry I cannot give you a more satisfactory answer.

Address of the Timber Merchants of Calicut.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The undersigned inhabitants of Calicut most respectfully beg to approach your Excellency with this humble memorial in the hope that the matters herein set forth will meet with the consideration of your Excellency's Government and obtain for your Excellency's memorialists the relief they seek.

1. The Tahsildar of Calicut has issued notice, copy of which is marginally noted, to the timber merchants of Calicut, to the effect that

You are hereby directed under orders from the Board of Revenue to remove all timber, &c., stored and secured by you on Government land forming the bank of the Kallai river in Nagaram amsam within 20 days from the receipt of this notice; failing which, a quit rent of Rs. 250 per acre will be charged on all the said Government lands in your possession.

You are also requested to sign on the back of the accompanying duplicate notice in token of having seen it, and to return it.

if the timber stored on "Government land forming the bank of the Kallai river" is not removed within 20 days from the date thereof, a quit-rent of Rs. 250 per acre will be charged on all such lands.

2. That the timber trade in Calicut forms one of the most important, if not the most important, trade of the town needs no particular mention, as the trade statistics of Malabar will

abundantly prove it. The annual timber export both by sea and by rail is very large. That the revenue to Government arising therefrom is a very large item of their income from Malabar is also sufficiently clear. At present, the timber merchants have to pay under various heads an enormous sum in the shape of license, land and profession tax to the municipality, land and income tax to the Imperial funds, a registration fee for stamping their names on the timber, and in some cases rent to the several proprietors of lands on the margin of the river. The fact that two-thirds of the population of the town entirely depend on this branch of the profession for their livelihood emphasizes the importance of the trade.

3. The lands adjoining the river are the Jenm properties of private individuals, and though timber is at present stored thereon, still it is absolutely necessary for the purpose of trade that they should be placed within reach of the water, and consequently in the river and on the land between high and low water mark, as will be apparent to all who have ever had occasion to see the storage of timber at Kallai. It is this land that is now described by the Tahsildar as Government land—a claim which is not admitted by the proprietors of the lands bordering the river and which your Excellency's memorialists are informed will be difficult of substantiation.

4. This system of storage has been uninterruptedly carried on from time out of mind and long before the British Government or other foreign Government ever established their supremacy over Malabar, and no Government has ever up to now interfered with this right of the timber-trading population of Calicut, nor has any attempt ever been made to charge the traders making use of the river for such use.

5. Your Excellency's memorialists have been advised that the action by the local authorities in making this demand is illegal, both on the ground that there is no foundation for the claim that the land lying between high and low water mark is the property of Government, and that even if that be so, the uninterrupted user of such land for over sixty years has extinguished any right that the Government may have had to make such a claim. Be this however as it may, your Excellency's memorialists beg to bring to your Excellency's notice that, in the circumstances detailed above, they feel it a very great hardship both to them and to their families, not to speak of those dependent on the trade, to be compelled to obey the notice aforesaid which makes it peremptory either to remove the timber—an utter impossibility, as timber on the banks of Kallai river extends to a space of about 40 acres—or to pay a quit-rent of Rs. 250 per acre—a sum equal to, if not in excess of, the actual value of the land; and they therefore most respectfully pray that your Excellency will condescend to take the matter into your Excellency's consideration and pass such orders as will restore things to the state they were before the issue of the notice.

6. In this connection your Excellency's memorialists beg to bring to your Excellency's notice another grievance they are labouring under. The mouth of the Kallai river is every year blocked by deposit of sand which causes considerable difficulty in landing on, or shipping from, the river and often effectually prevents anything being done in this way. That trade must suffer by this periodical deposit of sand need not be particularly mentioned. Though this matter has been brought to the notice of the local authorities, nothing has been done to prevent the closing of the river. Your Excellency's memorialists therefore pray that this matter also may have the consideration of your Excellency's Government, and that it may please your Excellency's Government to direct the local authorities to attend to the same.

In conclusion, your Excellency's memorialists pray that, in the interest of an important branch of trade which materially contributes to the prosperity of the chief town of Malabar, your Excellency will be graciously pleased to consider the matters now submitted and afford them adequate relief, for which act of kindness your Excellency's memorialists shall, as in duty bound, every pray.—*Calicut, 14th October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

A deputation of timber merchants of the Kallai river next waited on His Excellency with a statement in the form of an address complaining, among other things, that nothing was being done by the authorities to keep the mouth of the river open. As a matter of fact, however, about two years ago Government was prepared to undertake the work if the merchants would consent to place funds at the disposal of Government to meet the initial cost. This sum was calculated by the Executive Engineer to be Rs. 1,000, which would be repaid out of the fees collected from the merchants on the timber which was floated out of the mouth of the river. His Excellency enquired through an interpreter of the spokesman of the deputation, a venerable Moplah gentleman, if the merchants were prepared to deposit Rs. 1,000 as a fund to defray the initial cost of opening the bar. The spokesman, after a consultation with the other members of the deputation, stated that the river bar was now open; but that when it silted up they were prepared to deposit the money. They also consented to pay the scheduled rates for floating logs, planks and scantlings out of the river on condition that they were not required to pay any more taxes. It was, however, represented to him that the High Court had ruled that recent accretions in the river were the property of Government, and that to control the river in the interest of their

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trade it was absolutely necessary that a nominal quit-rent, which Government proposed to fix at Rs. 10 per acre, should be levied on these accretions. The Moplah gentleman at first stoutly denied the right of Government to these accretions; the High Court's decision, he thought, applied to islands forming in the bed of the river; the river banks had been their property from time immemorial, certainly since the last hundred years during which they had plied. Being driven from this point by his Excellency, he at length conceded that the land did belong to Government; but took refuge in the statement that, having to bear the burden of six or seven other taxes, they could not pay the new taxes that it was proposed to levy. If this policy on the part of Government was persisted in, it would, he said, ruin the timber trade of Calicut. His Excellency took great pains to assure him that the quit-rent proposed to be levied was merely nominal and could not by any means ruin the timber trade of Calicut. The spokesman, after much discussion, eventually agreed, but with much misgiving, to a quit-rent of Rs. 5 per acre being levied. Another consultation with his fellow deputationists being held, he came back with the suggestion that the quit-rent should be Rs. 2 per acre. His Excellency informed him that he was not there to haggle over the matter, but as the intention of Government was that the quit-rent was to be nominal, and since the deputation desired it to be Rs. 2 per acre, it should be that amount. The spokesman further agreed to the scheduled rates of fees on timber floated out of the river and to pay the deposit of Rs. 1,000 towards the fund for opening the bar. His Excellency informed the deputation that it was calculated that Rs. 1,600 would be the income from the fees for timber floated out of the river; but if the collections exceeded that amount the excess would be returned, as Government had no intention of making money out of the scheme, but merely wished to conserve the river for the purposes of their trade. The deputation then withdrew after calling down blessings on the Governor for the favorable consideration he had accorded them.

Address of the Mercantile Community of Calicut.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the mercantile community of Calicut, have the honour to offer a hearty welcome to your Excellency and Lady Wenlock to this prosperous and beautiful portion of the Madras Presidency, and we can assure you of the feelings of loyalty to the Throne, and love of law and order, which is felt by us and those we represent.

We take advantage of this the first visit of your Excellency to Malabar to bring to your notice a few questions of vital importance to this town and district. In anticipation of your Excellency's visit a meeting of European and Native merchants, manufacturers, land-owners and others interested in the welfare of the district was held at the Victoria Jubilee Hall, and it was resolved to address your Excellency on the following subjects, viz :—

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Railway extension. | (3) Municipal affairs. |
| (2) The formation of a Port Trust. | |

Railways.—The extension of the present line of railway is one of the most important questions affecting the advancement and prosperity of the Malabar district. The initial mistake of placing the western terminal station of the Madras Railway at Beypore was happily put an end to on 2nd January 1888 by the opening of the line to Calicut, and the most sanguine anticipations of the Railway Company and the deputation who met Sir Theodore Hope, when that gentleman visited Calicut to decide whether the extension to Calicut was to be made or not, have been more than realized, as can be shown by the immense increase in traffic at this end of the line and the interest paid on capital expended on the extension.

The time has arrived when active steps should be taken to connect the chief ports of Malabar with each other and the Wynaad plateau, and also with the Provinces of Coorg and Mysore, by rail.

There is a scheme now under consideration for constructing a railway from Mysore to Mangalore.

If there is room for two lines to connect the coast with the plateau, between Mangalore and Calicut, both inclusive, Mangalore should most probably have one, but we fear that there is not room for two, and assuming this to be the case, it is obvious that the best route with the best outlet or port on the coast should be selected. It is well known to those who are connected with shipping on the coast, that Tellicherry is *facile princeps* the best port within the limits stated. It is provided with a natural boat harbour, and is generally so well protected that shipping operations are seldom impossible even in the monsoon. Its shipping need not, therefore, ever be burdened with heavy dues to meet the cost of, or interest on, break-waters or other marine luxuries! Calicut unfortunately is not protected as Tellicherry is and has no boat-harbour, and Mangalore is the worst off of the three ports. All connected with the shipping of that port know of its dangerous bar, which, even in April, often renders shipping operations difficult and dangerous, and which renders such operations altogether impossible during the monsoon.

Engineers and others tell us that harbours can be made at Mangalore or Calicut: possibly so, but their enormous cost would eventually result in trade being driven from those ports to Tellicherry! Now, assuming that Tellicherry is admitted to be the best, and at the same time a central outlet, the next question is as to how the proposed line of railway should run with a view to serving the district generally.

As a first step we ask that our good friends the Madras Railway Company be permitted to extend up the coast to Tellicherry and Mangalore. It has been stated, and it is gratifying news, that the extension from Beypore to Calicut, though necessarily very costly, pays well, and there can be little doubt that an extension up the coast through a densely-populated and rich district, embracing the towns of Coilandy and Badagara and the French Settlement of Mahé, would pay equally well.

As regards connecting the Mysore and Coorg plateaus with the West Coast, the Mysore Government are ready, we are informed, to extend their line to such point on their frontier as may be fixed on as the best line to the coast.

From flying surveys and a careful examination of the country it has, we believe, been demonstrated that a line can be made starting from Mysore City or Seringapatam, through Western Mysore and the richest part of Coorg, to Tellicherry. Such a line will be about 130 miles long and might be taken up for construction by the Madras Railway Company or the Southern Mahratta Railway Company.

Salt, kerosine-oil, rice, bulky manures (which are much required) and other commodities would in this way find an easy entrance to our hill districts, coffee and timber and all the produce of Mysore and Coorg an easy exit; and by this scheme our coast backwaters would once more be bridged and the district generally opened up.

As feeders, loop lines might run from Gúdálúr through Malabar-Wynaad to the head of the pass down which the line would run, and from Hassan down through Mysore to the same point. The Mysore Government would probably supply the latter and possibly other feeders.

The proposed line, with its Gúdálúr feeder, might in certain eventualities be of considerable service to Government, as troops, &c., could be very easily concentrated at Cannanore from Bangalore and the Hills for embarkation to Upper India, &c.

Another much needed line of railway is an extension of the Madras line to Palni and Dindigul *via* Palghat or Pódanúr. These lines would shorten the distance between Calicut and Dindigul by 127 and 110 miles, or thereabouts, respectively, and would eventually put Malabar in direct railway communication with Quilon, Trivandrum and Tuticorin.

Madura produces oil-seeds and cakes largely, for which there is a large demand in Malabar, but the importation is completely barred now by the cost of carriage over 315 miles—the distance to Dindigul *via* Erode and Trichinopoly.

Malabar in times of scarcity could send large grain supplies to the Madura and adjoining districts by this short line at a moderate cost for carriage. The pilgrim traffic to Palni would be of considerable importance in estimating the profits of this line. The construction of this railway has already been pressed on Government by the merchants of Palghat; the planting community of the Wynaad and Nilgiris are deeply interested in its construction, with a view to being able to get labour readily and cheaply from the Madura district for their tea industry.

Port Trust.—The port of Calicut contributes a very considerable sum yearly in the form of "dues;" the amount can readily be arrived at by referring to the annual public accounts of trade, &c. The entire amount of the dues collected here and at other coast ports goes to Madras, and no inconsiderable portion of these funds have been swallowed up, we believe, in the construction of the Madras harbour, &c., while little or nothing is done to improve our port. The pier erected by Government had to be taken over, and is for the most part maintained, by a few mercantile firms.

When His Excellency Sir Grant Duff visited Calicut this matter was brought to his notice, and he personally cordially agreed to our proposal that our funds and all matters connected with the port should be managed by a Port Trust. Unfortunately this matter was not followed up at the time, but we avail ourselves of this opportunity to bring the necessity for a Port Trust prominently to the notice of your Excellency. And in this connection we should beg of Government to extend the northern limit of the port, so as to enable shippers and consignees of cargo to send off and land goods at the Varakal beach, when, as is so frequently the case in May and June, this is the only sheltered spot where shipping or landing operations can be carried on.

For the past 40 years shipping and landing operations have been carried on at Varakal beach at all times when the state of the weather and sea prevented cargo-boats touching at any point within port limits; objections have recently been raised to the use of this beach for shipping and landing cargo and passengers on account of its being beyond the limits of the port. No objection can be made to extend the limits and so facilitate the sea-borne trade of our port.

We further have the honour to ask your Excellency to consider the question of having a road constructed out of Port funds from the Custom-house to the Varakal beach, as such a road is urgently required by merchants for conveying goods for shipment to Varakal, where a large, open customs shed is much required for the protection of cargo.

By an arrangement made by His Excellency Sir Grant Duff with the merchants of Calicut, the pier was handed over to a small Company in the year 1883, and it has since been maintained in fair order.

No additions have been made to the pier such as the trade of the port call for: the present T. head is much too small and unsuitable for landing rice, &c.,—a great drawback to its public usefulness. We beg that with the creation of a Port Trust arrangements should be made for the taking over the pier from the Calicut Pier Company, Limited, adding to and improving it for the public benefit.

We think the following figures connected with the trade of the port may be of interest to your Excellency, and they show the growth of the sea-borne trade:—

					RS.
1877-78. Value of Exports	..	..	..	..	40,55,096
" " Imports	..	..	..	..	1,22,66,004
			Total	..	1,63,21,100
1883-84. Value of Exports	..	..	..	..	53,14,884
" " Imports	..	..	..	..	40,10,711
			Total	..	93,25,595
1892-93. Value of Exports	..	..	..	..	77,74,080
" " Imports	..	..	..	..	34,15,367
			Total	..	1,11,89,447

In 1877-78 large quantities of rice were imported during the famine. The exports have steadily increased.

The timber trade of this port is one of considerable dimensions and has been carried on from time immemorial along the banks of the Kallai river, the land on either side of which belongs to Janmis (Landlords) who have hitherto exercised their rights of ownership unchallenged, and have stacked and kept their timber on the river frontage of their lands. Now, we are informed, orders have been issued to tax all these timber depôts, and this the owners resent as an illegal and oppressive act. We pray your Excellency to enquire into this matter. The timber trade is a large and important one; since the extension of the railway into Calicut two steam-saw mills have been erected at Kallai, one to the east and one to the west of the railway, with sidings running into the mills, and a third saw-mill is now in prospect, all adding to the industrial importance of our town, and the profits of the railway in carrying sawn timber to the East Coast, Kolar Mines, and elsewhere.

We cannot but think that some misapprehension exists regarding the ownership of the foreshore or river frontage, or (on the Janmis' side) with reference to the proposed tax.

The permanent opening of the mouth of the Kallai river is a matter demanding the early and special attention of the Port authorities, both from a commercial and sanitary standpoint.

Several of our body are proprietors of coffee-curing works which employ a very considerable number of the poorer classes of the population at healthy and easy work; being intimately connected in business with planters, custodians of their property, and representing proprietors of coffee estates in different parts of the country, these gentlemen beg most respectfully to join in the planters' appeal to Government for the liberal amendment of Act VIII of 1878 (as pointed out in the memorial of the Nilgiri Planters' Association), and that it may be strictly enforced in every taluk of Malabar. At present the Act is not in force in the Palghat taluk although all the coffee crops from the Nelliampathy (Cochin) hills pass through this taluk *en route* to the coast for curing and shipment. The Cochin Government are, we are glad to find, taking steps to apply a similar Act in Cochin territory.

Finally, we have the honour to ask your Excellency to favourably consider the question of permitting the rate-payers of Calicut to have once more the right of electing their municipal councillors and Chairman, as prayed for in the memorial presented to His Excellency the Governor in Council in 1890.

Hoping that you may be able and inclined to revisit our district at some future time and that your Excellencies may be able to look back with pleasure on this visit.—Calicut, 6th October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply.

The address these gentlemen have presented to me deals with three points. First of all with regard to the question of railway extension they ask that the railway should be extended from Calicut to Tellicherry and Mangalore. I have already explained to another deputation that, as at present advised, I think it more desirable to connect the ports on the sea-coast with railways that run into the interior, rather than make lines which will only compete with the sea

traffic. With that object a reconnaissance has been made between Mangalore and Tellicherry to connect with the South Mahratta Railway. As regards the extension of the railway to this part of the country, I hope it will be found possible for gentlemen to come forward with capital to construct them as a private enterprise. These gentlemen will see that it is not within the power of the Madras Government to construct a railway itself, but that the Government of India has entire control over the State Railways. The Madras Government has recommended to the Government of India several proposals to extend the railways to the West Coast. The Port Trust is the next question they bring forward, and ask that such a trust should be formed for the purposes of the port of Calicut. I will look into the matter and will give it my careful consideration. They then ask that the port should be extended to the Varakal beach. I understand that there is an objection to extending the port as a port as far as that; but those of the merchants who wish it may land or ship goods from that beach during the monsoons when the weather there is calmer. The Collector here will undertake to see that proper facilities are given for the purpose on their paying the necessary expenses. As regards the road from the Custom-house to Varakal beach along the sea-shore, I am informed that it will be extremely expensive on account of its foundations. (His Excellency suggested that the existing road, half a mile inland, should be used which joined the Cannanore road which led to Varakal beach). The next question they mention is with regard to the pier. They asked that the Port Trust should take over the charge of the pier and improve it. As regards this I find that some years ago in 1882, the pier was handed over to a Company who undertook to look after it, Government contributing two-thirds of the cost of putting it in order. This year, in May, complaints were made by the Presidency Port Officer that the pier was not in good condition. A Board of Investigation was held which found that Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Company considered it quite satisfactory and met all the requirements of the port. We must believe Messrs. Peirce, Leslie & Company, who are doing such a large business here and must know what the requirements of the trade are. The next question they go into is the question of the Kallai river. That point has just been thoroughly threshed out and I hope the arrangement we have now come to will prove satisfactory. The next point they mention is in connection with the Coffee-stealing Act VIII of 1878. With regard to that there is a Government Order on the subject which came out about a fortnight ago, by which the provisions of the Act were extended to the Palghat, Walawanad and Ponnani taluks. The next point they mention is the election of a Municipal Chairman. I have already pointed out to a deputation that waited on me in connection with this matter that Government will be pleased to restore the privilege as soon as it is satisfied that the affairs of the Calicut Municipality are in a satisfactory condition. In conclusion, I have to thank you for the address you have just presented to me and to assure you that I am pleased to see you here to-day.

Address of the Inhabitants of Palghat.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the inhabitants of Palghat and its neighbourhood, while cordially welcoming Your Excellency and Her Excellency Lady Wenlock to our district, gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity, so graciously accorded by Your Excellency, of submitting the following on a subject which is of great moment to our town and indeed to the district and Presidency at large, viz., the extension of the Railway from Palghat to Dindigul and to Cochin.

2. We respectfully beg to mention that, at the beginning of the year 1891, the inhabitants of Palghat and its neighbourhood submitted a memorial to Your Excellency in Council inviting your attention to the need that existed for the extension of the present Palghat branch of the Madras Railway to Dindigul and to Cochin. We have therein given accurate statistical information showing that, on the assumption that 20 cart-loads go to a railway wagon load and 15 wagons to a train, it would require about 1,500 trains annually between Dindigul and Palghat, about 800 between Palghat and Dindigul, about 1,000 between Palghat and Cochin and about 400 between Cochin and Palghat to carry the goods traffic alone. We have also therein shown that about 8,000 head of cattle come from the Dindigul side *monthly*, and that a considerable portion of these would be rail-borne. We have further shown that the passenger traffic on these lines would be very large throughout the year owing to the enormous number of pilgrims that go to the Palnis, Madura and Ramisseram. We have also further stated that the proposed line between Palghat and Dindigul was strongly recommended by the Railway Committee of 1873 and by the Famine Commission, and approved by Your Excellency's predecessor, Lord Connemara.

3. We would invite Your Excellency's kind attention, in this connection, to the opinion of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, expressed by its Chairman in his letter to Government, in which he drew its attention to the memorial of the inhabitants of Palghat, and stated that the Chamber shared the opinion of the memorialists that such important towns as Dindigul, Cochin and Palghat should be connected by a railway, that it would respectfully urge upon the Government the great desirability of the construction of the lines indicated, both for the benefit of the districts through which they would pass and of the Presidency generally, that it desired to strongly support the proposal that the lines should be undertaken by the Madras Railway Company, for by this means transshipment and delays at junction stations would be avoided, and there

For consideration in the Marine Dept. (Indy. Ofc.)

To be noted in Marine Dept. (Indy. Ofc.)

would be less risk of damage to goods in transit from break of bulk, that the direct connection by broad gauge of these towns with the large towns of the Madras Railway system to the east, and in view of the opening of the lately projected East Coast Railway would be of great advantage to the whole Presidency, and that the Chamber ventured to hope that Government would give the proposals contained in the memorial of the inhabitants of Palghat its best consideration.

4. It is a matter for sincere congratulation that Your Excellency is reported to have said in reply to an address presented at Madura in November 1892 as follows:—

“The main point brought to notice was the construction of two railways—the Dindigul-Palghat and the Madura-Pamban Railways—and all he could say was that he would only be too glad to see these works completed, which would naturally confer great advantages on the people. But the matter rested entirely with the Government of India which had the disposal of all monies connected with the construction and extension of railways. It had at present a large and important project in Burma which was occupying its attention, and other projects in other places, and consequently he thought it would not now be in a position to offer much assistance to any other lines. He promised, however, to do all he could to impress upon the Government of India the importance of the schemes with a view to seeing whether the lines could not be completed soon. Should he be successful, he assured them that no pains would be spared on his part to render them the assistance they needed.”

5. We have since learnt that projects which were under consideration only for a short time have already been sanctioned by the Government of India, whereas the Dindigul-Palghat and the Palghat-Cochin lines, whose importance had been acknowledged, have been left unnoticed for several years. We have heard that, in some quarters, it has been suggested that, if there are lines to Dindigul and to Cochin, they should start from Pódanúr and Shoranur or Pattámbi, respectively. We most respectfully beg Your Excellency's permission to state that, to us who know by personal experience these places which are only insignificant villages, it is impossible to believe that such proposals have been given any consideration at all. If the Madras Railway suffers from anything, it suffers from the faulty alignment of its main line which avoids touching such important towns as Arcot, Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore and Palghat, though as regards some towns it has since been remedied by the opening of branch lines. If any lines are started from Pódanúr and Shoranur or Pattámbi, such lines, we need scarcely say, will be quite unsuited for the purpose for which they are opened. Palghat, which has justly been designated the great emporium of trade between the East and the West Coasts of the Presidency, receives east and west goods which are largely sent in the first instance to Palghat, and then through the traders of this town forwarded to their destination. We are intimately acquainted with the inhabitants of our district and we can confidently assure Your Excellency that lines to Dindigul and to Cochin from any other place would fail to divert the large trade which now exists with the town of Palghat. The line from Palghat to Dindigul will connect Calicut and Dindigul, passing through Pollachi, Udumalpet and Palni, giving thereby great impetus to trade. The line from Palghat to Cochin will pass through the richest rice-growing portions of the Malabar district and Cochin territory, and tap the splendid forests of Pattikad, the timber of which forests is at present inaccessible, being too far away to cover the cartage to the nearest Railway station of Palghat.

In conclusion, we beg to mention that we have taken the liberty of addressing Your Excellency on this subject, which is of the highest importance to this and the adjoining districts, in the full assurance that it will receive Your Excellency's most favorable consideration.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to the address just presented, I beg to thank you in the first place on behalf of Lady Wenlock and myself for the kind words of welcome it contains. The main point of your address is connected with the question of railway extension on your part of the country.

THE PALGHAT-COCHIN RAILWAY.

As you say yourselves, I was approached on the subject at what I may term the other end of the line, and I was able to express myself thoroughly in sympathy with what was then presented in the memorial on that occasion. I can only say to you who live at this end of the line that I have nothing to add to the words I said then, but simply to express to you my thorough recognition of the wants of the district of Palghat in the matter of railway extension. But, as I pointed out then, the question of railway extension does not rest so much in the hands of the Local Government as in the hands of the Government of India. The policy of the Government of India has been to set aside a certain sum each year for railway extensions, and it rests with that Government to choose which lines should be taken up first. The fact that your line, in the opinion of the Local Government, should some time or another be constructed, has been laid before the Government of India, and I can only tell you that it is down on its list for taking up at some future time. When that time will be of course it is impossible for me to say or give any indication. The Government of India has laid out a large sum of money lately in the Madras Presidency and is still engaged on a large work, the East Coast Railway, which, for some years

to come at all events, will take up a large amount of the money it has at its disposal for spending in the Madras Presidency. I am afraid, therefore, that I cannot hold out much hope of the Government of India coming in your direction at present. As you may have seen, the Government of India has lately promulgated rules for the guidance of persons who may wish to take up railway extension as a private enterprise. I can only hope that some enterprising body of capitalists may come forward and take up your railway as part of their enterprise. At the present moment there is before the Government of India an application by a Mr. Gale for permission to construct the Palghat-Cochin line without any guarantee; but he asks for three years to complete the survey and float the scheme. The matter is under consideration; but without going into the question, I may say it appears to me that such a long time as three years does not look favorable. I can only hope that somebody else will come forward to construct the line in a more expeditious manner than that proposed by that gentleman and his syndicate. You pointed out as regards the line, that you wish to see Palghat connected with Cochin direct without going round by Shoranur. On that point I would like to say a few words. The most recent survey is the direct line from Palghat to Trichur and Karupadna (the head of the Cochin back-water). It was carried out in 1889-91 by the Madras Railway, and is 60½ miles long, and is estimated to cost Rs. 1,81,000 per mile. It crosses the Kutheran ghât and involves a tunnel 2½ long between Vatakkanjéri and Pattigod, costing 27 lakhs—gradients $\frac{1}{10}$. Since this survey, the Cochin Durbar instructed their Engineer to report if this tunnel could be avoided. He stated that from a rough examination it appeared possible by taking the line further south between Vatakkanjéri and Pattigod, the line would be lengthened one mile but the tunnel would be avoided. A detailed survey of this is now being made. The other routes from Shoranur and from Pattámbi were surveyed in 1868 and subsequent years by the Madras Railway and estimated to cost about 1 lakh per mile, the length being 59½ miles and 60½ miles respectively. In reviewing the direct line survey and estimates the Madras Government came to the same conclusion as the Board of Directors of the Madras Railway that its cost was prohibitive, and that a better alternative would be to build a line from Pattámbi or Shoranur to Cochin. So you see, as far as we can tell at present, it is very much cheaper to build a line from Shoranur than from Palghat, a lakh and a half a mile being the cost for the one and only a lakh for the other. Therefore, if anything is likely to be done in the construction of this railway, it is more likely the cheaper route will be adopted than the dearer one. The line you mention is one that has often been before us, and we fully recognise its importance; but beyond recommending it, as we have already done to the Government of India, I am afraid the Government of Madras cannot hold out any hope itself to do anything more on your behalf. I hope you will understand as far as my sympathy goes it is entirely with you, and if it is possible to assist you to get the extension you ask for you may depend on our doing the best we can. I do not know that I have anything now to add to this, but to thank you for your kind address and to assure you that it has given me great pleasure to receive you here to-day.

His Excellency's Speech at Kerala Vidhyasala, Calicut, Distribution of Prizes.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I should like in the first place to express to you and all those who are specially interested in this institution, the great pleasure I have experienced in being here this afternoon to witness and preside at the distribution of prizes at the end of the last year's work of the school. It is naturally a matter of great satisfaction to one like myself who has visited different parts of the Presidency to find the great interest taken in such an institution as this. Government, as you are aware, are fully occupied in providing, as far as they possibly can, a proper and suitable education to all classes and creeds within this country; but their power of doing this is only limited by the unfortunate financial position which, I fancy, affects more or less all Governments. If we had any power, we would double and even treble contribution from provincial funds for education in this country, but unfortunately education, like other matters, has to be somewhat curtailed in consequence of the shortness of the provincial purse. Therefore it is that we hail with great satisfaction the efforts which are made either by private individuals or corporations to come forward and assist Government in that great work which the Government have before them which they would like to see constantly pushed, viz., the cause of general education. It is not often that we find gentlemen in the position of the Zamorin of Calicut coming forward and showing by their endeavours and efforts that they recognize the importance of the subject. I think those who are in such a position, viz., those who have large property, must recognise that as their duty and as their privilege. I do not think there is attaching to the owners of the land any greater responsibility than to provide a suitable and proper education for those who are and more immediately connected with them, and whose interests are connected with theirs in that position. Therefore I say that it is with special satisfaction I find in this particular part of the country the Zamorin of Calicut has come forward to assist Government in providing as far as he can excellent education and instruction for boys of the castes whose cause he particularly wishes to advance. The efforts which are made in his behalf are shown by the numbers which are attending this institution. The Principal has shown us how the numbers have gone up from 306 to 320 during 1892 to 1893, and since then there has been an addition of as many as 31, i.e., in the first few months of this year. This shows at least events that this institution is popular among those for whom it is intended. I think the Principal must be congratulated on being able to attract so many more within the walls of this institution.

At the same time the Principal, naturally identified and closely connected with the work of such a school as this, is obliged to confess that there are certain points in which he sees room for improvement. He points out what they are, and also points out at the same time there is a way for overcoming the difficulties which have rather stopped the progress of this institution in its fullest development. He shows us, too, that while proper attention is being paid to the mental part of education, the physical part is not being neglected. The apparatus for gymnastics has been provided, and a gymnasium has been built, and the authorities are doing all that they possibly can to see that while boys are receiving education in the class rooms, when they are within the college, they devote proper attention to a very important part of education, viz., that of gymnastics. In all parts of India—at all events in this part of the country—this portion of the education of the younger children is not being neglected, and for some years past there has been a suitable provision made in this respect. At all events in this school the difficulties in this direction are now being remedied and attention is paid to that special branch of education. The Principal has referred to the extra stringency of the Matriculation and F.A. Examinations, and in regard to that he is perfectly willing to acknowledge that the Senate have a right to insist upon a still higher standard of education throughout the country. I am glad to say that the progress of education throughout this country is advancing with most rapid strides, and it is only necessary that as education advances, still more stringent examinations must be demanded from those who are receiving that education. I hope that in a short time the general body of students will attain a higher and more perfect standard than they had as yet done. It is also a matter of satisfaction to find that the library is being extended, and the Zamorin has shown an enlightened and liberal policy in granting Rs. 100 a year for purchasing books. The students are availing themselves of the privileges, and we may only hope that as the library increases so the readers within its walls will also increase. The list of improvements read to us by the Principal is very satisfactory, and I hope he may soon find himself reaching the limits of what he considers necessary for the proper development of the school, so that a sounder and more perfect education might be given to those who come within its walls. I heartily and cordially wish this institution every success. Under the present Principal there is reason to believe that further progress and further improvement will be shown as time goes on, and I wish him long life and prosperity while he is here and Principal of this institution. (Cheers.) I do not know if any further words are called for from me. To all students who have come here to receive instruction I would say this, that this is the particular time of their life in which only they can receive proper education so as to fit them for life, and those who choose to be careless and idle at school will repent it all their years after. To them education is the key which opens the door of vast advancement in every degree of life they may be called upon to fill. To some the highest limit of human happiness is to enter Government service, and to these, I wish to say, that Government service is limited, and it demands yearly a higher standard from those who enter it. The competition is getting keener and keener, and the members seeking Government appointments are larger and larger, while the number of posts remains the same. There are other openings to you in life, and even in them advancement cannot be got unless you have received a perfect education. I sincerely hope that you will not throw away the advantages offered here, and you will take advantage of the younger years of life. If you do not do it, I am afraid you will regret in years to come that you have not taken advantage of what has been so kindly and liberally provided you here. In conclusion, I beg to thank you for the great interest you have shown in this institution by your presence here to-day and express on behalf of those present the satisfaction we have had in being present at such an interesting ceremony as that which we have been witnessing.

Address by the Municipal Councillors of Tellicherry.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—With feelings of loyalty and devotion we, the members of the Municipal Council of Tellicherry, have assembled here to-day to offer your Excellency and Lady Wenlock a hearty welcome on this the occasion of your visit to our little town.

Five years ago we had the honour of welcoming your Excellency's predecessor in our midst, and we then availed ourselves of the opportunity to request his Excellency to lay the foundation stone of the Jubilee Market, which his Excellency readily consented to do; and now, the structure having been completed, a long-felt want has been satisfied.

An unusual accident, the result of the severity of last years' monsoons, forced to our immediate attention a work of a very urgent nature, viz., the making of the Coast Cliff road which was so seriously damaged in one part as to cause suspension of all traffic by that road and to necessitate an allotment of 10,000 rupees towards its re-construction and repair. We take this opportunity of thanking your Excellency for sanctioning the loan of 5,000 rupees we were compelled to apply for and which has enabled us to tide over what would otherwise have been a great financial embarrassment, and to take immediate steps for the making of the road that is now progressing satisfactorily.

Though visits like the present are regarded as opportunities for furnishing explanations, beseeching favours, or representing grievances, yet, considering that other means of communication are available to us for such purposes, we will not detain your Excellency by any reference to them here; but we shall be failing in our duty as the spokesmen of the rate-payers if we did not avail

ourselves of this occasion to impress on your Excellency one matter the importance of which in a commercial and social point of view can hardly be exaggerated—we mean our isolation from all touch of railway communication.

The commercial importance of the town of Tellicherry is too well known to require statistical proofs, taking as we do a prominent place in figures of export and import; and though we fully appreciate the advantages we now enjoy, yet we feel the want very keenly, and if we can hope to have the benefit of such communication, at any rate with Mysore and Coorg, extended to us at no distant date, the development of our trade and that of the neighbouring districts and provinces and the rise of our town to the forefront of commercial importance will, we make bold to say, be assured.

Permit us, your Excellency, to express to you our gratification at the honour you and Lady Wenlock have done us in visiting our little town, and to assure you that we yield to none in those qualities that stamp the subject as devoted and loyal subjects of the Queen-Empress, whose worthy representative in this Presidency we have now in our midst. We trust that even after your Excellency leaves these shores, yours will be a career of usefulness to this country and that your Excellency and Lady Wenlock, whose advent among us is a source of extreme pleasure to us, will always have kindly recollections of this picturesque little town of ours.—*Tellicherry, October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I should like on behalf of myself and Lady Wenlock, to express to you our great thanks for the extremely kind manner in which you have welcomed us to your town and received us. We can only, on our part, express to you the great pleasure that we feel on coming round to see the objects of the West Coast, among which Tellicherry may not be one of the least. In the address which you present to us, you only mention one particular point which you consider to be of special importance and which you wish to press home upon the attention of Government. That is the question of railway communication, to which you feel yourselves so very much inclined. I think, just on landing, you will excuse me if I do not enter into this question just now. The fact is that I have a large number of addresses to reply to, almost all of which touch upon this important point. I think it will be better to reserve till afternoon the further consideration of this question. You may be certain that this particular point will not be lost sight of. I think it would be better to treat of it a little later than at present. But you may depend upon it that it is one that I will be careful to allude to. I do not know that there is anything further for me at the present moment to say beyond repeating the great pleasure that we feel in having been able to be present here this morning.

Address of the Inhabitants of Tellicherry.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Committee appointed at a general meeting of the inhabitants of Tellicherry and its suburbs to be their representatives on this great occasion of your Excellency's visit, do respectfully and loyally welcome your Excellency into our midst, as the kind and sympathetic ruler of the millions entrusted to your care by that august and beloved Sovereign—at once the large-hearted mother of nations, the first lady of the day, and among the best of rulers of any age or land.

We take this opportunity to assure your Excellency in person that we have a deep sense of the blessings of British rule, and that we are confident of the desire of our rulers to promote the interest and well-being of their subjects. And in this confidence we now venture to lay before your Excellency some of our grievances, doing so with an abundant hope that our representations will not all be vainly made.

Firstly, let us beg leave to tell your Excellency that all Malabar views with reasonable alarm the approaching Settlement of this district, for there can be no doubt that the measure will result in raising the land revenue to a prohibitive height. We have seen how the Wynad Settlement has raised the land-cess to such an extent that it has seriously affected the prosperity of that taluk and has reduced thousands from opulence to beggary, and we cannot, from a close knowledge of our own affairs, expect that other results will follow were the Settlement laid down in the other parts of the district. We beg leave to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that land in Malabar is the private property of the people, and that any improvement now observable has been due to the unaided exertions of the "private owners," who have received no aid whatsoever from the State, either in the way of irrigation works, remissions of tax in seasons of drought, or loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. And therefore, the landowners feel it a grievance that a Settlement should be contemplated which would virtually deprive them of a large portion of the fruits of their own industry. It would also be desirable to have all papers connected with the Settlement given due and early publicity, as then the people would have timely notice of operations that so closely touch their interests. At present they are in the dark as to the manner in which the Settlement programme progresses. We also beg leave to point out to your Excellency that the collection of kist in four instalments every year, and at a season when the cultivator is simply unable to raise money on the produce of his fields, tells heavily on the country, and we beg of your Excellency to give your earnest consideration to this matter.

We next beg permission to express ourselves on the important subject of railway extension in this province. We will not weary your Excellency with facts and figures, doubtless already before you, in support of our pleading for the extension of the railway from Calicut to Tellicherry-Cannanore. But we can confidently assure your Excellency that the proposed line would tap a most fertile strip of territory, give an impetus to the trade of the southern portion of the Presidency, and enhance the prosperity of a large section of the subject population.

We would ask leave also to say a few words about the Salt and Abkari Laws as they operate in this district. The enhancement of the duty on salt is a source of keen discomfort to the poorer inhabitants, while the rigorous application of the Abkari Laws has created grave discontent among a very peaceable and contented section of the people. Your Excellency might be aware that there are means, not the most desirable, by which good results of Abkari administration are arrived at. We pray that your Excellency would move for the reform of both Salt and Abkari administration.

We leave these our wants and grievances in your Excellency's hands, feeling confident of the issue.

It now remains for us earnestly and loyally to express the hope that Her Excellency Lady Wenlock and your Excellency may derive much pleasure and benefit from this your brief sojourn in our beautiful and historical district. We would hail the day that would see your Excellency, after this term of your high office is over, come back to rule again over millions in this country. And wishing Lady Wenlock and your Excellency a long, prosperous and happy career on earth.—*Tellicherry, 19th October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you for the address which you have been kind enough to present me on my coming here for the first time. I am pleased to note what you say about your deep sense of the blessings of British rule and of your confidence in those who are carrying on the administration of this country. You then allude to one or two points which you are anxious to bring to the attention of Government; and the first you lay any stress upon is in connection with settlement. As regards the settlement in this particular part of the country, I do not think at the present moment I am in a position to give you any information. I understand the survey has not yet been completed. The whole matter is now receiving the attention of Government, and in a short time we will be in a position to know what should be the course of action in this particular district. But I can assure you that before the scheme is put into force every opportunity will be given to those who are interested in the matter to make any representation they wish to make to the Settlement officer and those connected with him. If necessary, I should be very glad to receive a deputation on the subject. I need hardly say that we do not wish to introduce this measure harshly and rigorously, or in any way unjustly. But we are anxious that all parties should have an opportunity of citing their own case before anything is finally concluded. You mention one point on which you wish to see an alteration made, that is, as regards kistbundy. I have ascertained, as far as I can, the exact position of kistbundy, and it appears that it has been thoroughly gone into only a few years ago, and the decision then arrived at is still considered to be satisfactory. You do not say yourselves where you consider the pressure of the kist to lie. I find that this matter was again gone into, and the Government issued rules fixing four kists not earlier than December or later than May, and finally four equal kists were sanctioned in 1889. The first crop is reaped in September-October, and the kist is due in December. Pepper crop comes in November and the kist in January. The two largest yields of coconuts fall due in December and January, and the kist in February. The second rice crop is reaped between 25th January and 25th February, while the kist is in March. Those that went into the subject at the time thought that these were the best arrangements possible. However, if you point out how these kists press hard on the cultivators and if you specify what your points are and send them through the Collector, I shall be glad to consider them. Government are anxious that these kists should be fixed so as to fall with the least inconvenience on the cultivator. This matter has only been looked into four years ago and these dues were fixed with reference to crop-harvests, and it is difficult to say how we can arrive at better conclusions. If you mention any points they will be considered. It appears that there were originally ten kists and they were reduced to four, and there is no intention to reduce them to one, as there seems to be some idea in your minds that they should be reduced to one. There is no intention of altering the present system, and it is believed by those most concerned in the matter that the present system is the best one. As regards railways as I said to the gentlemen who preceded you about this question, I should be glad to see myself the railway system extended to Tellicherry, as it would be an undoubted advantage to this part of the country. The question of ways and means is an important one, and I am afraid you will get very little assistance from the local Government in this matter, because all these have been taken out of our hands, and rest with the Government of India. You say the enhancement of salt duty is felt keenly by the poor inhabitants; the local Government has no power in this matter. The question of enhancement of the duty is considered by the Government of India and was put on five years ago, and it is outside the power of the local Government to do anything in regard to this matter. As regards abkari administration, I am well aware there is a very large number of officers connected with this department who are in constant communication with the people, and possibly there might be oppression and illegal acts

committed by certain members of that department, and all I beg of you is that you should bring these to the notice of the Collector, who will do his utmost to see that these laws are administered in a proper and fitting manner. In safeguarding the interests of the State revenues it is necessary that these rules and regulations should be strictly enforced. I think these are all the points you have brought to my notice, and have to thank you in conclusion for your address, and assure you of the pleasure I have had in being present here this afternoon.

Address of the Mercantile Community of Tellicherry.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the European and Native representatives of the commercial enterprise of this town, beg to tender to your Excellency and Lady Wenlock a most respectful welcome to North Malabar, and at the same time to assure you that no class is imbued with feelings of greater loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and to you as her representative here, than ourselves.

While we fully appreciate the many advantages we enjoy, we gladly take the opportunity of your Excellency's presence in our midst to bring to your notice one or two matters which very materially affect the future trade of this town, and which if carried out will not only benefit us but the community in general.

We will not at the present time enter into details as regards statistics, as your Excellency's time is so limited, and reference can be better made at head-quarters as to these.

We may mention, however, that for many years Tellicherry has been the fourth port in the Presidency as regards value of exports and imports, the ports taking precedence being Madras, Tuticorin and Cocanada.

We believe that the trade returns for the year ending 31st March 1892 show a slight diminution, due to short crops of coffee and pepper, and a great decline on the value of the latter, and to the high price of rice at the producing centres checking imports; but we think we are justified in saying that these causes are merely temporary. The official reports of the prospects of coffee in Coorg show a considerable increase over those of last season, while the pepper crop is expected to be very much larger than that of last season.

The imports of rice must tend to increase, as the district cannot now grow a sufficient quantity for the requirements of the existing and annually-increasing population.

Madras and Tuticorin have long had railway communication with the interior. Cocanada is now being connected by rail. Calicut has had a railway for some years with, we believe, the result of considerably increasing the trade of the port.

What, therefore, we respectfully beg to impress on your Excellency is the urgent need for and importance of giving to Tellicherry railway communication at an early date with the country generally.

For some years there have been rumours that the Madras Railway intended to extend its line to Tellicherry, and we should heartily welcome such an extension.

There is at the present time a very large produce and passenger traffic between Calicut and Tellicherry, and the intermediate towns of Quilandy, Badagara and Mahé, which would undoubtedly be greatly increased if a railway ran between the two former towns. We would point to the great success of the Beypore-Calicut extension of 6 miles which, although in that short distance two large bridges had to be constructed, already yields, we believe, over 5 per cent. net profit on the outlay, chiefly, we understand, from passenger traffic.

At the same time we feel convinced that a railway from Mysore through Coorg and North Malabar would be of far more importance to this port and the country generally, and have more profitable results to all concerned than a line from Calicut.

This matter has been brought to the notice of several of your Excellency's predecessors.

Such a line would pass through portions of the fertile district of Mysore, through Coorg, where there are about 30,000 acres of almost continuous coffee cultivation of a very high class, and the crop of which is this year expected to be over 5,000 tons of plantation coffee alone, besides several thousand tons of native-grown coffee, and through the district of North Malabar the eastern portions of which are thickly wooded with more or less valuable timber for which there is much demand in Bombay and Kurrachee—the western division full of pepper gardens, the produce of which also comes to this port for shipment.

Much of the rice and salt imports go to Coorg and Mysore, and such a line as we suggest would afford a cheap outlet to many kinds of produce grown throughout Mysore—sandalwood, oils and seeds of various descriptions, which, if exported now, have either to go by train to Madras some 300 miles, or still further to Bombay, whereas the distance to Tellicherry is about 120 miles.

To give your Excellency an idea of the cost of road traffic, we would mention that it now costs to bring coffee down from Coorg, a distance of, say, 60 miles, about Rs. 20 per ton, while the cost to Calicut by train for a similar distance would be about Rs. 4-4-0 per ton, and the cost of conveying a ton of coffee to London, 8,000 miles, is only about 35 shillings or, say, Rs. 28!

These 30,000 acres of coffee require large annual supplies of extraneous manures, the use of which would be greatly increased (tending to increased crops for the railway to bring down) but for the enormous cost of upward carriage, which in some cases is as much as the coast cost of the manure.

We need scarcely remind your Excellency of the immense benefit which it would be to the country at the Eastern end of the proposed line to have an alternative route in case of famine by which to throw grain into the distressed districts, and so avoid the congestion which is so apt to happen when there is only one line of supply.

The port of Tellicherry is particularly well situated for being the outlet of a line such as we have advocated. Shipment is easy and cheap, and can be carried on, we may say, throughout the year, except during bursts of the monsoon.

We believe that those experts who have gone over the country which would be traversed by the proposed line consider that the facilities for easy and cheap construction are greater than in other districts which have been examined with a view to railway extension to the West Coast.

In the meantime we would respectfully suggest that more attention be paid to existing means of communication in all directions.

On the Southern side, the Ellattoor and Quilandy bridges have been down since 1882, involving great delay to passengers and goods traffic and much exposure to the former during the monsoon. The canal between Calicut and Badagara is in bad repair, especially at the Pyolly Lock, where frequently goods have to be unloaded and carried from one side to the other. The bridge at Mahé has been down for over 14 months.

On the Northern side the Koduvally bridge has been dismantled for about a year, and beyond a few beams on the bank of the river there is no sign of reconstruction.

The want of this bridge is much felt by the poorer classes. The late bridge was free for foot passengers. Now the poor grass-cutter or coffee workwoman, earning perhaps one anna and eight pies per day, pays her two pies for being conveyed across, while any one connected with the Educational department, drawing perhaps Rs. 40/60 a month, passes free.

In the Eastern direction the road to Mercara near the Coorg frontier is very often during the dry season a mass of small boulders, in the monsoon a slough of despond, leading to breaking down of carts and consequent delay and risk of loss of valuable property, and enhancement of cost of carriage of exports and imports.

Another matter to which we would draw your Excellency's attention is that of a pier.

It is now a good many years since the construction of a pier first occupied the attention of the Government officers of the district, and it has long been known that there is an enormous surplus of Port funds resulting from dues levied from ports on this coast, and felt that very little was being spent on this port.

The chief difficulty as regards the pier has been the choice of a site that would be most suitable for the requirements of the European and Native trade, keeping in view the marine peculiarities of the place.

As your Excellency may have noticed, a more or less continuous reef runs from nearly opposite the Protestant Church—first westward and then southward. The mercantile part of the port lies to the southward of this reef, so that the shipping place is sheltered from the prevailing winds and swell which come from north and west nearly all the year round.

The two main schemes have been (1) a pier or jetty starting from some point of the beach between the Church and Custom-House, and (2) a much more ambitious scheme for an extensive boat-harbour to be formed by constructing a sea-wall from the shore to the reef of rocks to the westward of the offices.

We are unanimously of opinion that a jetty would suffice for the requirements of the port.

At present all cargo is shipped into boats, each carrying about 12 bags of goods weighing from 15 to 18 cwt. These small boats go alongside barges (carrying 20/25 tons weight of cargo) which lie a short distance from the shore.

In fine weather the sea is quite calm at the shipping place, but rough weather or a strong breeze sends in a swell which produces a surf alongshore, and a pier or jetty—alongside which barges could load beyond this beach surf so as to obviate the risk of valuable cargo being damaged while being carried through it in the small boats—is all that is required.

Similar remarks apply to imports.

When the sea is so rough that there is a surf or more or less broken water at the present loading place of the barges, it means rougher water further out, especially beyond the shelter of the reef referred to, and no one would care to ship cargo, and barges could not go alongside steamers in the roads.

We would venture to suggest that the use of the pier should not be compulsory, and that enhanced port dues to cover interest on cost and cost of upkeep should not be a condition of construction.

The latter will be small and could be met out of current Port funds.

The cost of construction may be looked on as merely a repayment of a part of what the port has already paid in excess of requirements, and therefore should not bear interest.

If the pier, as we think will be the base, facilitates trade, it will be used by the merchants. If it does not, it would be hard on traders to have to pay dues for a structure they do not use, and it must be borne in mind that the chief exports by native merchants are of a description that do not suffer much from a slight wetting. Meantime the surplus port funds seem to be of the nature of the "buried talent" of which some of us at least have read, and it appears desirable that a portion should be expended in such a promising work as the construction of a pier at Tellicherry.

The pier should have a T head with an assortment of cranes. These would be useful when the railway is constructed.

We had the honour of bringing the subject of railway communication with Mysore before His Excellency Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, who however regretted that there were more important works which claimed the attention of Government.

Ten years have elapsed since then; the trade and importance of the port have increased materially in the interval. We see other ports getting railway communication with their producing districts. We are left in the cold as regards a railway, and our water and road communications have on the whole rather deteriorated than improved.—Tellicherry, 19th October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have heard with much interest the address which has just been read to me from the mercantile community urging upon myself, as the representative of Government, various wants and requirements which you feel are so necessary in this place to equip you to carry on more easily the work which is at present before you in your residence here. As naturally your first point turns to the extension of railway system to Tellicherry, and you point out that two lines are in your opinion necessary for the improvement of the trade in this particular part of the country, placing special importance on one more than the other, I am bound to say myself I thoroughly sympathise with you in your views in this particular matter. I feel that extending the railway system from inwards to Tellicherry should be preferred to one going down from here to Calicut, placing you in connection with the Madras railway. Because as most of your business is drawn from the interior of the country, you naturally wish to be supplied with some direct communication with those with whom you have connection. Regarding the question of the railway I should like that my answer in this respect should be taken, not only by yourselves who have presented this address, but also by others who have presented other addresses to me touching on this question. If you will take one reply to different addresses on this particular point I think we should all be mutually benefited. You must be fully aware, I suppose, that as regards the local Government we really have no power to order the construction of the extension of any railway but all that we can do is to recommend to the favorable notice of the Government of India any particular line, and they in their turn may not accede to the request which you may put forward. It rests entirely with the Government of India to decide whether they will extend any railway system in India in any particular year, and if they are engaged in other projects in other parts of the country, we in this part of the country must be content to wait. I have urged on the Government of India on several occasions certain railways which I have considered, as far as I could judge, to be of very great importance to this presidency, and the Government of India have pointed out with a great deal of truth that at the present time they have invested a large amount of money on the construction of the East Coast Railway. They also point to the extensions in railway improvements in connection with the South Indian system; and they also point to the Bellary-Kistna Railway as works in this particular part of the country which the Government of India have lately constructed, and they say with some reason that Madras cannot complain of having been altogether left out in the cold. I have always urged upon them the importance of considering other portions of the country, as well as those to which they have already directed their attention. I hope that in time their attention will be directed more especially to the western portion of the Coast. You will be also aware that proposals have been submitted to the Government of India for constructing a railway from Mangalore into the interior, and when that was coming up for consideration we thought it would be advisable to have the reconnaissance made as regards the advisability of extending the railway system, not only to Mangalore, but also to Tellicherry or to Cannanore, and the result of the reconnaissance that has been made has only just reached me, and as it will be of some interest I will read to you with your kind permission the note which I have got here. The results of this reconnaissance are as under:— "The route from Mangalore to Hassan and on to Arsikere on the Southern Mahratta Railway is 136½ miles about half in Mysore State and half in British territory. The gradients are 1-100 except the Western Ghâts, where they are 1 in 40 for about 24½ miles, and estimated to cost one-and-a-half lakhs per mile. The remainder of the line is estimated to cost about Rs. 60,000 per mile. The total average cost is Rs. 70,000 per mile or 94 lakhs—the metre gauge. The route from Tellicherry to Veerajendrapet, Frasarpet and Yedotore to Mysore city is 158½ miles, of which 54 are in the Mysore State. The gradients are 1-90 except in the Western Ghâts where they are 1 in 40 for 18 miles, costing 1½ lakhs per mile. The total average cost is estimated to be Rs. 72,500 per mile or 115 lakhs—metre gauge." These are the two alternatives which are now before Government, and this information has only just been received. So far as the actual cost is concerned the line from Mangalore is cheaper by some twenty lakhs. I am not in a position to say anything further about this point than this: the matter will receive our most careful attention. I am very glad to have had the opportunity of coming down here and learning what your own wishes are in this particular subject, and you

may depend upon it, as far as I am concerned, nothing you have brought forward will be neglected. I fully sympathise with you in your position, and without committing myself to anything definite, it appears to me that, as far as I can judge, there is room for both the railways. These two important ports might be linked up with the existing railway system of the country to the very great advantage of all concerned, but if it comes to a conflict between Mangalore and Tellicherry, their respective claims will have to be most carefully weighed. Meanwhile the Government of India have promulgated certain regulations for assistance and guidance of those who will come forward to make railway extensions in India with private capital, and these have only just been published to the world, and when they are a little time before the public people may come forward and take them up. If anybody does come forward in that way and propose to us to connect Tellicherry with Mysore, I shall be most happy. In that lies your salvation in the matter of railway extension rather than placing yourselves in the hands of the Government of India, who are already committed to so many other railways. You then mention in your address that, not only are you very badly off in the matter of railway extension, but you are very badly off in the matter of roads. On this point you say that Ellathur and Quilandi bridges on south of Tellicherry have been down since 1882, involving great exposure to traffic and passengers in monsoons. This is a fact, and Local Boards cannot afford to reconstruct them, especially while the railway question is under consideration, as a railway bridge, if made, can be made to accommodate carts as in the case of Ferok and Kallai bridges. A gentleman has made a proposal to make a railway from Calicut, and that has only just come in, but he asked for so much time that I do not know whether anything further will be done. But at all events it shows that people are prepared to come forward, and if only money can be raised, I should like to see that railway made, because it will be very useful. As regards bridges, I think it is very much better that the railway should construct the bridges on which ordinary traffic may be allowed to pass. You say that the canals between Calicut and Badagara are in a bad condition. I am given to understand that traffic always passes through the canal except when there is trouble with the contractor. As regards this he has been dealt with by the President and further difficulties are not likely to be experienced, as a special estimate has been recently sanctioned for repairs. As regards the Mahé bridge it is a fact that it has been down since July 1892. An estimate has been sanctioned. There has been some delay in obtaining sanction for this estimate owing to the unfortunate inability of the Superintending Engineer to meet the Local Fund Engineer in consultation. As regards the Kodavali bridge it is dismantled for repairs; on removal of the timbers extensive renewals of the underworks were found to be necessary. This necessitated an estimate requiring the sanction of the Government, and in any case the work could not be undertaken until the fair season sets in. You mention that the people of the Educational Department go over the bridge free. It appears that the only persons of the Educational Department entitled to toll-free passage on ferries are the inspecting staff. As regards grass-cutters, I understand that the most of the coolies live on the south of the bridge. I admit it would be a great advantage to have the toll free, but, while these difficulties occur, persons interested must try to accommodate themselves to the situation until it is possible to effect an improvement. You then mention about the bad state of Mercara road. If due to any one, it is due to the neglect of the contractor, and he has failed to carry out the contract; he has been given six months' notice of intention to terminate the contract. I hope if that is carried out it will be found feasible to introduce a better system under another contractor, or to get the present contractor to alter his ways. As regards the pier you say that the Port funds of this part of the country are largely in credit, and should be utilised for constructing the pier in your harbour. I find that some time ago the Presidency Port Officer came down here, and was unable to come to any arrangement with the gentlemen most interested as to the best site of the pier. There seemed to be so much difference of opinion as to what should be done, that he came away without being able to make any recommendation to Government. All I can say is that if those interested in the pier should come before Government with any suggestion showing there is unanimity of opinion that the pier ought to be constructed, the matter will be carefully looked into by Government. But I may tell you that the Tellicherry Port funds are only 13,486 in credit, and it will be necessary to indent on the rest of the funds to make up sufficient money to make a proper pier. If that is so, it will not be fair to build the pier unless the Government is assured of its financial success. It is not proper to invest Port funds in anything that would not bring anything like a proper interest. If anything should transpire in future as to the construction of the railway, I have no doubt that the pier will form part of the enterprise. But if nothing seems to come forward in that matter I need only say that Government will be happy to consider any suggestion you may have to make as to the construction of the pier, whenever unanimity of opinion does exist. I have touched upon all the points raised in your address, and in conclusion I beg to thank you very much for the kind manner in which you have presented this address to me and to assure you of the great pleasure that I have had in hearing what your own wishes are.

Address of the School-going Section of the Moplah Community of Tellicherry.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, in the name of the school-going section of the Moplah community of this town, most respectfully welcome your Excellency and Lady Wenlock to North Malabar, and assure your Excellency that there is no class imbued with deeper feelings of loyalty towards Her Gracious Majesty our Queen-Empress and towards your Excellency as her representative here, than ourselves.

While fully appreciating the several advantages we now enjoy, we gladly avail ourselves of your Excellency's presence in our midst in order to place before you one or two grievances which we apprehend would ruinously affect the well-being of our community in the near future.

The Moplah population of Malabar is nearly one-fourth of the whole population, but in respect of education they have been the most backward people of all classes. Taking the proportion of those under instruction to the entire community, the Moplah is as yet in the fogs of invincible ignorance as compared with any other individual class. The constitution of the Moplah family, the influence of social and religious customs, and the almost passionate love of trade in preference to any other mode of earning a living, have been so many obstacles in the way of Moplah advancement in education, for our elders unfortunately do not and cannot realize the benefits of a liberal education.

The origin of the Moplah dates so far back as the time when the trade of the district was exclusively with Arabia and the Persian Gulf, i.e., long before Vasco de Gama had visited these shores. The community has since gone on increasing with giant strides. Their commercial enterprises have secured them considerable wealth and influence, and in some cases they have been the largest tax-payers to Government. To their very success in trade may be attributed in a large measure their aversion towards undergoing the expenses of obtaining a liberal education for their children.

While so the only inducement that has since of late prompted Moplahs to send their children to English schools is the example before them of a few of their co-religionists having been appointed in the Government service. Although it cannot be denied that amongst all classes the ambition to secure a place in the official service is great, yet amongst the Moplahs it is less so than one would be inclined to think. With them education is a mere matter of speculation and they understand no other rule than the one of "small profits and quick returns." To expect anything better from a class that is but just beginning to emerge from the complete lethargy in which it has lain for centuries past would be premature. What is now required in order to raise them out of the mire of ignorance, make them love education for its own sake and bring them up to the level of the rest of their countrymen in the social scale, is encouragement to the heads of families to send their children to English schools to acquire such education as would render them useful members of society ready to interest themselves in all questions of social progress.

These results can but be worked out gradually, but it is with deep distress that we beg leave to place before your Excellency the painful fact that just as an appreciable number of Moplah youths are under tuition, both in the High school and College departments, the minimum of marks to secure a pass in the educational tests has been raised, and the Matriculation examination is no more to be the passport to official service except to posts carrying with them pay up to Rs. 15 per mensem. These rules have cast a gloom over the entire community and have seriously discouraged intending candidates and those now under instruction.

It must be conceded that the Moplah is nowhere before his Hindu brethren in the matter of education. The above changes were no doubt made because the time had come when the examination could be made stiffer for the Hindus without inflicting any tangible hardship on them, but the same argument cannot and does not hold good in the case of Moplah youths—so far as the latter are concerned, the rules under reference are a contradiction of the avowed intentions of the State to raise the educational status of the Moplah. Keeping in view the broad fact that just at present the Moplah requires to be coaxed into acquiring a relish for western education and culture, we beg leave to point out to your Excellency that the present rules are not calculated to foster a love of learning in the minds of a people who, it is no exaggeration to say, are yet in the woods in point of education; but they are more calculated to handicap their youths, force them out of the public schools to a life of idleness, and place them on the high road to retrogression and ignorance.

What would indubitably tend more towards the advancement of Moplah education would be the establishment of separate scholarships for students of their class, in such numbers as would excite a fair amount of emulation amongst the candidates. The number of scholarships now available for Moplahs in the High and College departments is but two. It might with very beneficial results be increased.

We are fully alive to the maxim of the Government that "Public emoluments are treated as public property," and that the public should therefore be served by the "fittest persons." This fitness is put to the proof by educational tests, and in rare instances by competitive examinations.

All that the Moplah can at present aspire to, and is eagerly looking for, is generally speaking the post of a clerk in the official service. His ambition might soar higher but he is aware too that he cannot hope to enter the magic circle of the Revenue and Judicial officers, or expect to get the big plums in the other departments unless he can successfully compete with the rest of his countrymen.

The object of encouraging Moplah education is, so far as we understand, not so much to fit them for Government employ as to engender a love of learning in the race and thus raise them in the social scale. Until that object is attained it may safely be inferred that they will not betake themselves to higher education. The official service is therefore virtually the means to bring about the desired end. Now if the bottom rungs of the official ladder are so high up as to be beyond the reach of those whose educational growth is but of yesterday, and who nevertheless are told that

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they must enter the field of competition with their Hindu brethren whose education was begun almost a century ago, it must be apparent that it was but giving the Moplahs their death-blow to have made the examination rules more stringent just as they had entered the lists.

We therefore pray your Excellency will be graciously pleased to take into your favorable consideration the circumstances now brought to notice and order the removal, for some years to come, of the restrictions which have been brought into force with the introduction of the Upper Secondary examination.

Trusting your Excellencies will carry with you pleasant recollections of this town which in the good old days of the East India Company was the centre of their commercial enterprise in this district.—Tellicherry, 19th October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply.

The point you have brought to my notice is one which has several times been pressed upon me by the Muhammadan community in different parts of the country. To all of them I have had to make pretty much the same answer, and I am afraid it is not a very encouraging one to you. But it is one which I really believe to be in your own interest. It is that, as at present advised, the Government are not prepared to make any relaxation in favour of one particular class regarding the competition for higher education and the various tests which are required for public service. We have arrived at this conclusion, because we really and truly believe that this is the only way by which we can encourage all classes and communities to come to the front and see that by their own efforts they can reach the goal which they wish to attain. We are getting evidence which, I think, is every day accumulating that the Muhammadan community are beginning to recognize the facts of the case, and are beginning to place themselves by severe exertions in a better position as regards their Hindu competitors. You say that you are not equal to Hindus when the question of competition comes in; I can hardly believe the Muhammadan community are so backward as that. Composed of sturdy, independent persons of great strength of character and great power of concentration and of ability, it appears to me rather extraordinary that they should find themselves constantly beaten by Hindus. As I told you, the evidence we are now getting tends to show that they are gradually altering and modifying their ideas, and they will soon be in a position to better themselves and to take their own place in the race which has to be run by all the communities and classes in this country. You will be aware that Government have accorded some concession in the matter of fees in lower grades of education, and I believe that has done a great deal of good. But you say you want some further encouragement in the matter of scholarships, and that you have only two scholarships. I will refer the subject to the Director of Public Instruction and will see what he has to say upon it. Then you object to the Upper Secondary examination as being severe, and I will also ask him what he has to say upon that. If it is found possible in any way to assist you, you may depend upon it that I am anxious to do so. I do not hold out any hopes of our making greater concessions than the circumstance of the case would warrant, because we feel it is not right to the rest of the population who take great pains in bringing themselves forward that any particular concession should be made in regard to any particular class. The Government would like to get the best men for their service, and we believe that, by leaving it open to all the classes to take their chance, we shall get the very best men. If there is any way that can be suggested by which you can be assisted with fairness and justice to all the others, I shall be glad to see it done. Beyond that I cannot hold out to you very much hope.

Regarding extension of the railway system touched upon in several addresses his Excellency made one reply. He pointed out that it was the Government of India that could extend the railway or not. The local Government could only recommend the construction of a certain line, but the final decision rested with the Government of India. His Excellency recommended that certain lines be constructed, but the Government of India pointed out that a large amount had already been spent in the construction of the East Coast Railway, the extension of the South Indian Railway system, and the Bellary-Kistna Railway, so that the Madras Government could not complain of being in the cold. Proposals had been submitted to the Government of India for the construction of a railway from Mangalore into the interior. Accordingly a reconnaissance had been made regarding the advisability of extending the railway system, not only to Mangalore but to Tellicherry or Cannanore, the result being that the line to Mangalore was cheaper than either of the other two by 20 lakhs of rupees. The matter would receive careful attention. Without committing himself to anything definite, as far as he could judge there was room for both railways. The two important ports of Mangalore and Tellicherry might be linked with the existing railway system of the country to the very great advantage of all concerned.

As regards a pier for Tellicherry there appeared to be a difference of opinion among themselves, but if they should come before Government with anything like practical unanimity, the matter will be carefully looked into.

His Excellency then fully dwelt on several points of local interest raised in various addresses. In the evening his Excellency visited the hospital, and in the night he left by the S.S. Mayo for Cannanore.

20th October 1893.

Four deputations, namely, those of the mercantile community, the inhabitants of Tellicherry and the school-going section of the Moplah community, waited upon His Excellency yesterday, at 3-30 p.m., and presented addresses. The address presented by the Chamber of Commerce has already appeared in our telegraphic columns.

Address of the Inhabitants of the Town of Tellicherry.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, on behalf of the inhabitants of the old historic town of Tellicherry, heartily welcome your Excellency and Lady Wenlock to North Malabar.

From the year 1683, when the East India Company first established a factory here, Tellicherry has justified the correctness of the commercial instincts of the English, and has grown in prosperity with the growth of the British power. Fortunate in being so long in contact with and under the wise, benign and impartial rule of the English in India, it is with unfeigned pleasure we now take the opportunity of your Excellency's presence in our midst to assure you of our deep abiding sentiments of loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty our Queen-Empress.

Filled with the assurance of a sympathetic hearing from your Excellency, we desire to invite your particular attention to the necessity of a railway extension from Calicut to Cannanore, and of a railway between this port and the Province of Mysore, through Coorg.

Though she does not possess the facilities of railway communication, Tellicherry yet continues to attract to her port the varied products of the forests of the Western Ghâts and of the plantations of Wynaad, Coorg and Mysore. The industry of her inhabitants, the proximity of her port to coffee and pepper growing localities, the needs and productions of the surrounding districts,—all these have helped to make this town the fourth seaport in the whole Presidency, and even ahead of Calicut, the head-quarters of the district and the present terminus of the Madras Railway. With railway connection, the trade and importance of Tellicherry must and will advance.

The facilities for easy shipment almost throughout the year, due to the natural breakwater, formed of a ledge of rocks, by which the harbour is protected, make Tellicherry stand in marked contrast to Mangalore—her rival for favour with regard to railway extension. Your Excellency will in a few days be able to see for yourself why Mangalore is a closed port for nearly five months in the year.

A railway to Tellicherry would make easily accessible the military cantonment of Cannanore—a healthy but now neglected station whose splendid range of barracks and spacious bungalows are at present in disuse.

We need not dwell on the manifest importance of such a railway towards the development of the resources of Coorg and Mysore, and towards the prevention of the often-recurring seasons of scarcity in the various parts of Malabar and in the Province of Mysore.

The trade and prosperity of North Malabar is now greatly retarded by the difficulties of the land transit. In the short distance of 56 miles between Cannanore and Calicut, the route along the trunk road is interrupted by the breaking down or dismantling of the bridges over four large rivers. If the re-construction of these bridges is delayed merely in view of the extension, in the near future, of the Madras Railway from Calicut northwards, then we are content to wait patiently. But if there is no speedy prospect of such an extension, we earnestly request your Excellency to urge on the Local Fund Board to adopt measures whereby our coast communications may be soon perfected.

We trust that your Excellency's stay among us, though brief, will be pleasant. It is a source of pride and pleasure to us, and we feel confident that your tour through this important part of the district will be beneficial to its inhabitants.—Tellicherry, October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you, the inhabitants of this town, for the address which you have just presented to me, and to assure you that I have heard what you were good enough to say about us with the greatest pleasure, and also to notice the extremely loyal remarks in which you have alluded to Her Gracious Majesty our Sovereign the Queen-Empress of India. Like the other address which has just been presented to me, one of the chief points that you have alluded to is the same demand as had been put forward by the municipality. If you allow me, I can only answer you, as I have answered them, that this question will be referred to by me later on in the day, because I think it would be advisable that one answer should be made to cover all the various addresses which touch upon this point. I shall not therefore allude to it now. I hope you will not consider I am in any way unaware of its great importance, but I think it would be advisable to refer to it later on. You mention the Coast communication by roads, which are at present in a bad condition. That is also alluded to at greater length in another address, and I will take the opportunity of referring also to that point. At the present moment I shall take your address as one of kind welcome to ourselves, and I assure you that I have heard it with very great pleasure. I thank you again for the welcome you have given us.

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Address by the Fishermen Community of Tellicherry.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, who represent the fishermen community of this port, beg most respectfully to welcome your Excellency and Lady Wenlock to this town and to express our feelings of deep loyalty towards your Excellency as the representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India.

2. We humbly avail ourselves of your Excellency's presence in our midst to bring to your notice certain matters in respect of which we have not been able to gain the favorable ear of the authorities that be.

3. There are amongst us over a hundred ticket-holders—mostly women—who carry on the business of fish-curing at the Government yard provided for the purpose.

4. Up to the year 1882 salt-earth was used for curing fish, which cost about 6 pies per basket; since then, however, they have been compelled to use Government salt issued to them at the rate of 12 annas per maund up to 1892, when the price was raised to 1 rupee, thus entailing serious loss on the curers in various ways.

5. The use of salt-earth enabled the curers to sell the fish at any price that would suffice to give them a living, but the compulsion to use Government salt has tended not a little to restrict the sale of salt-fish, and the subsequent increase in the price of salt is a grievance that is being keenly felt.

6. Besides having to pay Rupee 1 per maund of salt, the curers are subjected by the Salt officers to a series of formalities as needless as they are vexatious and fraught with pecuniary loss to them.

7. The fresh fish after being cleaned and washed at the sea-shore outside the salt-yard has to be carried to the yard and weighed in the presence of the Salt officer in order to enable him to determine what quantity of salt would have to be issued. When fish is plentiful, great inconvenience is felt in having to carry it to the yard, and hired hands have therefore to be employed for the purpose. The weighing takes time and thus produces taint in the fish which, on being cured, has to be sold at a considerable loss, and in some instances it is so tainted that it is unfit for sale.

8. Till about 2 years ago the fish after being salted in the yard had to be carried to the sea-shore on the following day, washed there and brought back to the yard for the purpose of drying; but under the present rule the fish has to be washed in the yard, the water for which has to be brought from the sea, thus making the process more expensive than what it was formerly, considering the quantity of water that has to be brought up in order to keep the yard thoroughly clean.

9. The rules permit the removal of the fish from the yard only after it is thoroughly dry, when it has to undergo a second weighing.

10. It is further insisted upon that all fish must be dried within the yard; the dimensions of the yard are totally insufficient to meet the requirements, hence until the quantity at one time out is thoroughly dried the subsequent saltings have to lie in salt till drying space is available for them; and as there is only a limited number of salting barrels, there is a stoppage of work until the barrels are empty for fresh salting. In consequence of the fish lying in salt for too long a time the smaller descriptions get spoilt and the big ones become too saltish to find a free and ready sale.

11. The duty of fencing in the yard has been thrown on the curers, and in case of damage to the fence, the alternative is forced on them of either repairing the damage or having no salt issued to them. Taking into consideration the poverty of the curers, it is a great hardship to them to have to keep the fence constantly in repair.

12. It takes 4 days to pass the dried fish out of the yard into the exclusive possession of the curers, and they are in consequence precluded from selling the partially-dry fish whenever a demand arises for that description of fish.

13. The curers are mostly females who have no other means of earning a livelihood, and the rules that they have to follow are such that they are productive of losses which may very well be spared them. It would not be out of place to mention here that, during the last 11 years that the curing has been conducted under Government supervision, there has never arisen a single instance in which the Salt officials have had to put the curers in Court. We therefore earnestly pray your Excellency will graciously be pleased to take the above circumstances into consideration and pass such orders as will secure our interests from being needlessly and ruinously interfered with, and also that the price of salt may be reduced to 12 annas per maund.

Another matter which we would humbly venture to place before your Excellency is the fee of Rs. 10 levied by the Municipality from the curers for granting them a license to store their dried fish in close proximity to the sea-beach. It is for your Excellency to decide whether the storage in question can be viewed as the carrying on of "an offensive trade" under which head apparently the Municipality has classed it.

With expressions of our deep gratitude to your Excellencies for this visit—We beg, &c.—
Tellicherry, 12th October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply (through an interpreter).

In the first place I wish to thank them for their address, and in regard to the matters they have brought to my notice, I will take them as they give them in the address. They object to the use of Government salt because it tends to restrict the sale of fish. In regard to the sale of fish, I find there has been an increase during the past three years, and in 1891 it was as much as 2 lakhs and 18,000 maunds, and that of last year from the export by railway and coast it was 8,463 tons. The present price of salt, which is supplied to them duty-free, merely represents the cost of the transit and the establishment. Up to four years ago the salt was issued by Government at a dead loss, and it has only just begun to cover the expenses. It is evident that the price at which Government issues it does not in any way tend to restrict the sale of salt-fish. They take objection to the regulations about yards. You may say that we consider it absolutely necessary for sanitary purposes, and also for issuing the salt free of duty. This matter was thoroughly gone into by the Board of Revenue last year, and the Government have approved of the proposals, being satisfied that they were the best under the circumstances. As the trade is so firmly established that we have reason to believe that it is becoming prosperous for those that take part in it, it is considered advisable and appropriate that the curers should have the expenses of keeping up the fence. Though every now and then there may be difficulty connected with it, we must have certain regulations. It is absolutely necessary for sanitary purposes that no fresh and partially dried fish should be available for sale. I find that as regards the price of salt there was a short time ago a contractor who failed to supply the locally-made salt at Re. 1 per maund, on which the curers freely resorted to Bombay salt, the price of which varies from Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 5 per maund; hence, as they could afford to turn out considerable quantities of fish cured with salt purchased at such high rates, it is clear that the curers have not much to complain of the rates at which the local Government supply them with salt for curing. So far as Government can judge, the present price of salt has not at all restricted or interfered with the sale of fish, and does not press upon fishermen. I am afraid I cannot interfere with the Municipality, in considering the trade an offensive one, and I am sorry that I am not able to meet their wishes in that respect.

Address of the Toddy-drawers of Kurumbranad Taluk.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned toddy-drawers of Badagara, Puthuppenom, Muttungal, Iyiyur, Palayat, Memunda, Maniyur and Arakilad of the Kurumbranad taluk, beg to bring to Your Excellency's favorable consideration the following grievances from which we, in common with other members of our community elsewhere, are suffering.

1. Your Excellency's humble memorialists and our forefathers, who have been living principally on the sea coast, unlike others of our brethren in the interior parts, have been, for generations, depending for our means of livelihood on the private manufacture of salt and the tapping of toddy. Since the introduction of laws, prohibiting the former, we had to rely solely on the latter for our maintenance; and after the passing of the Abkari laws regulating and restricting the tapping and sale of toddy and the distillation of arrack, our condition has become one well nigh approaching starvation, and the only means of eking out our existence now consist in the tapping of sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery. Even this, we beg to bring to Your Excellency's kind consideration cannot, according to the practice now in vogue, be carried on without the interference of the Abkari authorities. In tapping for sweet toddy, unless chunam be deposited in the tapping pot, the toddy drawn becomes fermented, and when a bunch is newly tapped, if chunam be used in the commencement, the bunch is sure to be dried up, and if the toddy be allowed to drop away, it will, falling on the tuft of the coconut tree, destroy it, and ultimately the tree. The infant yield of every sweet toddy-tapping tree cannot, under these circumstances, but be fermented, and the Abkari officers taking advantage of this, seize the pots with their contents (which, in most cases, do not amount to more than a few drops), take them to the Police station and get the poor tappers convicted for tapping fermented toddy.

2. Your Excellency's humble memorialists further beg to submit that it requires only to be kept for a few hours to convert sweet into fermented toddy, and though the toddy, when seized, be sweet by the time it is arrived at the Police station, becomes fermented and the poor tapper has to answer for tapping fermented toddy. Under these circumstances Your Excellency's humble memorialists beg to suggest that Your Excellency may be pleased to rule that hereafter, as soon as toddy, whether sweet or fermented, is seized by the Abkari authorities, it be submitted to the nearest Magistrate, wherever it is possible to do so, before the expiry of the time required for fermentation to set in, or where it is not practicable to the nearest Adhigari.

3. Your Excellency's humble memorialists beg to submit as, under the rules now in vogue, sweet toddy-tappers have to take out fresh license every six months, and some time inevitably elapses according to the current practice before a fresh license is obtained, the tappers are reduced to one or the other of the two plights, viz., either to discontinue or continue tapping till the arrival of the new license. In the first case, as the bunches will be dried up, if tapping be off for a single day, their business will be suspended for three months, till another bunch becomes ready for tapping, and in the second, they will be obliged to stand a prosecution at the hands of the Abkari officers for tapping toddy overstepping the time prescribed in the last license.

4. Your Excellency's humble memorialists beg to state that the remuneration given to the Abkari officers for conviction secured is something which tempts ordinary official integrity and probity, and consequently a great majority of them, acting under inducements offered, resort to all sorts of malpractices, and as the power of seizure is vested on even the very low grades of the service as peons, &c., they often abuse it, and the poor tappers when once in their clutches, are perfectly powerless and incapable of producing evidence to rebut the charge preferred against them; and owing to their extreme poverty and want of influence, sections 59 and 60 of the Abkari Act prove practically a dead letter.

5. Your Excellency's humble memorialists beg to state further that the Abkari laws are administered with no lenient hand, as is evidenced by the fact, that with a few exceptions, there is not a single abode of Your Excellency's humble memorialists where conviction has not found its way once at least; and this, Your Excellency, cannot be otherwise, seeing that the interested and concerned officers, wielding, in comparison with those at the dock an immense official influence, and having the outlook of a tempting remuneration in case of conviction have but to depose against the accused to throw the burden on them to rebut.

Under the above circumstances, Your Excellency's humble memorialists most humbly beg to request that Your Excellency may be pleased to consider favorably the grievances depicted in the foregoing lines with a view to redress them and to uplift us from the mire of poverty and starvation in which we are now deeply sunk, and by so doing we assure Your Excellency that the gratitude of the whole Teya Community of Malabar will be Your Excellency's reward.—
Badagara, October 1893.

Address of the Residents of Cannanore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—This town was, from time immemorial, a purely Military station with a full European Regiment and two Native Infantry and had besides, though for some time, a Cavalry. It is at present the seat of a small fraction of a European Regiment with a full Native Infantry. Most of the large and commodious buildings, raised in European style, at considerable cost and labour by some of the wealthy residents for the accommodation of the officers belonging to various regiments, have since their withdrawal been ruined owing to non-occupation, while the few surviving buildings are in a very neglected condition owing to the supreme indifference of the owners who are saddled with assessment both by the Government and by the Municipality, while they derive no proportionate income whatever therefrom. The withdrawal of the force has also greatly affected the country and population, not to speak of the enormous amount annually spent by the Government for the upkeep of the extensive buildings, once occupied by the soldiers, but now remaining vacant and operated in greatly retarding commerce which was else in a very flourishing state. The first prayer of the memorialists is, therefore, that orders may be issued for the restoration of the Military force which means the reversion of this town and its population to the healthy and prosperous condition in which it once was.

2. Your memorialists next come to the Local Municipality. The Municipal assessment was hitherto fixed at 5 per cent. That even this rate was too much for the poor ryot to pay is evident from the fact that default and levy by distress and sale were of ordinary, if not, of daily occurrence. The memorialists now learn that this rate has been raised to 7½ per cent. Looking to the general impoverished state of the country, the enhanced rate is too much for the poor ryot to bear and an actual grievance; this is not all. The houses situated within the Karar limits are assessed by Ali Rajah Azargal, who is the Local Zemindar, as also by the Municipality, while the parambas are assessed by the Government and incomes on all sources by the Municipality again. The memorialists pray that they may be relieved from these double payments and that the Municipality be directed to adhere to the former percentage of assessment.

3. It is a well-known fact that the native army comprised all the sections of the native population excepting those from Malabar, and it is a painful thing that they have not been yet taken on the service. When Sir James Dormer, the late Commander-in-Chief, paid a visit to this station he held a levy of the leading residents and discussed the question of forming an Infantry Regiment consisting of Malayalees. As their predilection for the army is well apparent from the fact that there were, in Malabar, several regiments consisting purely of them when it was under the control of native Princes and Rajahs, the memorialists pray that steps may be taken for the formation of an Infantry consisting of them.

4. The recent extension of the Madras Railway to Calicut has, no doubt, conferred an inestimable boon to South Malabar, the taluks comprising which have thus been linked together and the public convenience and comfort considerably enhanced. The memorialists now take this opportunity to request that arrangements may be made for the extension of the Railway to this station which will doubtless augment the Railway revenue, improve the commerce of the country and ensure the convenience of its people.

5. The survey and settlement operations for sometime set on foot in this country have naturally created an impression in the public mind as tending towards the enhancement of the existing rate of revenue. Malabar, unlike other districts, has its peculiar physical features

inasmuch as the Government has no right in the soil, which, on the contrary, is almost owned by the people. It is solely dependent, for its prosperity, on the monsoon, it is blessed with, which, when moderate and timely, confers a boon on the public, while its overabundance or failure equally affects the local agriculture. The operations above alluded to may not, therefore, be utilized as means for enhancing the present revenue, which the jammies find considerable difficulties to meet, but only for the specification of the boundaries of properties which, no doubt, is of great moment.

6. It has been brought to their notice that Your Excellency has been discussing the expediency of rendering pecuniary help to the agricultural class, and of starting to this end agricultural banks. The measure will, no doubt, turn to be of immense help to the public, and the memorialists pray that in the event of establishing such banks, one may be opened in this town.

7. Your memorialists next draw Your Excellency's attention to the stringent nature of the Abkari and Salt laws which must have ere long created an impression in Your Excellency's mind. Considering the restrictions laid on salt, which else would be within the reach of the poorest citizen by utilizing the salt-earth, the people at this distant date praise the benignant East India Company which was very indulgent to them in this respect. The Abkari laws are unlike Salt laws inasmuch as salt is indispensable alike to man and animals. The memorialists therefore pray that the restrictions laid on the manufacture of salt for home consumption may be removed.

8. In respect of the Abkari laws, the memorialists beg to state that it may be a source of loss to Government as the Jails are tenanted by a class of people. The former laws were less oppressive and were equally paying to the Government. The present tree-tax rules not only impose fixed fees on the already taxed cocoanut trees which are tapped for toddy purposes, but also enjoin the poor tappers to draw sweet toddy only from trees marked for the purpose. These are hard-and-fast rules and have the effect of discouraging an industry which maintains a class of people who form the largest portion of the population of this district. These rules may therefore be annulled and the old rules be brought into force.

9. In conclusion, the memorialists beg to allude to the Arms Act which insists on the annual renewal of the licenses once taken. As this is an inconvenience and loss, they most humbly request that the rules framed under this Act may be so relaxed as to dispense with the present renewal system altogether, unless transfer of arms is affected, or the license once granted is mutilated or destroyed, in which cases fresh licenses ought to issue.

For which act of kindness and charity the memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.—
Cannanore, 12th October 1893.

Reply to the Moplahs at Cannanore.

To the Moplah community His Excellency pointed out that the question of the strength of the army rested with the Government of India and not with the Local Government, and as matters now stood, he did not think he could hold out hopes that the cantonment of Cannanore was likely to receive an accession of strength. The Madras army was smaller now than it used to be, and there were other places that required garrisoning, and every place had now got its garrison and there were no troops to spare to return to Cannanore. The next point alluded to was the question of municipal revenue: on this head the memorialists thought they were hardly treated in that they had to pay the assessment to the zemindar as well as the municipal taxes; but His Excellency, while expressing his sympathy for them, said he could not make any exception between Cannanore and other municipalities, and all would have to fall into line. The next point raised was the Native army, with regard to which they said that it was open to all sections of the community except to the inhabitants of Malabar. Lord Wenlock pointed out that the Native army was open to all, including the inhabitants of Malabar, and he enquired why they did not enlist. They wished a regiment to be formed of Malayalis, pure and simple. If such a regiment was formed would they consent, His Excellency asked, to take their turn with the rest of the army for service in Burma. That, the memorialists said, was impossible, their request to have a Malayali regiment was more a last resource the outcome of poverty than a desire for military service. His Excellency repeated the reply he has now so often given with regard to railway extension, the Malabar Revenue Settlement and the administration of the Salt and Abkari Department. Before leaving, the deputationists made one last attempt to alleviate their municipal burdens and asked that the revised 7½ per cent. tax should be postponed for five years.

His Excellency firmly pointed out that, under the present arrangements, it was scarcely possible for the Municipality to pay its burdens, and it would be absolutely so if the taxes were decreased.

Address of the Ticket-holders of the Fish-curing Yard at Ayekode, Cannanore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the undersigned ticket-holders of the fish-curing yard at Ayekode, beg to embrace this opportunity of your Excellency's visit at Cannanore to present this memorial representing certain of our grievances.

On the introduction of the new Salt Act, the using of the salt-earth, which we have collected as a means of livelihood, was prohibited, and as a compensation for that, we were allowed salt imported by Government at the low rate of 12 annas per maund, and accordingly we cured fish in the fish-curing yard without complaint.

After sometime we were asked to defray the expenses required to keep the store-house and fence around the fish-curing yard in good order and repair. Moreover, we were not allowed to clean from the sea those fish which have salted even after all the salt has been dissolved, but we are compelled to bring the sea-water within the premises of the yard to do the purpose, and also we are not allowed to take those clean fish out of the yard to some place of convenience.

To add to these hardships the price of the salt was increased from 12 annas to 1 rupee.

This, as well as the repairing of the store-house and fence done by us as stated before, only decrease our poor income.

Under these circumstances, we most humbly beg your Excellency to be graciously pleased to pass some kind orders to redress our grievances.

Address of the Muckuva Ticket-holders of the Old Town of Cannanore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the undersigned, representing the Muckuva ticket-holders of the fish-curing yard in the Old Town of Cannanore, beg to embrace this opportunity of your Excellency's visit to this station to present this memorial representing certain of our grievances.

2. Since the advent of the British Government and long before that our community has been entirely depending for our livelihood on the precarious, dangerous and toilsome industry of catching fish and curing them.

3. This curing was till of late done solely with the means of salt-earth collected by us from the neighbouring saline tracts, and this collection amounted to 500 to 1,000 maunds a year for each house-owner in the village. The salt-earth has not been at all used for any purpose other than curing fish; and the records of the Salt Department will prove that there was not a single case of illicit manufacture of salt brought home to a member of our community.

4. On the introduction of the new Salt Act, this collection of salt-earth was prohibited, and as a compensation, we were allowed salt imported by Government at the low rate of 12 annas per maund. As a preliminary step to this concession, all the salt-earth, which we had collected by spending much labour and time, was ordered to be destroyed. Government restricted this concession by asking us to cure the fish within the premises of the fish-curing yard. We are not allowed to take the fish out of the yard even after all the salt there is in them has dissolved, except after two or three days. Our community, both male and female, brought up to no other industry as a means of livelihood, has no other alternative but to submit to these restrictions, and has accordingly to work in the fish-curing yard both day and night, many of our females having to separate themselves from their babies. If these rules were intended by the department to enable it to collect statistics as to the change in weight, &c., the fish will undergo in all circumstances and conditions, we humbly beg to state that the department has enough of facts and experiences, collected by this time, and that therefore we fail to see why this rule should still be enforced in a way, entailing as it does, much inconvenience and loss of time, and sometimes great loss by a fall in the market price.

5. To add to these difficulties another stringent rule was lately passed by the department to the effect that we are to defray the expenses required to keep the store-house and the fence around the yard in proper order and repair. This additional taxation on this community almost savours of the policy of quartering troops on a recalcitrant class of people, for we are to pay for the upkeep of the measures taken by Government to prevent illicit use of the salt granted to us at a low rate—an offence which we are not capable of committing. Now the price has been raised from 12 annas to 1 rupee. This must necessarily further tell upon our poor income.

6. Merchants belonging to other castes who dealt in cured fish used to buy the Bombay salt for curing their fish intended for shipment to Ceylon and other places, at the time when we were using salt-earth in curing our fish, that is, before the introduction of the fish-curing yard system. Now in common with us, they are also allowed salt at the low rate of 1 rupee per maund and the large sum of money thus set free in their hands enables them to buy up all fish coming to the market, &c. This competition and this absorption of the whole supply of fish handicaps our industry and sometimes throws many of us out of employ for some days.

7. Further, we cannot augur when there would be a good supply of fish. It may be, as it often is, at any time during the day or night; fish brought to shore at a time beyond the official hour of supplying salt had on many occasions to be thrown away or buried as they became putrid by waiting for the appointed hour, or occasionally for want of sufficient supply of salt in the local store.

8. In these circumstances, we most humbly beg your Excellency will be graciously pleased to pass the following orders redressing our grievances:—

- (1) To supply us with salt at the former rate of 12 annas per maund.
- (2) To allow us to take fish out of the fish-curing yard to some place of convenience after all the salt put in has dissolved.
- (3) The cost of the repair of the store-house and fences around the yard to be borne solely by Government.
- (4) To allow salt free of duty only to professional curers of fish, and not to the rich merchants and capitalists employing hired laborers.
- (5) To order salt to be supplied to us in the yard at all hours of the day and night, when we require it.—*Cannanore, 11th October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply to Cannanore Fish-curiers.

The fish-curiers' deputation, a motley collection of old and withered beldames, then succeeded, and the following remarks of His Excellency were interpreted to them:—They complained that the salt rate stopped their curing fish, and that Government originally supplied them with salt at 12 annas per maund and that now it was a rupee per maund. They wished now to go back to the original rate. His Excellency had occasion at Tellicherry to tell the fish-curiers there that the Government rate of 1 rupee per maund was barely sufficient to cover the cost of transit and establishment, and if it was supplied at a less cost Government would be the loser. Their trade had so increased and had become so important that Government was not justified in sacrificing any more money to protect the industry still further. Besides, they said themselves that 1 rupee a maund is a low rate, because when they talk of other people curing fish they say they are able to do so because the rate is only 1 rupee. If that rate therefore enabled one man to make a profit, it ought to enable them to do the same, irrespective of whether they were rich or poor. They then complained of the rich merchants coming into the trade. Surely, said His Excellency, these rich merchants were just the people their husbands would like to see waiting on the beach to buy their fish when they come in. With regard to the request that they might take their fish out of the yard and that Government should bear the cost of the fences and store-houses, he said that the regulations would have to be enforced in a place where so much salt was brought in free of duty, and that with respect to the upkeep of store-houses and fences, Government believed that now the trade was such a prosperous one, it was not necessary for Government to prop it up in the way it had to when it first commenced, that is why those interested in the trade should bear the expenses of repairing fences, &c., which might almost be said to be part of their stock in trade.

Address from the Municipal Council of Cannanore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the Chairman and Councillors of the Municipality of Cannanore, on behalf of its inhabitants, beg to accord to Your Excellency a sincere, cordial and loyal welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's visit to this town.

Cannanore was once a flourishing town and it enjoyed a happy period of prosperity when it was garrisoned by a full Regiment of European Infantry, two Regiments of Native Infantry, and a Company of Royal Artillery. The bulk of the population directly or indirectly depended for their livelihood on the troops, the removal of the greater part of which has led many to emigrate to Burma and other places. Great poverty now exists among the major portion of the remaining population. This general poverty has told much on the Municipal finances. There is nothing to show that the town may not be further impoverished by the removal of the remaining regiment of Native Infantry, and we beg humbly to request that some assurance may be given us that this will not be the case.

The risk and inconvenience attending on the absence of good means of internal communication divert the trade in the produce of the neighbouring rural tracts to other ports on the coast, though the roadstead in this port is considered safer than that of many in Malabar. If therefore Your Excellency's Government will not find its way to restore to this Military station the complement of troops as they once existed, we would humbly suggest that the next thing that will conduce to the improvement of the town and to the material prosperity of its inhabitants will be the extension of the Madras Railway from Calicut to this, which branch may eventually be joined to the Railway system now under contemplation to be extended in Mysore, Coorg, Wynaad and South Canara. We need not here enumerate all the numerous advantages that will accrue from this extension to the inhabitants of the parts of the country to be traversed by the proposed Railway. These, we trust, have been prominently brought to Your Excellency's notice by the inhabitants of Calicut and Tellicherry in the addresses presented to Your Excellency by them during the present tour. We humbly pray, therefore, that Your Excellency's Government will be graciously pleased to take early steps to have the Railway extended to this port, and we hope that when His Excellency the Governor next visits these parts he will be able to do so by rail.

The old town of Cannanore, thickly and solely peopled as it is by Moplas, sorely stands in need of a complete drainage system and of a scheme to supply its inhabitants with pure water. That portion of the town is not at present thoroughly drained. Surface water and sewage easily percolate in the ground and in consequence what water there is at present in the wells of the town is anything but wholesome. These two great defects have to be remedied, and unfortunately the finances of this Municipality are in such a bad condition at present that it has to discharge a large debt in the way of outstanding balances of expenditure incurred in past years. With a view to remedy these two crying evils of the town which have been repeatedly noted by the Sanitary Officers of Government, we would humbly approach Your Excellency's Government with a request that these two works which necessarily require a large outlay of expenditure may be considered as a charge on the Provincial Revenue, and supplied at an early date.

In concluding we heartily wish Your Excellency and Lady Wenlock a prosperous and safe journey, long life and continuous good health.

His Excellency's Reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very much on behalf of Lady Wenlock and myself for the address you have just presented welcoming us to your town on this the first opportunity we have had of coming here. I can assure you it has afforded us great pleasure to be able to pay a visit, though it is a short one, to this interesting town. You point out in your address that you are not the flourishing town you used to be in consequence of the reductions which have had to be made in the troops quartered here and you beg that there may be no further reduction. As regards this matter I am hardly in a position to give you any such assurance you ask for, as it is a question which lies with the Government of India. If it should take upon itself to reduce any further the Madras Native Army, naturally the number of stations at which these regiments are quartered will have to be diminished, and till that point is settled it is impossible to make any definite statement. However, as far as I can see I do not think you need have any apprehensions of the Native Regiment being removed. Of course, as in all other towns, do you give a prominent place to the question of railway extension, which is naturally to all of you a matter of very great importance. But to all who have addressed me on the subject I have only been able to return the one answer, and that is that as regards the Local Government we are not able to do anything for you on the question of railway extension, which is a matter entirely in the hands of the Indian Government. It only rests with the Local Government to recommend the various extensions considered necessary and to let the Government of India move if it thinks favorably of the recommendation. From what I know of the Government of India's programme, I am afraid I cannot hold out much hope that they will be able to direct their attention to this part of the country. I hope that now the new rules for the encouragement of private enterprise have been put forward, somebody will be found to come forward to promote a Company to make a railway from here to Calicut; if so, I will be very glad to see it done, because the matter is very important to this part of the country. You next allude to what you as a Municipality look upon with the same interest as do a large number of other Municipalities, namely, a system of water-supply and drainage, and you ask that Government should come to your help in this matter, and you show that you are not able to contribute anything to the cost of the scheme. Naturally Government would rather get an assurance from you that you would be glad to meet it half way. The work is an important one and similar works have to be carried out in various parts of the country, and Government looks to the various places themselves to contribute a certain amount of the cost. We are doing now as much as our finances will admit for the existing systems of water-supply, and on each occasion we have called on the memorialists to come forward and bear some portion of the cost. Therefore, if any station is backward or unable to come to our assistance at all, I am afraid Government will be more inclined to direct its attention to those who are anxious and able to contribute some portion of the cost. I am not aware that the Sanitary Engineer has reported on any scheme.

Chairman—Yes; its cost is about Rs. 30,000.

His Excellency—Not more than that! It seems a very small sum. However, I will make a point of inquiring into this when I go back and will look into the matter; beyond that at the present moment I am not able to make any definite promise.

Address of the Municipal Councillors of the Town of Mangalore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of the Town of Mangalore, avail ourselves of your Excellency's visit to our town to express our deep gratitude for the boon your Excellency's Government has graciously conferred on our people in sanctioning the transfer to the municipal council of this spacious building to which the institution hitherto known as the municipal hospital has been shifted.

In the year 1871, the Government ordered the transfer of the institution along with the endowment fund of Rs. 1,000 to the Municipal Commissioners, with the remark that "it had no doubt that under their care and with adequate appropriation from local and municipal funds, it would be improved in efficiency." The average annual attendance, which was about 2,700 at the time of the transfer, has been steadily increasing year after year, until it rose to 11,723 in 1886, when it became necessary to provide additional accommodation. This has been supplied within the premises with the help of the endowment fund referred to, and the new wards thus constructed were opened in 1888 and called after Mr. John Sturrock, for many years the Collector of the District and Chairman of the Municipal Council.

On the abandonment of Mangalore as a military station, this building was made over to us by your Excellency's Government, and we cannot mark our gratitude in a more suitable manner than by associating it with your name and calling it "The Wenlock Hospital," for which we solicit your permission.

We have yet another request to make. A special room for operations will increase the usefulness of the Wenlock Hospital, besides meeting a necessity repeatedly pointed out by Surgeon-Major W. A. Lee, the late District Surgeon of this place, owing to the increasing number of surgical cases. We therefore take this opportunity to request you to lay the foundation-stone of the proposed structure, as an upper storey over the front part of this building, which shall also commemorate the invaluable services of Dr. Lee, for which funds were subscribed and the project started some time ago, but hitherto kept in abeyance for want of space in the premises of the former hospital.

In conclusion, we beg to tender our heart-felt thanks to your Excellency for having condescended to comply with our request, and wish your Excellency and Lady Wenlock long life and prosperity.—Mangalore, 21st October 1893.

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency, in reply, thanked the gentlemen present for their address of welcome, and added that he could not possibly visit their district before, as other districts less favoured than theirs demanded his attention. He was, however, glad to be among them and thanked them in his own as well as Lady Wenlock's name for the reception they had accorded him.

Address of the Inhabitants of the Town and District of Mangalore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—In presenting to you the expression of our gratitude for this your visit, we, the representatives of the Town and District of Mangalore, seize the opportunity to lay before your Excellency a matter affecting our prosperity very nearly. We are encouraged to do this by the knowledge we have of your Excellency's invariable kindness to those who approach you and the encouragement you have always given to the frank exposition of anything affecting the well-being of any portion of the community under your rule.

The one great fact we are anxious to impress upon your Excellency is that of our almost complete isolation from the seat of Government. During three months of the year, our port is closed, and our only communication with the outer world is by post and telegraph. The nearest railway station is that of Kadur, 120 miles away upon the other side of the ghât. By the departure of the regiment, this isolation is intensified, and there are no means whereby security of life or property can be guaranteed; whilst the absence of a European Surgeon leaves us without a second medical man in the district; and should an emergency arise, a week or more must pass before assistance, either military or medical, from Cannanore or elsewhere could be afforded us. Meanwhile we form a community of over 40,000 souls, and the property in the town is very considerable—too considerable to be left unprotected, too dependent on the fluctuations of trade, to be hampered or prevented from legitimate expansion. The present prosperity, we are proud to say, has been built up by the unaided exertions of the citizens. To your Excellency's Government is transmitted yearly a revenue of over 11 lakhs after providing for the revenue and judicial administration, and up till now no works of public improvement have been undertaken which in any degree encroach upon this contribution to the Imperial income. But as your Excellency must be well aware, trade knows nothing of standing still; it must either be on the increase, or it flows back and ebbs away. Mangalore has reached that point in its prosperity when for its further extension the hand of Government is absolutely necessary, when for the very preservation of its present trade, prompt action is essential to connect us with the lines of railway at present joining the other seats of commerce in this empire.

We addressed your Excellency in Council on this subject on the 10th March 1892, and subsequently petitioned His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore on the same matter. The points we then presented for consideration were (1) that a great development of manufacturing industries in the town and of agricultural interests in the district would certainly follow on the construction of the proposed line; (2) that the enormous surplus of

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this district would be at once available in times of scarcity for others less favoured; (3) that His Highness the Maharaja was prepared to construct the 60 miles of the line lying within his territory; (4) that the passenger traffic would be very considerable owing to the large number of pilgrims (estimated at about 200,000) who annually visit the noted shrines in the district, as well as of coolies who to the number of 100,000 yearly travel between here and the ghâts; (5) that the opening up of communication with the ghâts would enable the forest produce of that region to be utilized; (6) that the only existing point of railway communication in the 500 miles of coast between Bombay and Calicut is at Mormugao in foreign territory; and finally that the cost of construction of all, except the portion immediately on the slope of the ghât, is estimated at a very low figure.

Since the presentation of these petitions the Imperial Government has shown unmistakably its interest in the scheme by applying for detailed information respecting the present traffic which, we believe, affords conclusive evidence of the necessity of immediate construction. It is also in communication with the Government of Bombay and the Southern Mahratta Railway with a view of coming to some definite settlement.

The Supreme Government having thus shown its interest in our project, we most earnestly and respectfully urge upon your Excellency, who is now from personal observation acquainted with our great need and the means for its fulfilment, to make as strong a representation as possible to the authorities at Calcutta, urging upon them the necessity, not of making the line, for of this they are assured, but of initiating it without delay.

Allied to the question of the railway, comes that of an improved harbour. Your Excellency has learnt something of its state in the difficult and tedious process of landing, but we venture to point out where, in our humble opinion, these difficulties have their root, and what should be the course to be pursued for their removal.

The two streams—the Nêtrâvati and Gurpur river—which bound our town, have rocky formations at Sultan's Battery on the north and the Marine yard on the south. These form the natural demarcation of the port, and we would deprecate any renewal of the attempt, which failed so disastrously some years back to form an outlet independent of these. At Bantvâl, 16 miles inland, the current of the Nêtrâvati river (the principal of the streams) is partially dammed and the waterway rendered impassable; at Ferringipet an island divides the stream; and at Jeppoo the rocky barrier diverts it into several channels. The bed of the river is continually shifting and forming shoals, and the channel is therefore rendered very dangerous. We would suggest that a system of reclamation from this bed, obtained by training walls, would give to this the more important waterway *safety*; and to the harbour such an increased scouring force as to deepen the bed of the river, considerably decrease the present bar, and render it no longer an obstacle to vessels of greater draught than can now enter. While effecting improvements on the scour of the Nêtrâvati river we deem it advisable to call attention to another very necessary work, which is, that the Gurpur river might be diverted to the landward side of Sultan's Battery by a cutting which would probably give us fairly deep water at the quay. As on the primary question of railway we have asked your Excellency's powerful advocacy with the Supreme Government, so in the matter of the harbour we beg for the appointment of an Engineer specially skilled in this branch of his profession, who may not only advise as to preliminary steps for the opening of our port, but may be entrusted with such powers as to enable him to authorize, and, in conjunction with the Collector, to carry out, any plans he may think suitable for improving, as occasion arises, its practical working.

As the improvement of the harbour is closely allied to the question of the railway, so also is that of the drainage of the shore-side portion of the town to that of the harbour. This matter has been urgently recommended to the Municipality by the Sanitary Commissioners, and they can see no way to action but by the increased scouring power which the rivers would obtain under the harbour scheme we have just proposed.

In conclusion we are deeply grateful to your Excellency for giving us the opportunity of placing our great and crying need before you, and for the patience with which you have listened to our proposals. We earnestly trust that the rest of your tour may afford you the satisfaction to our efforts for the good of the people of South India so richly deserve, and we pray that the Almighty may bestow upon your Excellency and Lady Wenlock increasing strength for the performance of your arduous duties and abundant blessings upon your after years.—*Mangalore, October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

His Excellency, referring to the various points in the address, expressed a hope that the needs of Mangalore would be supplied in due time, especially as his Excellency's Government were not opposed to them, but rather favoured them. His Excellency explained how matters stood in connection with the railway question, and informed the signatories that the financial aspect of

the question was being examined by the Government of India, while as regards the Harbour improvement projects he promised, if possible, to obtain the deputation of an expert to report on the various proposals put forward, on receipt of whose report the Government would give the whole question its best consideration. His Excellency's words holding out such bright hopes were repeatedly cheered.

*To be noted
in Marine
Dept
Indy. Ctn*

Address of the Muhammadan Community of Mangalore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the members of the Muhammadan community, on behalf of the Muhammadans of this district, approach your Excellency with this address, humble though it may be, to show your Excellency and Lady Wenlock that we will be second to none in the welcome offered to your Excellency and Lady Wenlock on the auspicious occasion of your Excellency's visiting these shores.

It is not necessary for us to remind your Excellency that in times past the Muhammadans were the ruling power not only in these parts, but even in other parts of India in the early days of *sovereignty* of the *Honorable the East India Company*. All the highest offices open to Natives were filled by Muhammadans; but, gradually, times changed and the Muhammadans are now the poorest and a very miserable section of the population, though very numerous as a body.

We humbly acknowledge with the greatest gratitude that our deplorable condition has been partly ameliorated by the efforts of Government to gradually improve the condition of our people; but this has happened only when we have sunk in the deepest poverty.

We submit that the Muhammadans of India were once the pioneers of education, but now we are poverty-stricken, ignorant, illiterate, to such an extent that, unless some encouragement and help are shown to us, we are likely to go lower and lower in the scale of civilization.

Under the peculiar circumstances of the degradation to which we are brought, we submit that your Excellency may be pleased to show sympathy to this community in its sufferings and take steps to bestow some special consideration on us in the hard race of life.

We respectfully submit and pray that the boys of our community may be allowed to be admitted as free students in the Government schools and colleges, and we further pray that your Excellency will be pleased to take into your consideration the fact that our poverty prevents us from being able to send our sons up for the public examinations more than once or twice at the most, and we are thus placed at a great disadvantage with the wealthier portions of the community, and, in consideration of our efforts, to give our sons an adequate education, your Excellency will be graciously pleased to grant that some minor posts under Government may be bestowed upon those of them who may be unfortunate enough to fail at such examinations, but who may be found otherwise fit.

Moreover, we submit that appointments in the public service of 20 or 25 rupees' salary at least may be conferred on the people of our community, whenever possible, on consideration of our ability and knowledge to carry on public business in the offices, not only as a means of lifting us out of our degradation, but to create higher aspiration and self-respect which is now wanting.

Government has been so far good and kind as to exempt the Muhammadan community from one moiety of the liabilities attaching to other classes of the State, and we pray that your Government will be pleased to further exempt them from the other moiety, to which they are now liable, in consideration of their very depressed and deplorable condition.

And your petitioners will ever pray for your Excellency's and for Lady Wenlock's long life, prosperity and happiness.—*Mangalore, 23rd October 1893.*

Address of the Catholic Community of Mangalore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We have already raised our voices in unison with our fellow citizens offering you and Lady Wenlock a most cordial welcome amongst us; and our welcome is all the warmer as we viewed with great concern the mishap that befell your Excellency the other day which providentially has not proved serious. We now approach your Excellency in the name of the Catholic community of the district to pay a debt of gratitude peculiarly our own and to make a few representations on subjects we have especially at heart.

2. Ours has been an eventful history, and we are indebted for our very existence to the power your Excellency so worthily represents.

3. We were converted to Christianity in the 16th century by the Portuguese whose names we bear in virtue of their custom of bestowing the sponsor's surname on the first convert of a family. Our forefathers who were drawn from the superior Indian castes—Brahmins and Kshatriyas being most numerous—emigrated to these parts from Goa and soon formed an important and prosperous section of the population. But evil days dawned with the Muhammadan

conquest, and the tyranny of Tippu made us hail as saviours the British whom we assisted at the siege of Mangalore. It was for this that, when the war ended, a terrible vengeance was wreaked by the Sultan. In a single night, at a fixed hour, over 60,000 Catholics—men, women and children scattered all over the coast—were seized in their beds and dragged into captivity to Seringapatam. What they endured no tongue can tell. Our churches were razed to the ground and all our property confiscated.

4. The British victory at Seringapatam brought deliverance to the miserable remnant of the exiles, some 10,000, whom the Great Duke helped to find their way back. Since then, under the benign sway of the British Government, we have again grown in numbers (now 70,000) and our intellectual and material progress has won us an honorable place among the inhabitants of the district.

5. But the awful past can never fade away out of our minds, and its contrast with the happy present impels us to seize every opportunity to manifest publicly our deep and abiding sense of thankfulness. This sentiment has been proved by deeds whenever occasion arose, for we helped to tide over the local outbreak of 1837 and the anxious days of the mutiny twenty years later.

6. Considering our past traditions and our tried loyalty, we ask at your Excellency's hands the favour of being permitted to enroll ourselves into a company of Volunteer Civic Guards. The isolation of the district and the difficulty of meeting any emergency have been prominently brought to your Excellency's notice, and we venture to hope that our offer will be acceptable to your Excellency's Government.

7. Further, it is but too well known that public education restricted to the present lines has been creating a distaste for manual labour,—a result that cannot be contemplated without dismay,—and the evil is growing apace. The want of an Industrial school is, therefore, keenly felt. We would have started a really good one for the benefit of all castes, but our resources are limited. We invoke the aid of your Excellency's Government in this behalf and also for two of our most esteemed public charities—the Leper Asylum and St. Joseph's Hospital—which provide shelter and care for the castaways of the district irrespective of creed.

8. We thank your Excellency for kindly granting us an audience to-day and we wish you and Lady Wenlock many happy years.—*Mangalore, 23rd October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very cordially on behalf of Lady Wenlock and myself for the kind address you have just presented to us on coming here to make this our first visit to your district. You allude to the accident I met with a short time back. I am thankful to say that it has not prevented my carrying out the greater part of the tour I projected.

A SPECIAL NATIVE VOLUNTEER CORPS.

You describe to me the history of your past, which shows that you have gone through a great many trials and troubles, till at last you think you have reached a quiet and a happier time. At the same time you tell me that the evil days through which you have passed are not altogether absent from your minds, and you seem to apprehend at some time or other a recurrence of the evil things of former days. On that point I must tell you candidly that Government does not share your apprehensions, and does not believe that there is likely to be any disturbance or trouble in this part of the country which the ordinary police force could not contend with. You are not likely again to have an irruption of Muhammadans from Mysore, nor are you likely to suffer from the incursions of the wild tribes of Coorg. It is now considerably over 50 years since your last trouble from that direction, and since then Coorg has been settled and is prosperous, and I hope happy. You say there is in your minds apprehension of the likelihood of a disturbance between certain castes and creeds in your midst. Personally I beg to say that I do not apprehend any serious trouble in this part of the country. However, you think there is a possibility of such a disturbance arising as elsewhere, and you ask that Government will authorise the raising of a special corps of Volunteers. I must tell you in regard to this that when the matter came up lately before the Government of India, such an idea as you suggest did not meet with approval, as it did not consider it advisable to sanction the raising of a purely native Volunteer Corps. I have no doubt that its reasons were well-founded, and I think it will be hardly right if one special class is given a privilege which is not given to others. I am afraid, therefore, that I cannot hold out any hopes of Government according its sanction to the proposal you have brought forward.

EDUCATION.

You then mention that the public education as carried out at present tends to the disadvantage of manual labour. This you think is an evil which is growing apace and should be checked as much as possible. I suppose you speak with experience on this matter, but I have been able to pay cursory visits to the various industries in this town, and I am bound to say that, as far as I can see, there seems to be a large opening in the different industries which are flourishing in

Mangalore. At the same time I am quite willing to admit that technical education requires fostering specially in a place where industries are growing and being developed, and I shall be glad to refer the matter to the Director of Public Instruction to see if anything can be done in this direction.

THE CHARITIES.

You then ask that Government should come to the assistance of the charities which are now existing here, namely, the Leper Asylum and the St. Joseph's Workhouse. As far as I understand, the Leper Asylum is maintained by private contributions supplemented by grants from the Municipality and District Board, and these amounts are at present quite sufficient to keep the Leper Asylum in a flourishing condition. I went also to the St. Joseph's Hospital, and from what I could see of the various extensions being carried out, I was not led to believe that it would be necessary for Government to come to its assistance either. Therefore I am bound to tell you that these two institutions are hardly such as require a diversion of the public funds towards their assistance at the present time. If at any time the locality is unable to keep up these institutions for the benefit of those most concerned, it will then be proper to approach Government and lay your grievances before it. I need hardly tell you that Government has large demands made on behalf of a great many institutions for the requirements of the public which I am sorry to say are not in as flourishing a condition as these two charities. In conclusion, I have only to thank you for the address you have presented, and I am glad to find in this part of the country such a large number of gentlemen of the Roman Catholic community in a prosperous and, I hope I may say, contented position.

Address to Lady Wenlock by the Municipal Councillors of the Town of Mangalore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—As the first Lady President of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund who has visited these parts, we, the undersigned municipal councillors of the town of Mangalore, bid you our hearty and grateful welcome. And to commemorate this auspicious occasion we have considered it eminently appropriate to initiate a measure which shall supply a long-felt want of this district. Although to the suffering among the weaker sex the municipal hospital located in this building did, to some extent, afford both accommodation and medical aid, yet we must admit there were no facilities by which, with proper regard at the same time to the distinctions of caste and creed, they could be accommodated exclusively by themselves on critical occasions, and nursed under the professional care of their own sex. This long-felt want could not be hitherto attended to, primarily in the absence of a proper building, and secondly of the necessary funds to meet the outlay incident upon the opening of a hospital for women and children. It must be noted that the financial position of this Municipality is neither sufficiently stable nor prosperous to enable it, in addition to the existing burdens, to undertake the carrying out of objects entailing running expenditure, by far the most prominent and urgent being the establishment of a hospital for women and children with lying-in wards. Such being the circumstances, the council was encouraged in March 1892 by the munificent endowment of M.R.Ry. M. Shiva Rau Avargal, a wealthy landlord in Manjeshwar, of Rs. 1,000 towards the construction of the hospital premises of a maternity ward to be called after the donor's lamented only daughter who died soon after the birth of her child. The abandonment of this town as a military station was also talked of at the time, and could the military hospital be secured from Government for the purpose of the civil hospital, the council entertained a hope, destined to be realised to-day, of utilising this building for female wards. And we have assembled here to respectfully ask your Excellency to be pleased to declare that this building is, for all time to come, to be devoted to the cause of suffering womankind. One more appeal, and we have done. By way of a beginning, our two out-door midwives and two female servants will be available for duty. A resident lady apothecary is also necessary who must be engaged at once, if available, or one should be trained for the purpose. Our resources, we have confessed, are unequal to meet the requirements of a well-equipped hospital, and we must therefore look to extraneous aid. The District Board will be appealed to, in view of the usefulness of the new institution to the whole district. By your presence here on this occasion we feel encouraged to hope that your Excellency in your capacity as Lady President of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, the avowed object whereof is to promote institutions of the kind all over the Indian Empire, may be pleased to move the benign Government of your illustrious husband to sanction the grant, from Imperial revenues, of a reasonable proportion of the outlay on this new charitable institution. In conclusion we request that your Excellency may be pleased to accept our thanks for your kind condescension in complying with our desire on this occasion, and we wish your Excellency and Lord Wenlock long life and prosperity.

Her Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you for the kind and hearty manner in which you have welcomed me here to-day. I assure you it gives me the greatest pleasure to be present at the inauguration of this branch of an institution in which I feel the deepest interest. I think no

European woman can reside in this country without being stirred with pity at the sufferings of her native sisters. Personally I feel it the highest honour to be able to help these with the remedial resources of science, and on behalf of this institution I have to thank Mr. Shiva Row for his munificent donation, and I hope that his example will be followed by others. As regards your lady apothecary, I would suggest, if the appointment is not yet filled up, that you should write and ask the Dufferin Fund at Madras to advise you in the selection of a fully-trained and competent lady. You ask me as the Lady President of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund to lay before the Government your request for a grant to aid in the initial expenses of the hospital. I will be very happy to do so. Feeling as I do the warmest sympathy in this institution, I can assure you it gives me the greatest pleasure to declare the hospital open.

Address of the Agricultural Community of South Canara.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—We who stand before you are the representatives of the Agricultural Community of South Canara, which numbers about six and a half lakhs and forms by far the largest portion of the inhabitants of the district. The hardship inflicted on us by the present Forest Regulations and the fear caused by the uncertainty as to the principles on which the settlement of land revenue may take place have compelled us to encroach upon Your Excellency's time and attention in the hope that redress may be obtained from those hands which have so often been held out to assist those who are not able to help themselves.

As regards forests, we have all along been alive to the principle that they require preservation, and we have never thought their preservation unnecessary; but we find from experience that the manner in which that principle is now carried into action in our district requires, we humbly presume, considerable revision in the direction we shall presently represent to Your Excellency.

As regards forest administration, our grievances are (1) insufficiency of kumaki now allowed to landholders and existing restrictions thereon, and (2) insufficient provision of pasture for agricultural cattle.

As to our first grievance, we beg Your Excellency's leave to represent that "kumaki" means "aid" afforded to cultivation in the shape of pasture for cattle; of leaves for manure; wood and timber for either agricultural implements or for sheds for protecting cattle from West Coast rain or for other farm purposes; grass for thatching and for dry fodder, &c. These we enjoyed from time immemorial from waste lands limited only by the water-shed of the hill adjoining cultivation. About the middle of the present century when waste land began slowly to grow in value, limitations also began to be imposed by the curtailment of the kumaki extent. This was followed by further restrictions, until in 1874 the kumaki privilege had come to be of little practical value. Then the Government of Lord Hobart, on full consideration of the past history of kumaki, most graciously restored to us our full rights. This concession, we regret to state, was however, destined to be shortlived, for it was withdrawn in 1879 and was only partially restored to us after some years of hardship. We say partially, because, though in theory the wargdar is allowed full kumaki rights, the restrictions imposed on his enjoyment of such rights make it all but illusory—he who cannot use on his land in his village cannot sell the produce of the kumaki-strip, and this, even to recoup himself for the outlay on such produce.

We humbly venture to think that restoration to us of our full rights in kumakis would only result in affording substantial aid to existing cultivation and substantial encouragement to extension of cultivation—the most important source of revenue in Canara; and our humble prayer to Your Excellency is, that your Government may be pleased to restore to us our once-possessioned full right in kumakis.

That the kumaki constitutes the most essential element of aid to cultivation is practically illustrated by the fact that we are accustomed to grow coppices or small jungles locally known as "hadis" at a distance from cultivation when it is impracticable to grow them close to cultivation, and history shows that even the Coorg Government had found it necessary to adopt this plan in portions of Canara when they formed part of Coorg; and grants made at Coorg survey and settlement in 1812-13 are to this day enjoyed under the name of "bānes" situated far away from cultivation in those portions of Coorg which were added to Canara after the annexation of Coorg to British possessions in 1834.

Our second grievance is the insufficient provision of pasture for our agricultural live-stock.—We humbly beg Your Excellency's leave to represent that Canara has no local breed of cattle and that the ghats of either Mysore or of the Bombay Presidency are the markets on which Canara freely and necessarily draws for all its cattle. The cattle thus imported reach the enormous number of 30,000 annually which, at the moderate average rate of Rs. 15 a head, costs about 4½ lakhs of rupees. The reason of this enforced resort to foreign markets is that the laterite formation of Canara produces but a poor crop of grass for fodder available generally only during about eight months of the year; and the imported cattle, accustomed to richer grass of the ghats, soon deteriorate here, and their death is expedited by exposure to the heavy rain of Canara. A considerable portion of the cattle which survive these evils are swept away by cattle diseases or are devoured by wild

beasts which, owing to the preservation of forests on a large scale by Government in this forest-clad district, have found an asylum nearer our homes and our cattle-pens than was the case before. The replacement of cattle thus lost falls to our lot every three or four years; and while the replacement heavily drains us of our scanty savings, we are now grievously subjected to a grass tax irrespective of whether the so-called pasture reserves afford fodder all the year round or not, for the summer heat parches up all grass, and what is left of the dry stems after removal for thatching purposes, is consumed by casual fires; and the cattle seldom find a blade of grass to browse on, during at least the four hot months of the year. We would humbly solicit Your Excellency's kind consideration to this matter of vital importance to agricultural communities—a matter which leads to the bankruptcy and ruin of numberless ryots; and we humbly pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to protect us in the matter of grazing, by so extending our kumakis as to afford sufficient pasturage to all cattle which the extent of cultivation requires us to maintain; and, where such kumakis are unavailable, to allow sufficient extent from the reserve lands. Our request for special allotment of land for grazing purposes is not devoid of precedent in the history of the district, for Your Excellency may find on enquiry that the same Coorg Government which allotted land (bānes) for kumaki purposes generally, allotted special extents for grazing purposes under the name of "barikes" which have been transferred from Coorg to the British power in Canara and have all along been enjoyed by the ryots.

On the subject of the approaching settlement of our lands, we humbly wish to impress on Your Excellency's mind that South Canara is in the main a hilly country. A greater part of its soil is poor and porous. It is rocky in the interior and stale sand on the coast. On the other hand the heavy rains we get are not an unmixed blessing in that they wash away the fertility artificially imparted to the soil by the ryots at great labour and expense. Our district has therefore much that is not common with the rest of the Presidency, and our tenures are, we believe, also peculiar to ourselves. Considering the natural unproductiveness of the soil, we bear at present the highest assessment of any district in the Presidency. No Government irrigation works exist here and the lands were formed into fields and gardens and then cultivated by the unaided industry of the ryots. We would ask most respectfully of Your Excellency that before orders are passed as to the mode of assessing our lands, Your Excellency may be pleased to order us to be furnished with all the papers connected with the approaching settlement of the district, and that we may be heard personally on the matter, so that we may have an opportunity of making our representations regarding the principle on which a just and fair assessment may be based in view of the peculiar circumstances of our isolated district.

In conclusion we beg to thank Your Excellency for so patiently listening to these matters which very seriously affect the prosperity of all and the very livelihood of many amongst us; and in praying for Your Excellency's future welfare, we beg, &c.—*Mangalore, 23rd October 1893.*

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—The address which you have presented me deals with a question which naturally affects you closely in your relation with the cultivation of the soil. The total area of the land in the district is about 25 lakhs of acres, of which only 5 lakhs of acres are cultivated, leaving 20 lakhs of acres of unassessed waste land or land reserved for forest purposes. I will only point out that there is a large amount of unassessed waste land which you complain is not sufficient for the pasturage of your cattle. You detail other difficulties which occur in connection with your cattle. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the details of a cultivator's life in South Canara, but it appears to me that there is something wanting on the part of the cultivator that he has not managed to rear a breed of cattle more suited to the conditions of the climate than those imported from a higher and a drier part of the country. I believe you will find in almost every country in the world by proper selection a breed of cattle suitable for the particular requirements of the country can be obtained. I shall be glad to assist in any way the ryots in South Canara in anything of this sort which can be done for the benefit of the cultivators here. As regards the kumaki lands, you tell me in former days that certain privileges existed, and that now processes of restriction have taken place as regards the extent of these privileges and you ask that certain privileges that were given by a G.O. in 1874 should be restored—that means to say that you should have unrestricted rights over the kumaki attached to each warg. I am not prepared to say that this is a point Government could well consider on the face of the decree of the Bombay High Court in connection with a case from North Canara and of the despatch of the Secretary of State on the subject which came down here in 1879. But as you well know, the whole question of the survey and settlement of the district is coming on and this matter will be thoroughly looked into then, and we will see if the matter can be arranged satisfactorily for you. It is not likely I shall be in the country when the survey is concluded. I therefore do not wish to say anything which will commit the Government in any way. What I do say is purely my personal feeling on the subject. You ask that the kumaki should be extended even so far as to Government giving up a portion of the proposed forest reserves. Your kumaki would be then extended by a certain portion of the unassessed waste land being added. If that were done I would like to know if each ryot would be prepared to pay a light assessment not only on the existing kumaki, but also on what extension it was found possible to give them, thus restoring to the cultivator unrestricted privileges over his kumaki.

Mr. Brito, the spokesman of the deputation, explained the state of affairs to His Excellency and asked that the matter might be carefully gone into; if then, it was decided to levy an assessment he prayed that it might be a light one.

His Excellency continuing said :—My idea is that it may be found possible that some such arrangement might be satisfactory. It is hardly possible for me to make any definite pronouncement on the subject, and all I would like to do is to get as much information as is possible on all points raised. As regards the settlement which deals with kumaki among other matters, nothing will be done in a hurry, and such papers as are necessary for the elucidation of matters will certainly be submitted to you, and every opportunity will be given you of stating your own case. You say in your address that the present condition of affairs leads to the ruin and bankruptcy of numberless ryots. I have enquired into the number of coercive processes issued for the recovery of revenue, and I find that the number of coercive processes issued for the recovery of revenue are extremely low. I hope therefore that I may consider the remarks you have made on this point in your address slightly exaggerated. I am not prepared to admit that your district bears a heavier assessment than any other in the Presidency. From what I can gather, the rates bear favorable comparison with those of other districts. With regard to the insufficiency of grazing which I touched upon at the beginning of my reply, I learn that there are 14 lakhs of acres of unassessed waste land, of which the cattle have a free run. This appears to me to compare favorably with the conditions which obtain in other parts of the country. With regard to the 8,030 acres which it is proposed to reserve, I need hardly tell you that they will be reserved entirely in the interests of the people themselves. Considering the manner in which the grazing on the 14 lakhs of acres is carried on, it seems to us that unless somebody sets to work to preserve something, in the course of a few years, there will be very little grazing at all for Government to reserve. It is necessary also that some sort of restriction should be imposed with regard to the forest reserves, for unless this is done the whole country would be denuded of its timber reserves. I need hardly tell you that the Collector and the Forest officer are only too willing to use this power with as much consideration for the ryots as possible. In attending to the restrictions imposed, you object to the grass tax. That I learn is only half the maximum rate levied in other districts, and this it is absolutely necessary should be imposed in the Government reserves in the interest of the people themselves in after years.

Public Dept

Journal Minute - Oct: 93.

Order 23^d July 1894 No 130

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