Public Works (1890) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 213 Ry

DATED 10th February.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Minute by His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor — Proceedings, Public Department communicating to departments of the Secretariat. dated 24th January 1890.

[P. W. Ry. 1. 760—26-9-99.]

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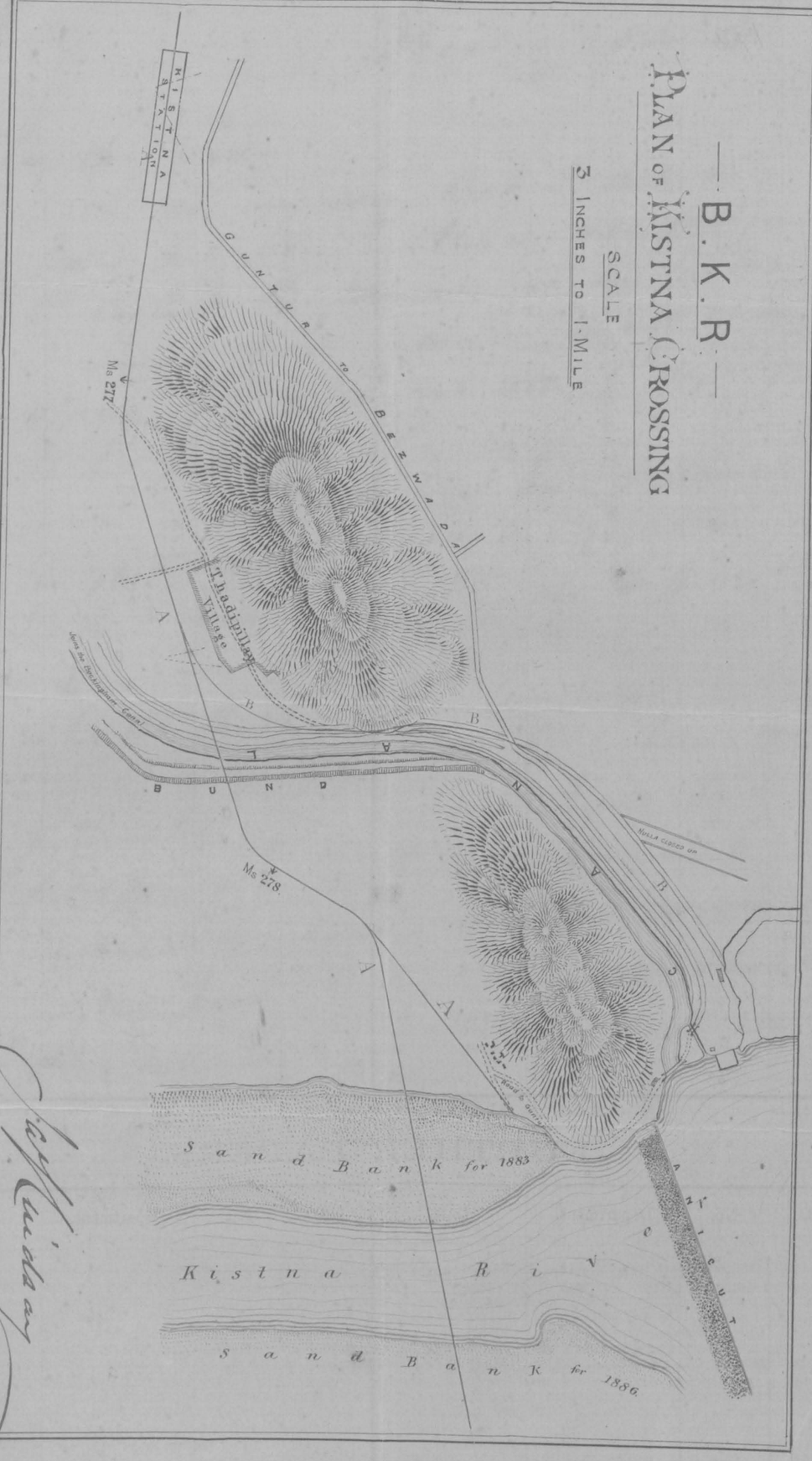
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

— B. K. R. —

PLAN OF KISTNA CROSSING

SCALE

3 INCHES TO 1-MILE



Chief Engr's Office
9th March 1890.

Thanna Jan. 9th

My dear Rees

I am very sorry that I did not know that His Excellency was going to inspect the tramway at the Vistna I should have, of course, deputed an Officer, if I could not attend myself, to be present.

I thought that I have explained the facts of the case to the Collector when I met him last. They are sufficiently simple.

Until the Hon.ble Member visited Bezwada few weeks ago there had been no intimation, so far as I know, that a bridge over the Vistna would be undertaken soon, and no assumption on my part that the bridge must or would be made, would have been accepted, when I sent forward a scheme for ferrying up to the main bank

that this Government should make a reference on the subject to Bombay.

Now, however, I am in a position to submit a scheme which can be carried out by the time the line between Kandyal & Cambum is opened for traffic.

The position of the temporary station is I think the only one that could have been chosen. The proposal by Mr. Lambert was close to the present site, but on a temporary line, which was objectionable for several reasons: it afforded no greater facilities to the public than the existing one. Another site was proposed close to the workshops & the village of Thadipillay: This village is said to be so filthy, & objectionable, from a Sanitary point of view, that it was proposed to purchase & burn it.

There is no room near the river bank for a timpory station.

What I propose is that sidings should be made as follows

A A. Across the Canal towards the site of the proposed bridge and up the river bank to where the ferry boats work. At that point a temporary building should be put up to afford shelter to passengers and goods. This siding will also, not only be of use during the construction of the bridge, but, in my opinion absolutely necessary.

B B A second siding in prolongation of the one now runs down to the Canal bank, should be continued up to near the lock. I showed the local Engineer where this siding should be taken, & ordered sections to be made, on the occasion of my last visit. We cannot make a siding along the present bank of the canal because it is about to be widened and the Canal Engineer has already called on

as to list the siding now on the ass.

His Excellency has already observed that the terminus is of a removable description: this is the case, I have not allowed any permanent buildings to be constructed because I am strongly of opinion that the transhipt station must be on the Byculla side of the river: there is no possible reason that I can see for the station being on the right bank and I have simply done my best to afford some accommodation at the temporary terminus, until the bridge is made & a proper transhipt station built in Byculla.

Now that the necessity for a bridge is admitted, ~~I hope that the~~ and all schemes for expensive & useless crossings set aside, I hope that the propositions for sidings to the river bank both above and below the anicut will be sanctioned. These sidings will not all traffic requirements until the bridge is completed.

If His Excellency would kindly communicate to the Bombay Govt his knowledge that sidings to the two points I have named, are about to be proposed by the C.P., and his opinion that they are suitable, and absolutely necessary, there is no doubt but that the scheme would be more readily considered & sanctioned by the Govt of Bombay.

The sketch I enclose will I hope serve to illustrate my meaning. The sidings seem to be much what His Excellency considers necessary.

Yours Sincerely
Jas Lindsay

that this Government will soon make a reference on the subject to Bombay.

BACK PAPERS

M for Council December 21st

Dr 14/1/90

PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARIAT,

RAILWAY BRANCH.

Station Madras date 27th January 1890.

NOTE.

I did not understand in Council last week that it was His Excellency's desire to communicate with the Bombay Government on the subject of the extension of the Bellary-Kistna Railway up to the left bank of the Kistna river.

I have since however read His Excellency's minute on his tour and I find a hope there expressed that this Government will soon make a reference on the subject to Bombay.

Colonel Lindsay in his
letter states that the
Bombay Government would
probably consider and
sanction more readily the
sidings proposed by the
Southern Mahratta Railway
Company if His Excellency
were to express his views
as to their suitability and
necessity to that Government.

I submit a draft of a
letter to Bombay on the
subject.

C. I. Scantlebury Clerk.
Joint Secy: to Govt. P. W. D.
Railway Branch.

Hon. 28-1-90 R. 31-1-90

B.

No. 170 R dy 3rd July 1890.

Public Works Department.
Railway Branch.

To,

The Secretary to the Government
of Bombay, P. W. D.
Railway Branch.

Sir,

I am directed to forward
for the consideration of the
Government of Bombay
an address presented to
His Excellency the Governor
of Madras on the occasion
of his recent tour by the
Public of Guntur: and
with reference to para 6
I am to state that His
Excellency was very much
impressed with the
reasonableness of the complaints
made

C. I. S. Secy 29 Jan

made by local merchants and others of the extreme inconvenience caused to traffic on the Southern Mahratta Railway by the distance of the present terminal station from the river bank.

2. His Excellency I am to say, understands that it is in contemplation by the Railway Company to connect the present station with the river bank below the anicut as well as with the landing place above and he trusts that when this project comes forward for the consideration of Government,

the

the necessity for immediate relief both to passengers and trade from the present inconvenient arrangements may be duly recognised and met.

C.S.
27.1.90

P4/v

R.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE
THE GOVERNOR

ON HIS ELEVENTH TOUR.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE GOVERNOR

ON HIS ELEVENTH TOUR.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The first official matter which was brought to my notice on my eleventh tour was the question of sale of the steam tug, at present belonging to the Cocanada harbour. Captain Wicks informs me that it has been decided, that it is to be sold, as the finances of the port exhibit a deficit. I have not seen the papers, but it would seem a pity, now that the trade of the port is likely to increase so greatly, that facilities for coping with it should be diminished.

The first address presented to me was that of the Municipal Corporation of Cocanada, which referred, as did all others, with great satisfaction, to the approaching construction of the East Coast Railway. I promised consideration to their request that a Harbour Trust should be formed with more extended powers than those possessed by the Groynes' Committee.

At the pier at Cocanada, I saw the gentleman entrusted with the survey of that portion of the projected line which extends from Bezwada to Cocanada, and I urged upon him, that the selection in the first instance of a correct alignment was of even greater importance than a speedy completion of the survey.

The address of the Chamber of Commerce touched upon the old complaint of the closure of the Godaveri and Kistna canals during the busiest months in the year. This matter has been frequently before the Government, and it appears that the length of the close-time cannot well be lessened. Even if the Godaveri canal could be kept open, the Kistna canal cannot, and I do not think much can be done, though the hindrance to commerce, supplies, of course, an additional reason for hurrying on the railway. I promised that the question of duplicating the canal near Rajamundry should be considered, but it has been frequently considered, and will probably have to be negatived again on the ground of expense.

The Municipal Council of Rajamundry referred to the hospital at that town which I must say is the worst I have seen in the Presidency. Mr. Moberley is busying himself in collecting money for the provision of a proper building, and if any application is made to Government on behalf of this institution, I think we should give it the most favourable consideration possible.

I promised also to consider favourably the question of lending the Municipality the services of an Engineer, when they have developed, and sent up a water-supply scheme.

On the way up the Godaveri to the gorge, my attention was directed to the forests on either side, the position and condition of which is apparently very unsatisfactory. Mr. Power informs me that arrangements made with the Mittadars, after Mr. Carmichael's settlement of the Rumpa disturbances, have left the uncontrolled ownership of the forests in their hands. I have not seen the records on the subject, and can only generally allude to it; but it is most important that these forests should be reserved, and I hope the matter will receive immediate attention in the Revenue Department. I do not think that the payment of substantial compensation, should it prove to be necessary, should prevent our acquiring control over them.

The inhabitants of Rajamundry presented a long address expressing, amongst other things, their satisfaction at the maintenance, as a Government institution, of the Maharajah of Vizianagarum girls' school and they urged the necessity for constructing the railway from Bezwada to Rajamundry and Cocanada, without waiting for the completion of the survey of the entire line,—a matter as to which we are entirely in accord with them. They represented that the ferry steamer plying on the river, which was built at Kidderpore and supplied to us by the Government of India, was faulty in many respects. I do not think that there is much reason to condemn her, though her steering powers appear defective; and as the Collector has, I understand, arranged for the supply of a smaller steamer which can touch at Vijeshvaram and Bobbarlanka during the floods, probably nothing more will be

heard on the subject. In regard to the allegation as to want of proper comforts and convenience for passengers on board the steamer, I do not think it needs much notice, great pains having been taken to render passengers as comfortable as possible.

It was represented to me that one of the wants of the town was a buttress-wall from the Judge's bungalow to Red Rocks, to protect the streets and houses adjoining the river from inundation during floods. No doubt such a wall would be advantageous, but a flood bank is already maintained by Government, and it is a question how far funds should be supplied by us for the protection of people who expose their property with their eyes open to the risk of flood by building between the river-side and the flood bank. It will probably fall entirely on the Municipality to provide funds for any such work. Another question was raised in which my own opinion coincides with that of my petitioners, in the absence of any knowledge, as to the reasons which led the Forest Department to allow only a fourth of the sale-proceeds to the salvor of driftwood. The Collector thought one-half would not be too much, and I was inclined to be of the same opinion.

I inspected the Central Jail at Rajamundry, and found that the number of sick was very small. I came to the conclusion that outbreaks of sickness here must be probably attributed to causes existing without the walls of the jail, and that a lavish expenditure on drains, and the like is unnecessary. I am not satisfied that sufficient enterprise is shown in pushing the carpet manufacture, and effecting sales. It does not seem to me to be advisable that we should necessarily treat with only one London firm. A proposal to lower the outer wall of the jail to allow more fresh air to enter has, I understand, been approved, and this may have a beneficial effect.

The People's Association also presented an address at Rajamundry and objected to the rule, under which assessors and jury are drawn from a circuit comprised within a radius of 20 miles from Rajamundry. *Prima facie* there would appear to be much to be said for the view that this entails some hardship on the people living near Rajamundry, and exemption from public duty for others equally well-educated and equally well-to-do who live further off.

I felt bound to tell the People's Association that I could not favourably entertain their request that the elective system should be introduced into Taluk Boards. Their address further objected that the assessment for income-tax rests entirely with Tahsildars and this I told them is not the case if the divisional officers carry out our orders to carefully check assessments. A suggestion was also made as regards the assessment of Pleaders to profession tax, which might be considered when the Mofussil Municipal Act is brought before a Select Committee of the Legislative Council.

During my short halt at Ellore I received addresses from the Municipal Council and from the public of the town. The public asked for assistance for their water-supply, and it will be time to consider this when a project comes up to Government. The request made as to changing the present halting place for boats should receive consideration in the Irrigation Department, and the petition for a bridge over the canal, will probably be considered to be sufficiently met, by the construction of another bridge between Ellore and Powerpett, which has, I understand, been ordered. With regard to the request that a second high school should be provided for Ellore, I thought it better to express my distinct opinion that such was not called for, and that the claims of primary education were far greater.

Arrived at Bezwada, I first of all visited the anicut, where it occurred to me that the shutters of the escape on the right extremity of the dam appeared very unworthy of the great work, in which they play an important part. Perhaps there is some reason for this; but they appeared to be mere rough planks and quite unlike the strong and solid shutters provided on the left bank. There was also, what did not matter at this time of the year, a great deal of water escaping through them.

I visited the terminus of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway beyond the village of Tadepalle, and must allow that there is ample reason for the complaints made by local merchants, and the inhabitants generally, of the extreme inconvenience caused to traffic by the existence of an interval of two miles between the terminus, and the right bank of the Kistna. A material line does at present extend along

the banks of the canal to within a quarter mile of the left bank, but it is not used for traffic or passengers. I have communicated with Colonel Lindsay on this subject, and hope we shall soon make a reference to the Government of Bombay with whose Consulting Engineer Colonel Firebrace also, I spoke on the subject at Hyderabad. It appeared to me that the deepening of the canal which is going on should have taken place upon its left and not upon its right bank, as at present the right bank is required for the material line which I hope to see extended down to the banks of the river. Mr. Hannan, with whom I discussed the matter, will inform Mr. Walch of my views on this subject.

The location of the station near Tadepalle is of course purely temporary, but as at least two or three years must elapse before the bridge can be built, it is of great importance that a line should be brought up to the bank of the river in order that goods may be laden into the railway wagons, as soon as they are unshipped from the boats.

I also inspected, with Mr. Arundel, the various improvements, clearings and removals which he has been carrying out at Bezwada, and I think his action has been throughout judicious and that the Provincial grant which we have given him is being expended to advantage. It is of great importance that the village site of Bezwada should be under control, and that the laying out of such sites should be conducted with a view to the future requirements, and to the growing importance of that place.

At Bezwada I received address, as well from its townspeople, as from the public of Masulipatam and Guntur. In reply to these addresses I said that I was of course in favour of a branch line from Bezwada to Masulipatam, the construction of which Mr. Arundel strongly urged. It is premature to consider now whether such a branch would be constructed by this Government as a feeder to the East Coast line, or whether the Secretary of State and the Government of India could be induced to include such a branch in the East Coast Railway, as well as another branch from Guntakal to Nellore, the construction of which is also strongly advocated by Mr. Arundel, and the people in the district. It is of great importance that the latter branch if constructed should be upon the broad gauge, but as it is not finally decided that the East Coast Railway shall be constructed upon that gauge, it is useless to say more at present on the subject.

In the Masulipatam address the people asked for a steam launch to ply between the ships and the shore. I dare say it is very much wanted, but as the abolition of the steam launch at the larger port of Cocanada is contemplated owing to want of funds I fear that we may not be able to comply with this request, which should, however, be considered in the proper quarter.

I hinted to the Municipal Councillors of Guntur that the Government were very much dissatisfied with their management of the interests committed to their care. The Guntur people urged the necessity of the construction of the Kistna bridge, the construction of which has happily since been sanctioned.

In two of the addresses the importance of Ipuripollem, near Bapatla, as a port was brought to my notice and complaint was made of its present isolation. I infer though it was not expressly so stated, that the petitioners desire that a road may be made to it. This is a matter, which is within the competence of the Local Fund Board. I assume that a railway extension to this port can hardly be hoped for, at any rate for a long time to come. The Bezwada address referred to the question of removing the head-sluices of the Ryves' canal to Ramarapad, three miles lower down. I understand that engineering objections have been advanced against compliance with this request, but this matter, as also the project for widening and improving the Budimeru and Uppateru, will receive the attention of Mr. Walch, who has just left for Bezwada.

On my way to Singareni it was represented to me that the construction of the Bezwada-Cocanada branch of the East Coast line might with advantage be made over to His Highness the Nizam's State Railway Company,—a matter which I believe has already been considered by Colonel Smith, but I should *not* be disposed to comply with this request. The coal mines are certainly doing well and the development of the resources of the Deccan Company is a matter in which we

cannot but be interested, seeing that the railways which are about to be constructed will form the natural outlet from the terminus of the Nizam's State Railway to the sea. Much coal should come down from Singareni, and much produce should go up from Kistna and Godaveri.

The recent decision of the High Court that no ryot holding land forming part of a regular irrigation system is bound to take water against his will was brought to my notice. I do not know whether this decision has been brought prominently before the Government, the careful attention of which, however, it deserves.

Another matter on which I have set inquiries on foot concerns the Abkari Department. I think we should carefully scrutinize, and possibly even reconsider, the orders prescribing a minimum strength for country spirits distilled from toddy, and the action taken for the prevention of the sale of liquor below a certain strength.

The defects in the existing Canal and Ferries Act whereby the Government have no power to levy fees for the use of wharves were brought to my notice, and the necessary addition is made in the Bill now before the Legislative Council.

MADRAS,
14th January 1890.

CONNEMARA.

APPENDIX TO TOUR No. XI.

Address of the Municipal Corporation of Cocanada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Municipal Corporation and the public of Cocanada, we beg to offer your Excellency a hearty welcome to this town.

When your Excellency's predecessor in office, Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, paid a visit to this town in 1883, we submitted to His Excellency that the construction of a railway from Guntúr to Vizagapatam would materially increase the trade and prosperity and tend to develope the resources of the Northern Circars. We now hear that, through your Excellency's kind efforts, our long-cherished hopes in regard to the railway are likely to be realized and we feel highly thankful for the same.

Your Excellency is probably aware that this port is the best sheltered roadstead in this Presidency, and the rapid development of the trade of the place is in a great measure due to this fact. To keep pace with the development of the trade of the port, we respectfully submit that the formation of a Harbour Board, with more extended powers than the present Groynes Committee has, is necessary so that it may be able to raise sufficient funds for carrying out several improvements which are much needed, such as the employment of additional dredges for keeping the bar and the river clear of silt, the construction of a line of jetties along the foreshore, and the reclamation of land now submerged by the tides.

The parental care with which your Excellency has alleviated the sufferings of the famine-stricken people of Ganjam, visiting the district in the hottest part of the year, when epidemics were raging all around, at no small risk to your health and convenience, assures us that even the remotest part of the Presidency can count upon your Excellency's attention and sympathy, and makes our feelings of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress doubly strong.

Your Excellency has endeared yourself to your subjects in all parts of the Presidency by your broad sympathies with the people, irrespective of race or creed, and by the deep interest your Excellency has always taken in their welfare and prosperity.

Your Excellency's visit reminds us of the fact that the institution of the Local Self-Government was inaugurated by your late lamented brother, and we are happy to state that under your Excellency's fostering care, we are endeavouring our best to deserve the privilege and to profit by it.

In conclusion, we pray to God that he may bless your Excellency with long life and prosperity.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—It must be always very agreeable to a person who has had the honor of representing Her Majesty in this Presidency for three years as I have had, to receive such an address as you have been good enough to present me this morning, and I am very much obliged to you for the very warm reception which you have given me, and for the handsome pandal and other ornaments which I see around me. I shall not forget it, and the recollection of my visit this morning will be amongst the most agreeable of those visits that I have had the pleasure of paying to the various parts of the Presidency. I confess that what you say with respect to the broad sympathies which I have for the people, is what I actually feel, for I can assure you that no person can be impressed of the responsibility which should devolve on a Governor, who wishes to represent Her Majesty in this Presidency, more than I do; for I know that the more sympathy a Governor shows to all classes and creeds of people, the better he represents the feelings of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. In your address you are good enough to mention two or three things which will have my attention. You mention that my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Grant Duff, was here some years ago, and spoke of the increase of railway enterprise. I have been, all the time I have been here, strongly impressed with the fact that the East Coast railroad has been far too long delayed, and impressed upon the Government of India what a very great injustice it was to this part of India that this railway had not been begun. I am happy to say that it is now if not an accomplished fact itself, at least its survey, its plan, its design, and the intention of Government with respect to it are accomplished facts; and that nothing but some accident, which at present is unforeseen by me, can prevent the realisation of that great project. There are some people who have thought that a railway along the East Coast is unnecessary, because you have traffic by sea, and also in some parts of the district you

have traffic by canal. Those were the two difficulties which I had to contend with, but I need not tell you that I set my face strenuously against any theory founded upon any such idea as that; and I am quite sure that a railroad along the East Coast will do good to the marine traffic as much as it does to the interior. All those who are engaged in commercial pursuits, and those who have the management of commercial enterprises, know very well that the more intercourse you have into the country, the more is the trade and the traffic. Therefore the fact of your having a route by the sea does not at all, in my opinion, take away the necessity of having a good route by land; and those persons who said that that was a reason against making the railroad took a very unsound and limited view of this great question. At any rate I am happy to say that those ideas have been exploded, and have been met successfully by the Government of which I am the head. The survey of the line has already commenced; and I am happy to learn, from the officer in charge of a particular branch of the survey here, that it is going on very rapidly. I hope that it will be well made. The surveys of a great number of railways in India have been very hastily made, and unfortunately more money has been spent, and bad routes have been laid out, which prejudiced their success in the future, and caused great inconvenience and loss of money and were a drawback to trade generally. I hope that this railroad will be open before many years, but I am afraid it will not be open before the end of my term of office, which will be two years hence; but I can assure you that, whether I am here or not, I shall have great satisfaction in feeling that my humble exertions in this behalf have terminated successfully. I pray most sincerely that it will be the means of increasing the wealth of the ryots, adding to the commerce of this port and many others along the coast. You have fortunately for yourselves a most happy position both by nature and by art. Owing to the great irrigation of the Godávari, you have been able to send food to distant parts of the Presidency which has been often an inestimable boon both to the people to whom it was sent and to the people who sent it. Trade therefore is in a very healthy condition here. I know very well of what great benefit Godávari was to Ganjam this year, when by an order which I sent to the Collector you have been able to send food to that district in five or six days. This was a great help; had it not been for this, twenty or thirty thousand acres of land would have been now unsown. I believe at this moment you are sending rice to Tanjore, which is a very rich district, but where rice is unfortunately dear, owing to scarcity and want of rain, which we have unfortunately experienced there during the last few weeks. I am happy to say that when I left Madras very good rain was falling, and I hope before now 8 or 9 inches of rain have fallen all over the Southern Presidency. We cannot be too grateful for this, as a possible famine seems now to have disappeared. The prices rose very rapidly during the last week, and that was to a great extent due I think to some foolish people engaged in riots and disturbances, and not so much to scarcity of grain; but of course these riots will be put an end to. I need not tell you that the first duty of Government on such occasions is to keep order, and the fact that scarcity of food is taken advantage of by a few evil characters to raise the prices and cause the shops to be closed will be met with a strong hand by the Government, because we cannot submit for a moment to allow shops of decent people to be ravished by these rioters, who do it out of the very worst motives, and not only do harm to the individuals robbed, but also create a panic whereby the price of rice is increased generally. Severest measures, I can assure you, will be taken against those who have created these disturbances and have done so much harm. You say in your address a few words about the Port Trust. That is a question which will receive my consideration when I return to Madras. All I can say is that your request seems to be a very reasonable one, and that it is very desirable that you should have control over the port funds locally as much as possible; and what you are doing here with respect to the groyne shows that you are quite alive to the proper way of increasing the commerce of the port by developing the resources of nature. I can assure you that I am extremely obliged to you for the welcome you have given me, which I fully appreciate. I am very glad to find myself in the Northern Circars. I only regret that I was not able to come here before now. It was not from a want of desire that I was prevented from coming here earlier. The fact of the matter is, that I have visited the other parts of the Prsidency which needed my presence more than this. I am very much obliged to you for your reception, and hope I shall see more of your town during the short time I shall spend amongst you.

Address of the Chamber of Commerce, Cocanada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, and of the mercantile community of this place, we desire to offer to your Lordship our congratulations upon your visit to Cocanada.

We thank your Lordship for receiving this deputation, and would humbly request permission to refer to one or two matters connected with the trade of this port to which we would crave your Lordship's kind attention.

It was our privilege on the occasion of a visit to Cocanada by your Lordship's predecessor, to draw attention to the need of a line of railway between Cocanada and Hyderabad, and your Lordship's recent recommendations to the Supreme Government have, it pleases us to hope,

assured the speedy construction of this very necessary work as part of the East Coast Railway scheme, as on the ultimate carrying out of this project the future commercial prosperity of Cocanada undoubtedly depends.

We cannot however expect the railway to be opened for traffic for a few years yet, and we would urge upon your Lordship's consideration the necessity there exists, in the interest of the trade of Cocanada, for devising some means to obviate the closure of the Godávari and Kistna canals, which takes place during the busiest months of every year. The stoppage of traffic for so long a period, in the height of the trading season, is the cause of a large annual loss to the mercantile community; and although we would not presume to suggest what means should be adopted to secure the desired end, we are of opinion that such means are not beyond the scope of the Public Works Department.

The success which has attended the operations of the Groynes Extension Board, in keeping the river bar clear for navigation, since the Board was formed at the suggestion of this Chamber of Commerce about seven years ago, will, we hope, lead to its being invested with wider powers than it now possesses and its consolidation into a Port Trust Committee having the entire conservancy of the port under its management and direction.

In conclusion, we beg to thank your Lordship for receiving this address and to state that we rest assured that the well-being of Cocanada will meet with every consideration at your Lordship's hands.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I am extremely glad to have the pleasure of meeting the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. It is always a great pleasure to me to meet chambers of commerce like your own and members of the mercantile community. You know as well as I do, that the prosperity of the country depends upon the prosperity of its trade and commerce, and it is the duty of Government to do all that lies within its province to promote industry, and to promote commerce both by sea and land. From that point of view it is my great object, as I told the Municipality this morning, to see that the East Coast railway is being pushed forward rapidly. Some time ago you brought the question of a railway from Cocanada to Hyderabad before my predecessor, and I have good ground for believing that a project which comprises a much larger scheme, and which will be of more benefit to the East Coast generally, will be finished in a few years. A branch from the main East Coast line to Cocanada will, I hope, draw a large portion of the produce of the delta down to this port, and in that way will benefit the producers, and also exporters and shippers generally. I trust that producers in exchange for their grain will in turn be able to supply themselves with the luxuries and necessaries of life from the sea-board to a greater extent than they can at present. With respect to the canals, I have spoken to the engineer this morning on the subject, and it is quite clear to me that the repairs that are necessary this year for the two canals, particularly as regards irrigation, must be done, and unless you can show some means of obviating the necessity for these repairs, which I do not think you can, I am afraid the great inconvenience which I have no doubt you will suffer—and it is a very serious inconvenience to have the canals closed for navigation for three months a year—must be endured. I must confess that the suggestion you make of duplicating the canal near Rajahmundry is a very practical one, and one that will be considered by the Public Works Department when I return to Madras. The only question is, whether the results would repay the expense. The precarious nature of the navigation of these canals only shows that a railroad is a much better means of conveyance. I do not know whether you think that these canals will be of much use as means of transit when the railroad is made. I am very glad to hear that the great object for which the canals were made, viz., irrigation, is not interfered with by their being closed for three months a year. With respect to your suggestion regarding portions of the groynes, all I can say is that if you address Government upon the subject, I shall see that it is very carefully considered. I congratulate you upon the commercial prosperity of the town, and also upon the success which, with the help of the groynes, you have been endeavouring to cope with the requirements of the port.

Address of the Members of the Municipal Council of Rajahmundry.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Councillors of Rajahmundry, on behalf of all the inhabitants of the town, beg to offer your Excellency a most cordial and hearty welcome. Unlike the southern districts, the Northern Circars have no railway connection with Madras, and communication between them and Madras by sea is at times almost impossible. It is probably owing to this that people living in Madras know but little of the northern districts. An instance of the want of knowledge of these parts was quite recently afforded by the leading Madras paper, which, in a short para., about your Excellency's present tour, referred to Cocanada as if it were in the Kistna district. The East Coast Railway, which we sincerely hope your Excellency's influence will soon cause to be an established fact, will doubtless remedy this state

of things. We shall not trouble your Excellency now with a detailed account of the wants of this town. With your permission a deputation from the inhabitants of this place will wait on you during your stay here, and represent to you what are considered to be the pressing wants of the people. We would only mention that this town is sadly in need of a good hospital and of a proper water-supply. As regards the hospital, we are happy to say that the Taluk Board has taken up the question, that an estimate and plan for our entirely new and complete building are under preparation, and that subscriptions are being collected. As to the water-supply, no definite proposals have as yet been made. Your Excellency's Government will shortly be asked, through the proper channel, to depute a competent engineer to work out a scheme for supplying all parts of the town with water throughout the year; all that we ask your Excellency now is that you will use your influence when the time comes (1) to secure us the services of a competent engineer; (2) to advance us the necessary funds or to allow us to raise the sum required by a loan. We hope that your Excellency will have a pleasant trip through the gorge, that you will not be disappointed with the scenery there, and that you will spend a happy Christmas in our midst.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I am extremely obliged to you for the very cordial reception you have given me, and also for the very handsome decorations that you have made in my honor. I know very well that these receptions which I meet with in different places, that I have the pleasure of visiting, are not given so much in consequence of any personal merits of my own as in consequence of the fact that I represent Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose merits and whose virtues the people of the Presidency of Madras are always too happy to acknowledge through their Governor. I am glad upon this occasion to know that the Municipality which you represent is a body representing the inhabitants here. I shall be glad to learn, whilst I am here, how you are conducting your business which I trust is in a prosperous condition, and I can assure you that anything you will bring to my consideration with respect to municipal affairs shall receive my warm attention. You refer in your address to the isolated position in which you are placed, and the want of railway communication here. I can assure you that it has not been from any unwillingness on my part that I have not been here before now, but to the fact that other less favoured districts of Madras required my attention more than yours, and I am glad to think that I have chosen this time of the year, the Christmas holidays, for I can imagine no more pleasant and appropriate place to spend them in than in this very lovely district. You also mention in your address that our public instructors in Madras have not shown that acquaintance with the geography of Rajahmundry which you expected from them. Well I receive, I am happy to say, so much good will generally from the local Press, that I am only too happy to say that I am quite sure that the mistake of placing Rajahmundry in the Kistna district was not intended as an offence; and I have no doubt that, as geographical science is progressing very rapidly all over the world, before very long, representatives of the Press in all parts of India will find in the Kistna and Godávari districts pleasant and profitable places for their correspondents to dwell in, and that your wants and wishes will then be very readily received by those correspondents. You mention I think in your address that you are not upon this occasion desirous of placing any wants of the people before me, but I shall be very glad, while I am here, to know what they are; and when I return to Madras it will be my duty as well as my pleasure to do what I can to remedy them. You mention two subjects in your address—the one is a better water-supply and the other is the need of a hospital. Well, now, these are two very necessary institutions, and I find all over the Presidency that the cry of all in every town is about a better water-supply. I wish all the towns in the Presidency had as good a water-supply as you have at present, and I am glad to think that you are going to turn your attention seriously to bringing the water which you have in such abundance into the houses of inhabitants. I shall be very glad to learn, during the time I am here, what your intentions are with regard to that subject, and to the reasonable request you make that an engineer should be deputed to give you advice. I hope I shall be able to comply with your request when I return to Madras, and I can only say, as matter for encouragement, that we have complied with similar requests from other municipalities. With regard to the hospital, I shall be glad to hear what you have to say, and to receive representatives of other bodies belonging to the town. A hospital is one of the prime necessities of the day, and I have no doubt that there are no means by which the beneficent influences of the British Government can be more efficiently brought to bear upon the people than by the provision of good hospitals both for men and women in all parts of the Presidency. There is a subject connected with this in which I am taking very great interest, viz., the subject of training nurses in various hospitals for the men and women of the country, and I am glad to say that the scheme for sending out nurses both into the hospitals and into the homes of the people to attend on the ladies of the country is making very great progress, and I have no doubt that, as Rajahmundry is one of the centres of education, all those who are interested in education here will do their very best to promote that cause. I can imagine nothing that can contribute more towards alleviating the physical sufferings amongst the high class ladies and women of the country than a plentiful supply of thoroughly well-trained nurses and female

doctors. Well now I think, gentlemen, I have touched upon the various points which you have mentioned in your address. I recognise with gratitude that it is an address of welcome rather than an address pointing out any of your wants. I shall therefore only say again what I have said at the outset of my remarks that I am very much obliged to you for the very handsome preparations you have made here, which I cannot help saying that I admire exceedingly, particularly as I am aware that all such preparations require a great deal of care and cost no inconsiderable amount of money. I hope, gentlemen, that I shall not forget the reception which you have given me, and that when I leave India, as I suppose I shall, two years hence, I shall leave behind me a kindly recollection of my efforts in doing my duty to my Sovereign.

Address of the Inhabitants of Rajahmundry.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the inhabitants of Rajahmundry, on this Your Excellency's visit to this town most cordially and respectfully bid you welcome.

2. It is now 6½ years since we saw the Governor of our Presidency in our midst. And considering the comparative inaccessibility of the Northern Circars, we had little hopes of receiving the honor and the favor of a visit, even from Your Excellency, of whose readiness to forego personal comfort and safety for the sake of the people committed to your care, we had a striking and never-to-be-forgotten instance so recently as last May. We therefore most heartily thank Your Excellency for giving us this opportunity of meeting you and expressing our sentiments of gratitude and laying before you our wants.

3. In the first place we are deeply bounden to Your Excellency's Government for pressing the question of the East Coast Railway on the Supreme Government, till their sanction was obtained for the survey, which we are happy to find has been already set on foot. We have also to express to you our thanks for the readiness with which our prayers in connection with two matters of local importance were granted—the maintenance as a Government institution of the Girls' School, from the support of which His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagrum had withdrawn; and the sanction and fitting up of the Godávari ferry steamer at so early a date after the old steamer became disabled. We must not omit to make grateful mention here of the appointment of a drawing master in the local college, which appointment we take to be an earnest of the intentions of Your Excellency's Government to make Rajahmundry the centre of Art and Technical education in the Northern Circars, as it has hitherto been the centre of higher University education in this part of the Presidency; the sanction of Rs. 10,000 for the extension of the college building, and the building grant of Rs. 6,000 towards the construction of the Rajahmundry High School.

4. While thanking Your Excellency for the favors already conferred on us, we venture to lay before you a few of our pressing wants.

5. What we would place on the fore front is the construction of the Railway from Bezváda to Rajahmundry, as soon as the survey of this section of the East Coast Railway is completed, without waiting for the completion of the survey of the entire line. This would have the effect, not merely of placing the people of this district, at the earliest opportunity, on a footing of equality with the people of more favored districts of the south of the Presidency, in the matter of communication with the capital city, but would make it possible for all the surplus grains of this fertile delta to be instantly thrown into any famine-afflicted tract in the south, whenever the unhappy need for such transport may arise. When the entire East Coast Railway is completed, this district will do the same service also to the districts north of it. Its usefulness however to the southern parts need not, we are humbly of opinion, be delayed till it is equally useful all round.

6. While thanking Your Excellency for the steamer now plying on the river, we beg permission to say that it does not answer all the requirements of the public. It does not ply on Sundays. During floods it does not touch at Vijjeshwaram and Bobbarlanka. On it the passengers are exposed to rain and bad weather. The authorities, we are assured, have been looking into the matter, and the entire blame now rests with the steamer itself. Its engines are, we are told, powerful enough, but its steering qualities are not what they should be. Moreover it appears to require one day of rest in the week.

7. We therefore pray Your Excellency will be pleased to give us an additional steamer with more powerful engines with stern not side paddles and with better accommodation for passengers, ordered direct from England.

8. We represented to His Excellency Sir Mountstuart E. Grant Duff during his visit to this town our urgent want of a buttress wall from the Judge's bungalow to Red Rocks to protect the streets and houses adjoining the river from inundation during floods. We are sorry to say the want remains an urgent want still. As it is, several residents of that part of the town are forced to quit their houses whenever the floods in the Godávari are anything above the average. The post office street is the only thoroughfare by which the river traffic is connected with Old Town. Further, all those that have to post, register, or insure letters and parcels or send money orders, and all the hundreds of men and women that daily take their drinking-water from the river must

traverse this street for its entire length. And when we say that this street is for nearly a third of its length under water when the Godávari is in high floods, Your Excellency can easily conceive the hardship which the people are put to.

9. Lastly we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take into consideration the hardship inflicted on poor people by the present rule of the Forest Department regarding unclaimed drift-wood, by which one-fourth the sale proceeds only is allowed to the salver, while three-fourths are appropriated by Government, and to order that the salver do take one half instead of one-fourth as at present.

10. We thank Your Excellency for having given us this opportunity of placing before you our wants and our wishes. We pray the Almighty that you may long be spared to us in India and out of it, for we are convinced that the people of India have had no truer friends than Your Excellency's late illustrious brother and yourself.

11. Heartily wishing Your Excellency the compliments of the season and a safe and pleasant journey for the rest of your tour, &c.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—The fact of your having only occasional opportunities of seeing the Governor of Madras makes it more incumbent upon me to listen very attentively to what you have to say, and I cannot help saying that the whole of your address is a very sensible one, and brings to my notice nothing more than is legitimate I wish very much that I could give you satisfactory answers to all the subjects your address refers to, but it would not be convenient for me, upon an occasion of this kind, to say that I should be able to comply with all your requests without giving my colleagues and the departments of the Government an opportunity of expressing their opinions. In the first place, you are good enough to remember with gratitude the obligation under which you rest to the Government; and it gives me great satisfaction to find that you appreciate the prospects of the East Coast railroad. I have spoken both at Cocanada and here already with respect to the benefits that this railway will confer upon the whole of the Coast; and I have no doubt that many dormant energies will be roused, and many non-existent industries will be brought into being before long, after this railroad is made. With respect to the opening first the southern sections of railroad. I can only say that your address very accurately describes my own opinion (hear, hear). I have impressed upon the Government of India, long before I knew what the opinions of the local bodies here were, that it is most desirable that the southern end of the line, that is the line from Kistna, should be commenced before the other part. I think it is probable, if we are fortunate, and if the Government of India can spare us the money, that the line may be commenced first, but, at any rate, I am most anxious myself that in this very rich and fertile district which needs a railroad most, and where a railway will pay best, that portion of the line should have the priority, that the branch from Sámalkót to Cocanada should be open so as to give complete communication between the deltas of the higher country here and the sea. I have no reason to suppose at present that there will be any delay in the opening of the line, and all I can say with respect to it is that my opinions and yours entirely coincide, and I do not think that mine are likely to be altered with respect to it. You must know, of course, that there is heavy work to be done in the bridge over the Kistna river, which will take some time; but whether the line can be opened before the bridge is completed is a matter for the Engineers to consider. I hope the Kistna bridge will be begun almost immediately after the survey is commenced; and possibly arrangements will be made for commencing it before the survey is completed. You also refer to the steamer in which I went this morning. I am very glad to hear that it is of advantage. I must say that it is very well adapted for the purpose for which it was intended. I was glad to see that some arrangements were made for the accommodation of gosha and purdah ladies. You say that the steamer works only for six days every week. I have made inquiries, and I find that it is absolutely necessary that it should not work in one day in the week, and of course it would not be agreeable to you if from not being taken care of, the engines get into bad order; and I know from experience, I must tell you, that the engines of every steamer require to be looked to and overhauled very thoroughly, at least once a week. I do not see any reason why another steamer should not be bought, provided the funds can be obtained. If this question is mooted, I suppose the locality will be expected to provide a certain amount; but that is a question of detail, and I do not wish to give any opinion upon it at present. However, this portion of your address will be referred to the proper authorities who will give it consideration; and if they can give you a favorable answer, I personally shall be very glad indeed. I also took into consideration, when I went this morning, accompanied by Mr. Moberley, who takes a great interest in this matter, to visit the site of the proposed buttress wall along a portion of the river-bank here. I have no doubt that there is very great inconvenience at present, and that a wall along the street from this place where we are standing now up to the Red Rocks will be a great addition to the comfort of the people. I shall have this subject carefully considered, and, if financial arrangements permit, shall be personally glad if it can be made. I am afraid I have not the power of turning everything into gold; perhaps some of your learned Professors of the Rajahmundry College, who have so far advanced in science, may be able to do this with the aid of the philosopher's stone. As an ordinary individual, I can

only say that the great difficulty with regard to sanitation and every other reform that we are anxious to carry out, is finance. The anxiety which the people display to have good water is only an additional sign of the advance of civilization, which is spreading all over the country, fostered, I have no doubt, by your colleges, one of the most distinguished of which is the Rajahmundry College. With respect to your request regarding drift-wood, which seems to me to be a reasonable one, I do not know whether the Forest Department will agree to the change or not; however it will be fairly considered. It is possible that they may say that the expense thrown upon them in respect to the wood is so great that they cannot afford to give to the salver a larger share of the wood than they do now. Gentlemen, I am very glad to have the pleasure of seeing you. I hope it will not be six years before a Governor of Madras pays you another visit. I am sorry to think that in all probability I shall not be here six years hence, and I can only say that if my successor finds it as pleasant to visit this district as I do, he will, at any rate in one respect, do better than I have done, and that is, that he will pay you more than one visit during his administration.

Address of the People's Association of the Godávari District.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We the Members of the Godávari People's Association beg permission to approach Your Excellency with this our humble address of welcome.

2. As loyal subjects of the Queen-Empress and as people who have had our full share of the benefits of Your Excellency's benign administration, we are sincerely glad we are given this opportunity of welcoming you to our town and district and expressing our gratitude to you for the constant solicitude with which you regard the interests of every section of the community in every part of this Presidency, however remote.

3. We thank Your Excellency for bringing the East Coast Railway within measurable distance of accomplishment in the course perhaps of the next two or three years. We believe that the Survey party have begun their work and trust that the survey of the section from Bezváda to Rajahmundry will not take more than a few months. It is our humble and earnest prayer that as soon as the survey of this section is completed, the construction of the railway between these two towns may be commenced at once.

4. The present Godávari ferry steamer is a convenience for which we cannot sufficiently thank Your Excellency. But during the time that the Godávari is in flood, when other modes of crossing the river are either dangerous or impracticable, she is not as useful as she might be, owing, we are given to understand, to defects in her gearing and fittings. We pray Your Excellency will be pleased to order that the present unsatisfactory state of the steamer be set right in any manner that to Your Excellency may seem necessary.

5. Your Excellency's Government is doubtless already aware of the injustice and hardship inflicted on the people by the assessment of income for income-tax by Revenue officers of Government. We beg respectfully to point out that in towns the assessment rests entirely with the Tahsildar and in villages with the Village officers and that everywhere there is practically no formal or informal check on their assessments from any competent persons or bodies of persons who are in a position to know or ascertain more or less accurately the actual incomes of persons. We can for our part vouch to the existence of irregularities in this matter, but would leave the remedy to Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration.

6. The assessors and jury in this district are under present rules drawn from a circuit comprised within a radius of 20 miles from Rajahmundry. It unfortunately happens that this orbit most effectually excludes the most fertile and the most populous towns and villages. We beg that the choice may be extended over the whole area of the entire district, since fortunately every part of the district is connected with this town by canals, and not even the residents of the extreme verge of the district need take more than four-and-twenty hours to reach this town; and that the selection of persons in the first instance be removed from the hands of village officers and left to officers of a higher standing.

7. The present elective system in Municipal Councils is a privilege that is greatly appreciated by the people. And the uniformly liberal spirit in which Your Excellency's Government have dealt with the rights and functions of Municipal Councils encourages us to hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to make the same elective system applicable to some Taluk Boards also.

8. We understand that the amendment of the Municipal Act is under the consideration of Your Excellency's Government. We would take this opportunity of specially drawing your attention to the schedule of taxes for Arts and Professions according to which a District Court vakil, for instance, whose monthly income is Rs. 30 has to pay the same tax—Rs. 25 a year—as a Government officer drawing Rs. 1,000 a month. An equal amount has to be paid by a Printing Press as such, even though it may make no profit at all. We bring these glaring inequalities prominently to Your Excellency's notice in the confident hope that when the amendment of the Act is taken up, at an early date as we trust, the inequitable distribution of municipal taxation may not be lost sight of among other things.

9. Lastly, we pray that when the questions of a scheme of water-supply for this town and the construction of a buttress wall on the bank of the Godávari from the Judge's bungalow to Red Rocks come up for consideration before Your Excellency's Government, Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to give them your earnest support.

10. In conclusion, we cordially wish Your Excellency the compliments of the season, and pray the Almighty Giver will shower on you his choicest blessings.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I am much obliged to you, I am sure, for your good wishes. I see this address contains subjects which have already been brought before me in the Municipal and other addresses, such as questions of the railroad, of the steamer, and of the buttress wall, to which I have replied; so I need not further allude to them. You mention one or two subjects which the other addresses did not contain. You say that the income-tax assessment should not be left entirely to the Tahsildar, and that somebody, who is in a position to know, or ascertain accurately, the incomes of persons, should check it. The Government have told the Divisional officers to check the assessments as much as possible. I do not think we can do more than that, because the Government is extremely averse to making very minute inquiries into the incomes of individuals as no person likes to have his income scrutinised. I shall, however, take the matter into consideration when I go back to Madras, and shall bring it to the notice of my colleagues. You also mention that the assessors and the jury in this district are selected from within an area of 20 miles. Of course, the object is to get the best assessors and jurors, and if, on inquiry, we find that by enlarging the area we should have a larger number of persons of position and respectability, I do not see why we should not comply with your request. You also refer to the question of the elective system, and ask that it may be applied to the Taluk Boards. I am not myself so completely blind to the defects of the elective system in the Municipal Councils and Local Boards as to say that the system should be applied to the Taluk Boards. We are very anxious to promote the principle as far as we can, but we must not go too fast. There are several Municipalities in which the elective system is in force—I need not say whether they are in this district or not—which are not working as well as we should wish them to do. Therefore I do not wish to give you the idea that we are going to introduce the elective system into the Taluk Boards. I think it will require many years before it can be very much advanced. I am very glad to see it prosper in some Municipalities and Local Boards, and one of the reasons why it is doing well is that the Members of the Taluk Boards are now nominated by the Collector and in that the Local Boards are provided with a fairly good constituency. With respect to the question of the assessment of pleaders at the rate of Rs. 25 a year, I shall have this matter considered. I think myself that it will be some time before we can be persuaded to make the change you suggest. The Municipal Act will be very carefully considered when it is brought before the Legislative Council, and it will be referred to a Select Committee composed of gentlemen who know the country, before whom I shall place this address. I only wish that the People's Association will prosper, and that you will continue to entertain the same sentiments of loyalty to the Queen and those who represent her in this country as you do now; and anything that promotes a vigorous public opinion and a vigorous public life like your Association will always receive, I am quite sure, the sympathetic help of any Governor who may be in the position in which I am.

Address of the Municipal Council of Ellore.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Municipal Council of Ellore, as representatives of the public, give you a most hearty welcome, and take the opportunity to express our loyalty and deep gratitude for the many blessings of the reign of Her Imperial Majesty the Empress Victoria.

2. We thank Your Excellency for the many works of public utility with which your name and interest have been associated. Notably we may mention the early concession of the East Coast Railway, by which the many conveniences of civilization will be brought to our very doors, the resources of our district developed, and last, but not least, dire famine—such as Your Excellency with much sympathy and in person very lately helped to ameliorate—will be shorn of many of its terrors.

3. Our fellow townsmen in the address which they have presented to Your Excellency have represented such of our public wants as are of sufficient importance to warrant us in troubling Your Excellency with them, and we will therefore not detain Your Excellency further.

4. We desire to express again our earnest thanks to Your Excellency for this visit: we regret that Your Excellency's stay among us is to be so short, but hope that we be honored with a second visit before Your Excellency's term of office expires.

Address of the Ellore Public.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—With feelings of sincere loyalty and joy we beg to wait on Your Excellency with an address welcoming Your Excellency to this ancient town and to thank Your Excellency for the distinguished compliment you have paid us by this visit.

We feel that we should be wanting in duty if we did not take this opportunity of giving expression to the feeling of gratitude with which we have been universally inspired by Your Excellency's benevolent efforts, made at considerable risk of convenience and health, to save our countrymen of Ganjam from pestilence and scarcity.

This one act, were there none else, is enough to entitle Your Excellency to our lasting gratitude.

To Your Excellency's efforts we owe the commencement of the East Coast Railway—an inestimable boon by which you have placed us under the deepest obligations. The want of railway communication on this coast has, indeed, placed us under many disadvantages, and never did we feel it so much as since His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor's sojourn in our country, for had there already been railway communication on this coast we would probably at this moment and at this place have been the fortunate hosts of the Royal visitor.

We are very thankful to Your Excellency for the deep interest you have taken in this railway project and we anxiously pray that the railway may soon become an accomplished fact.

It is not our purpose to take up much of the few hours at Your Excellency's disposal to-night. We, however, desire to avail ourselves of this opportunity of laying before Your Excellency some of our principal wants with the conviction that, though it may not be possible for Your Excellency to satisfy them with the same facility with which we can represent them, yet, if we satisfactorily impress them on Your Excellency's mind, we shall have gained a great step towards the realization of our hopes. We assure Your Excellency that the grateful consciousness of the vast good so far done us by the British Government is all that prompts us to seek for the satisfaction of what more wants we have.

Foremost among all our needs is the vital one of a good water-supply. The Ellore-Bezváda canal, running, as Your Excellency will observe, through the town, is at present the chief source from which our drinking water is taken. This canal, during four months (the hottest period) of the year, is closed, and in the rainy season the canal water is useless, if not positively dangerous to health, so that during nearly one-half of the year the canal supply fails. During this period, wells, of which there are but few, have to be relied on, and these the Chemical Examiner, who examined their water, has declared some to be quite unfit for use and the rest to be of doubtful utility. The want of water-supply to the town is thus a crying one. The Municipal Council has already moved in the matter, and it is believed that the question has been laid before Your Excellency's Government, who, we hear, have ordered an officer to give professional advice to the council. Financially the council is not in a state to undertake the project unassisted. We, therefore, pray that, when the matter goes next to Your Excellency, you will be pleased to render all reasonable assistance to it in view of its necessity and urgency.

The next point to which we beg to invite Your Excellency's attention is the necessity of changing the present halting place of boats on the Ellore-Bezváda canal. These boats are at present moored along that part of the canal which lies between Ellore and Powerpetta. This is the only portion of the canal useful to the people for bathing and drinking purposes. The mooring of the boats at this place and the consequent traffic with its attendant bustle and collection of all castes of men have the very painful effect of inconveniencing and obstructing the public resorting to the canal for bathing and carrying water and of rendering their drinking water insanitary, besides wounding the religious susceptibilities of the higher class Hindus. Our prayer is that the landing-place may be shifted to the eastern side of the bridge and that stone flights of steps, such as may be seen at Bezváda, may be constructed on either side of the canal from the bridge to the western extremity of Powerpetta.

Our next want is educational. Education here is, we regret to state, in a very backward state. We have but one Mission High school in the town, and the advantages of healthy competition are therefore unknown. One high school, besides, is very insufficient provision, considering the population and importance of the place. There are two or three low standard schools, but they are mere schools of adventure. The town, therefore, very badly wants a properly-organized high school of a secular character. Our views have the support of the chief educational officers of the district and of our Municipal Council, who seem to have taken up the matter. Bearing in mind that the one high school we have in our midst is (1) of a religious character, (2) without the advantages of well-directed competition, and (3) insufficient for the requirements of the town, we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to give this subject the attention it deserves.

Our fourth subject is the bridge over the canal. The importance of this bridge will easily be recognised when it is considered that practically all the traffic, entering and leaving Ellore by the Kistna and Godávari canals as well as by road, necessarily passes over it. This incessant traffic inevitably becomes a great obstruction to passengers, who are hardly ever able to cross the

bridge without long detentions or in the face of no insignificant danger from carts and cattle. This great inconvenience can be remedied by the construction of a new bridge wider than the old, and we submit that this want cannot be too soon supplied. We trust this prayer will receive Your Excellency's earliest consideration.

The above are those of our wants with which we feel it our duty to trouble Your Excellency. The wants are all local, and Your Excellency may be pleased to note that they are all very pressing and such as the local corporation cannot attend to unaided.

Wants of a political or *quasi*-political character we have left to be dealt with by our more advanced brethren of other towns in the district. The questions of the separation of revenue and magisterial functions and the reform of the police force have already engaged the attention of Your Excellency's Government and we are loyally content to leave their care to those who have the power to deal with them finally.

We fear we have already taken up too much of your time. We are very thankful to Your Excellency that, amidst probably many more important engagements for the few hour's stay Your Excellency is to make here, you have made it convenient to let us present our address personally and we are deeply obliged for the consideration with which Your Excellency has treated us. We pray that Providence will grant Your Excellency long life and the continued possession of those faculties and energies which you have been employing for our good.

May, we, in conclusion, beg that, should Your Excellency meet or write to His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, Your Excellency might be pleased to intimate to him how grateful we feel to the Queen-Empress for the immense security, prosperity and happiness that we have been enjoying under her sway and how indescribably rejoiced we would have felt if we had the good fortune to have personally paid to himself our heartfelt tribute of gratitude and loyalty.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I am extremely obliged to you for your kind address and for the beautiful pandal which you have been so kind as to erect in my honor and for the charming decorations which I see around me. I have long wished to visit this much-favored district, from which others less fortunate draw their supplies of grain in times of distress, as Ganjam lately did during the famine, from which happily it has now recovered. You refer in your address to the benefits you have reaped from British rule, and no one can view the magnificent irrigation works which control the waters of the Kistna and Godávari and the unique prosperity of these districts without being sensible as you are of the benefits of British rule. I think, therefore, that you do well to be grateful, and I am not surprised that you have taken this opportunity of expressing your gratitude. Turning to the requests made in your address, I fully sympathise with your desire to have a good water-supply. The water is close at hand, but I have no doubt that it will cost money to distribute it satisfactorily throughout the town. I can only say that if you formulate a scheme and send it up to Government, it shall receive such assistance as we can give you with due regard to the wants of other towns. Then you ask that the halting place for boats on the canal may be changed. Perhaps this can be done, but I will not now do more than promise to call the attention of the local Engineers to the matter and express a hope that some arrangements may be made which will provide for the wants of the bathers of different castes, and at the same time contribute to the convenience of the canal-borne traffic. Then you express your dissatisfaction with the existing bridge over the canal. The inquiries I have made lead me to believe that it is inadequate to the traffic which crosses it, but a new bridge between Ellore and Powerpetta is about to be built; and I trust that it will relieve the pressure on the present bridge and so meet your wishes in this direction. Your next want is educational, and you complain that you have but one high school, a Mission High school, which is inadequate to the wants of the town. I shall direct inquiries to be made as to the necessity for a second high school, but meanwhile I must tell you that the first necessity in my opinion is the improvement and extension of primary education. You would do better to spend your money on improving primary schools than in obtaining the establishment among you of another institution in which higher education may be taught; and should you do so you will establish thereby the best possible claim to aid for the extension of higher education also. I cannot leave this subject without commending to your notice the all-important subject of female education, which, I hope, will receive at your hands the attention that so vital a matter merits and demands. You express your satisfaction at the approaching construction of the East Coast Railway, and you regret that it had not been constructed in time to allow of a visit to your town from His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor. I, too, am sorry that His Royal Highness could not see this part of the Presidency, but when the railway has actually been constructed, you will doubtless not be without visits from illustrious and distinguished personages, and perhaps some day His Royal Highness' eldest son will follow his example to come to India, in which case, I trust, he will come to this part of the country travelling by the East Coast Railway.

Address of the Residents of Masulipatam.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Upon the occasion of Your Lordship's visit to an outlying portion of the Kistna district the residents of Masulipatam request permission to present this address, assuring Your Excellency of their unaltered sentiments of loyalty to the Empress of India and of respect to Her Majesty's representative in this Presidency.

2. The ancient port of Masulipatam is the oldest among the dependencies of Fort St. George. It was formerly the capital of the province of the Northern Circars, and it is still the chief town of the Kistna district and the seat of the district administration. It forms the natural outlet for the export of the produce of the Kistna delta, and the trade and population, notwithstanding any physical disadvantages of its situation, do not diminish.

3. The principal disadvantage is the difficulty of communication with the interior of the country. For nine months in the year there is canal communication, but these canals are intended to serve as irrigation canals and as irrigation extends the supply of water becomes insufficient for navigation on the canals; besides the navigation canal only serves a part of the district.

4. The remedy which would meet the requirements of this town and port is the extension of the railway from Bezváda to the coast, which, as advocated by us, would traverse a tract of country, every acre of which is under rice cultivation and which will never be served by a navigable canal. The subject has been fully discussed in Mr. Arundel's note thereon.

5. Another disadvantage to this town is the want of accelerated communication with the anchorage of our port, which, if provided, would bring Masulipatam into an equality with the neighbouring port of Cocanada as well as with that of Tuticorin, where the distance of anchorage is the same if not greater. We understand Your Excellency's Government have already been moved on the question of a steam-launch being provided, which will prove an inestimable boon to this port. If Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to see the necessity of this part of our prayer also and sanction a grant to enable us to enjoy this advantage, we feel assured that the expenditure would be easily recouped by a small fee being levied on our exports and imports as is now being done at the port of Cocanada to meet the expenditure on the construction of groynes for the protection of that port.

6. In conclusion we humbly beg to give Your Excellency a hearty welcome to our district, though regretting that, on the present occasion, we have not been able to do ourselves this honor in our own town of Masulipatam. We hope, however, that at no distant date we shall have the privilege now afforded our brethern of Bezváda, and we hope further that our prayers regarding the extension of railway and the improved communication with our port having been heard and granted by the Government, we shall be able to offer our hearty thanks to Your Excellency and congratulate ourselves that this important town of Masulipatam being brought into improved communication with other places both by land and sea is no longer an isolated and outlying station.

Your Excellency's petitioners will ever pray for Your Excellency's welfare and longevity.

Address of the Public of Guntúr.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the representatives of the Guntúr public deputed to wait on Your Excellency, beg to convey to Your Excellency the expression of our pleasure on your visit to this district in the name of the inhabitants of Guntúr and to offer you our cordial, loyal and affectionate greeting.

We feel our inability to receive Your Excellency in a manner befitting your exalted position, but we feel sure, My Lord, that we yield to none in our deep and sincere attachment and firm fidelity to the throne of Her Imperial Majesty; and in welcoming you, her representative, we heartily thank you for the beneficent acts of Your Excellency's administration, which have tended to raise the condition and prosperity of the people, and some of which were undertaken at much personal risk and inconvenience, as in the case of Your Excellency's late tour to the distressed and famine-stricken district of Ganjam, and we gratefully recognize your assiduous devotion to the well-being of the people.

Though our town is not fortunate enough to be honored this time by a gubernatorial visit as was the case when your predecessor paid a visit to this district, yet we take this earliest opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Your Excellency for having recently granted to our town the right to elect a moiety of the Municipal councillors—a gift which we prize most highly, and by which, we sincerely trust, we shall be greatly profited. We reserve our grateful acknowledgments of other benefits to another occasion, when, we venture to hope, that our town —a commercial centre not undeserving of Your Excellency's interest—will not be forgotten in the programme of a tour to this district within the remaining period of your administration.

We gratefully trace the introduction of the railway into this district to the kind consideration which your predecessor was pleased to extend to the expression of our wants when he visited it in 1883. Inspired by this remembrance, we make bold to bring to your notice some other wants which are at present engaging the attention of the public.

First of all, we beg to invite Your Excellency's attention to the importance of opening a railway line to Nellore *viâ* the delta villages, viz., Chebrole, Ponnur, Bapatla, Chirala, Vetapolem and China Ganjam. People who have to go to Madras are now greatly inconvenienced by having to travel double or treble the distances as they have to avail themselves of the Bellary-Kistna or the Nizam's State Railways; but by the opening of this line not only will much facility be offered for passengers and large traffic, but it will benefit Madras by the opening of communication with a large tract of rich country whose development has hitherto been hindered by the absence of an outlet for its produce. It will establish easy communication with the Railways of Southern India and will also form a continuation of the proposed East Coast Railway, upon whose importance as a protection against famine Your Excellency has already laid great stress. It will also be highly valuable for the pilgrims from Rameswaram to Jaganath, Benares and other holy shrines.

Another important point which we beg respectfully to impress upon Your Excellency's attention is the urgent necessity for a permanent bridge in the place of the present ferry over the Kistna near Bezváda. The inconvenience, the delay, the trouble and danger to both the public and traffic crossing it are very great, and as the railway authorities have already proposed to erect a bridge over it, we humbly crave Your Excellency to hasten its construction with a provision therein for the free passage over it of the people and carts and other conveyances. As the construction will take a long time, we venture to request Your Excellency to favor us with at least a temporary pontoon bridge to facilitate the crossing of the river to and from Tadepalli and Bezváda—the terminii of the two railways. In connection with this we beg to lay before Your Excellency another want now deeply felt by the people—the non-extension of the Tadepalli terminus of the Bellary-Kistna State Railway to the ferry. This is an imperative desideratum as the hardships and difficulties of the passengers and traffic in going from the Tadepalli station to the ferry—a distance of three miles—are considerable, and we therefore earnestly entreat Your Excellency to help forward its early accomplishment.

Lastly, we respectfully beg to state that the want of a safe, easy and commodious port is very much felt in this district owing to the difficulties of landing and shipping in the port of Masulipatam, and, as the port of Epuripollem near Bápatla answers the purposes well, we humbly solicit Your Excellency to constitute it an additional and officially recognised port in this district.

We cannot conclude our address without expressing our thanks to Your Excellency for having placed the administration of our district in the hands of Messrs. A. T. Arundel and O. Wolfe-Murray, gentlemen, who, by their ability and the interest they take in all affairs conducive to the benefit of our district, have made themselves extremely popular among us.

In conclusion, we humbly pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity and hope that for the remaining period of Your Excellency's administration you may have health and vigour to continue to bestow on this Presidency benefits, the like of which have won for Your Excellency the gratitude and esteem of ourselves and of our fellow-countrymen.

Address of the Townspeople of Bezváda.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—No people have more benefited by British rule than those who live in these irrigated deltas. Famines once so frequent and terrible are no longer possible and it becomes us to be grateful, but the hearty welcome we, the townspeople of Bezváda, offer to Your Lordship proceeds from true loyalty and devotion to the Government.

Bezváda was once a town of fabulous size and a great centre of Buddhism, but in the war of extermination between the Jains and Brahmans or in those terrible famines that often depopulated whole towns in these parts, it became reduced to very small dimensions and in 1859 was still a little village. With the building of the anicut, it began to grow apace and it continues to do so with such rapidity that it bids fair to again attain its former greatness. We beg to put before Your Lordship those schemes that are greatly needed for the further development of this district.

I. FIRST OF ALL, THE KISTNA BRIDGE.—We take it for granted that Your Lordship will urge on the erection of this structure as quickly as possible, because if a famine like the last should come again, the absence of it might cause dire regret. The Bellary-Kistna Railway without it is like a long, strong and expensive chain with one bad link and no chain is stronger than its weakest point. So much having been spent on this first-rate famine prevention project we feel sure Your Lordship will do your utmost to prevent its remaining incomplete. We beg that the bridge may be provided with a road for carts and passengers. By so doing the sum that can be raised by tolls will largely help to pay for the structure. The ferry brings in Rs. 2,800 per annum.

II. Next come the railway extensions, but these have been lucidly explained by our excellent Collector in his persuasive memorandum, which by showing the wealthy nature of the towns on the suggested routes carries conviction with it.

The three extensions are—

(1) The East Coast line;
(2) Guntúr to Nellore;
(3) Bezváda to Masulipatam.

These lines will largely help to make the Kistna bridge pay for itself. In the meantime, the Kistna station of the Bellary-Kistna Railway being far from the Kistna and quite a misnomer, it would be a great benefit to bring the terminus at once to the south bank of the river.

III. There is a very fine place for ships to call at, named Ipurupálem, on the coast, a little south of Bápatla. British India ships have called there and it has been described as the only fit place for ships between Madras and the Hoogli, for they can come close up. All that is wanted to make the place of great value to all this part of the country, in fact to provide us with a good port, is communication. The Guntúr-Nellore extension will pass within five miles of it, the Buckingham canal also passes within nine miles of it, so that to make both railway and canal connection with it will be quite easy. This port would also give the Singareni coal a fair chance of getting on the market. Its distance from Bezváda would be about 55 miles and from Guntúr 35. The value of earnestly carrying out this project will be very great and cannot be overstated.

IV. It would be a great improvement to remove the head-sluices of the Ryves' channel to Ramarapad, three miles lower down to a point where the two canals almost meet, so that room for wharfage may be obtained on its banks.

V. The project for widening and improving the rivers Budimeru and Uppateru and reducing the level of the Collair is one that will bring a large quantity of land under wet cultivation, yield a large revenue and be otherwise advantageous and deserves the support of Government. We would also respectfuly suggest that the time may now have come for taking into consideration the question of permanently raising the anicut and by that means making the whole irrigation system more effective.

VI. The deep interest taken by A. T. Arundel, Esq., in the extension and improvement of Bezváda and the energetic way in which L. M. Wynch, Esq., has put into operation and carried out the Municipal Act are producing good results. In the Buckinghampett extensions and the improvement of parcherries, Government have kindly aided with a grant, and, as these projects are calculated to benefit the town greatly, we beg, in order to bring them to a satisfactory completion, for a generous continuance of that assistance. On reviewing the Municipal report, the Government were pleased to refer the question of preparing plans for drainage and water-supply to the Public Works Department. We beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the urgent necessity of carrying out these projects at an early period.

VII. In conclusion, we wish your Lordship all happiness and prosperity and beg to assure you of our loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Empress.

His Excellency's Reply.

GENTLEMEN,—I can assure you I am very glad to receive so many representative Addresses this morning. These Addresses seem to me to represent the wants and the wishes, not only of Bezváda itself, but also those of a very large portion of the district through which I have passed myself, as well as those of portions through which I have not had the pleasure of passing. In the first place I would impress upon all those gentlemen who represent towns other than Bezváda, that I regret very much that I have not been able to visit those towns upon this occasion; but my inability to visit them will rather be an additional incentive to me to attend to their wishes. It is extremely gratifying to me to find that you have all joined to meet me here, and to give me, in the name of our Gracious Sovereign the Queen-Empress, such a hearty welcome. I observe that the beautiful decorations which I see all over the town represent not only the wishes of the people of Bezváda, but also those of other towns which have presented Addresses; and there is one motto I observed in the spirit of which I can join with very great cordiality, that is "May your visit be to the benefit of the district." I only hope that it may not be very long before I have another opportunity of visiting you. Your addresses contain several subjects which are common to all, and I shall now refer to matters relating to individual towns before I pass on to such subjects. As Masulipatam is, I suppose, the oldest town in the district, I will pay that respect to age which is common to Christians and Hindus and Muhammadans, and I will take that first. Its inhabitants wish in the first place for a rail-road thence to Bezváda. I am strongly in favor of such a line myself. I am sure that Masulipatam needs such a railway, as does the district between this and Masulipatam, which, as you point out in your address, is a very large, fertile, prosperous and well cultivated country. I have no doubt that, before long, a railway will be made to Masulipatam. The fact is that it is a portion of the

design which I have laid before the Government of India for the East Coast railroad and its various branches; but whether it will be begun immediately I am unable to state, because you know that the work that we have undertaken of making a direct line along the East Coast is a very expensive one, requiring a great deal of capital, and, therefore, it is a question how soon the Government of India can spare us enough money to make the various branches, though they are of supreme importance; I shall be very glad myself if public opinion can be brought to bear upon the Government of India, and if any funds can be raised locally for the railway. By subscribing money locally, the people will show that they have this great enterprise really at heart. The next thing to which you allude is the question of accelerated communication between ships and the shore at Masulipatam. Now, we all know that Masulipatam is not a very good place for landing, the anchorage being seven or eight miles away from the shore. Such difficulties can be overcome in a great measure, you say, by a steam launch. I shall bring the subject to the notice of my colleagues, and if we can help the people of Masulipatam to a steam launch, or if we can apply the Port funds to that purpose, it will give me very great pleasure. I think it would be a thousand pities if the trade of Masulipatam was allowed to decay. We know very well that when trade goes to a port it always shows a natural disposition to stop at that port, and on the contrary when it departs, it will not quickly come back again; and I hope that the rising prosperity of other ports will not injuriously affect Masulipatam.

I shall now refer to the Guntúr Address. I am very sorry that I have not been able to visit Guntúr myself, but its representatives who have been sent here have brought before me so many questions of public importance that I am quite sure that my absence will not prejudice in any way their interests. You mention that, as a port, Bápatla will increase in importance on the construction of a branch railway reaching down from the Kistna to Nellore. I am not sure that the good people of Masulipatam will agree with you that Bápatla is the very best port on the coast; but at the same time the fact that ships are able to get there within half a mile of the coast must give it a great advantage, by which it will doubtless fully profit in time. With respect to the line from the Kistna to Nellore, I need not tell you that that is no part of the East Coast Railway scheme. It is one that has been proposed lately to be undertaken by the Madras Railway Company, and I shall be very glad myself to see a thoroughly good railway communication secured between Nellore and Bezváda; and I hope that such a railway, if constructed, will be made upon the broad gauge system, because that is the gauge of the East Coast line, in which I take so much interest. I look forward with confidence to seeing a broad gauge line running along the coast from Madras to Calcutta, comparatively speaking, within a very short time. I shall not be able to see it myself, but I shall have great satisfaction to think that I have done my best to promote such a line which will be of more general benefit to the whole of the Presidency than any other enterprise of the kind that has ever been carried out in the South of India. You have also mentioned that the line from the Kistna to Nellore should pass through certain villages which you name. That is a very natural wish, and I hope that, when the line comes to be laid out, due care will be taken that it passes through populous villages and that its alignment shall not rest on purely engineering considerations. We have in many cases made great mistakes in that way in building railroads in India, and have sometimes, I think, apparently taken a road by drawing a line across the map from one point to another disregarding the requirements of the commerce of the country. I hope such a mistake will not be made between Nellore and Bezváda. Before I leave the Guntúr Address, I should like to say one word with respect to its Municipality. The Councillors of that town, I hope, will show that they are alive to the great duties that devolve upon them, and will not commit mistakes such as have been committed in the infancy of such institutions. It is with very great regret and sorrow that the Madras Government is unable sometimes to pay compliments to the various Municipalities, which it is anxious to pay them. There is no part of the administration in respect of which it is more desirous to show an appreciation of work done than it is in respect of the labours of Municipalities and the other local bodies.

Turning now to the Bezváda Address, I find that you express your appreciation of the exertions that have been made by Mr. Arundel and the other District officers to meet all the wants of the district, and to perform their very onerous and responsible duties. I cannot imagine that there is, in the whole Presidency, a place where a District officer's work is more agreeable than here in Bezváda, where there is so much life evidently around. There is obviously a great future in store for this place, and so much enterprise is being shown by the inhabitants that the town seems to resemble rather a new settlement in the far West than one in the East. We know our Western brethren on the other side of the world are famous for their go-ahead principles and propensities; and it is pleasant to find in this neighbourhood so keen a desire to make this place a great commercial centre. I am also glad to congratulate this Municipality upon the compliment that the Government was enabled to pay it this year on the way in which it has conducted its business during its short life. I only hope and trust that your exertions will be successful, and that you will avoid all those pitfalls into which young Municipalities sometimes fall. You are now not in debt, and I hope that you will remain out of debt as long as you can do so, although you know that public bodies are unable to get on with their duties without occasionally raising loans. I can assure you that so long as you exhibit those business-like qualities which you have begun by showing, it will be a pleasure to the Government to help you as much as possible with loans for beneficent

purposes, at low rates. We have lately taken power to do so. The permission to grant such loans was one of those points which I was very anxious to settle when I came to India, and now we can lend public money whenever we think it can be lent with safety. I think Bezváda fulfils those conditions, for it is already the terminus of two, and it will be the terminus of more than two railways. It is the terminus of H. H. the Nizam's railroad; it is also the present terminus of the Bellary-Kistna line; and another line will also terminate here. In one of our Addresses you mention that Bezváda was a town of fabulous size in the palmy days of Buddhism. I am not very well acquainted with Buddhist statistics, and I am unable to say what was the extent of the town in those times; but it was a very small place a very short time ago. The improvements likely to be carried out now, I have had an opportunity of seeing, under the guidance of Mr. Arundel. I observe that a great number of very respectable houses are being built in Buckinghampett, and I hope the Municipality, in disposing of the ground for building purposes, will have regard to the future prosperity and magnitude of the place. Well, gentlemen, with reference to the first great point to which you wish to draw my attention, I had yesterday morning an opportunity of walking over to the other side of the river and visiting the railway station of the Bellary-Kistna line, and I must say that I agree with everything you say with respect to the very inconvenient situation in which that station has been placed. I do not know what reasons led the Southern Mahratta Railway Company to place the station where they have, but as it is a temporary structure, the fact of their having placed it there will not, I hope, prove an obstacle to their removing it to a more desirable site. The Southern Mahratta Railway Company is extremely ambitious and enterprising, and is conducted with very great ability; and, therefore, I have no reason to suppose that they will turn a deaf ear to any representations made to them on this subject. On the contrary, they will probably be very glad to hear what the opinion of the people of Bezváda is on the subject, and I am quite certain it will be to the advantage of the Bellary Company itself if they carry out your suggestions on the point. I must acknowledge that until the Kistna bridge is made, any means of providing a better communication between Bezváda and the Railway station must be temporary. We know that the bridge will take five or six years to build, and we do not know the exact place where it will be built, whether below or above the anicut. Therefore, it would be unreasonable in us to ask the Southern Mahratta Railway Company to make any extensive arrangements at present. I think there are one or two things that the Railway Company may do, assisted by the Municipality and by the Local Board. In the first place, if a continuation of the railway which now runs down from the station to within a short distance of the river were made to the river bank, it would be a great advantage. I think that, with the addition of a mile or so of light railway, this could be done, and it would have the effect of enabling goods, which come now in great quantities to the landing place above the anicut, to be landed and sent up to the railway direct. The Railway Company suffers great loss now as people send their goods all the way to Guntúr in carts. I will bring all this to the attention of the Railway Company myself without delay, and it will not be my fault, gentlemen, if these improvements are not carried out. I am sorry to say that, although I represent a paternal Government that has a great deal of power, I have not as much power in these questions as I should wish. I have got to deal with, first, the Railway Company, then, with my own Government and lastly, with the Government of India. I hope that the site of the Kistna bridge will be agreed upon before very long. The more I look at the geography of the place and consider its wants, the more I am convinced that the question is a very difficult one, and one which ought not to be decided without the most mature consideration. It is not only an engineering question, but it is also one in which the public convenience must be studied. You mention several subjects connected with your canals and irrigation works. These I have noted, and I shall bring them to the attention of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Mr. Walch, who is coming to visit this place within a few days. I need not say that their importance will be urged upon him by the Collector, whose services you have already recognised, and I am quite sure you cannot have a better advocate than Mr. Arundel to put your wants before the Government or their Chief Engineer. There is no use in my going in detail into those questions, because they require a great deal of discussion from a technical point of view, and it is only after such discussion that a sound conclusion can be arrived at. I have referred to every point mentioned in the addresses and all I would say, in conclusion, is that I feel confident that this town has a great future before it, and that Bezváda in the next generation will be a very different place from what it is at present. It is not only a great agricultural centre, but it is also in the neighbourhood of vast mineral resources, and I have no doubt, as I have said before, that many dormant energies will be roused and non-existent industries will rise into being, not only here but also in the neighbourhood. I hope we shall soon have Companies prospecting for marble, for diamonds, and for gold before very long. That sounds very hopeful, but when I see what is going on around me, I do not think I am taking too rosy a view of the future. As everybody who reads the newspapers knows, persons are making discoveries of gold, of coal, and of diamond mines, and from a conversation I had yesterday with Mr. Wolfe-Murray, I learn that there are very large marble quarries in the neighbourhood which may be brought into working by means of these railways. Gentlemen, I can assure you that I hope most sincerely that all those bright prospects, at which I ventured to hint, may be realised, and that the Prince of Wales' eldest son whom you have now had the honor to see India, may, if he returns five and twenty years hence, find this place to be one of the most prosperous in India.

Address of the Muhammadan Residents of Bezváda.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—We, the Muhammadan residents of Bezváda, beg to offer our hearty welcome and sincere thanks to your Lordship, for they gained the fortune of having your Lordship's esteemed presence to-day in this town, which has become one of the most important towns in Presidency and has attained a good sanitation and beautiful look, as the Municipality, though it was first objected to by the inhabitants here, was introduced by the vigorous and energetic arrangement of our benevolent Collector, A. T. Arundel, Esq., and the best Chairman, L. M. Wynch, Esq., whom we are heartily thankful to. A municipal school has been established, wherein boys are educated free.

The proposed technical institution may also be constructed at an early date, and some of the scholarships allotted therefor may kindly be bestowed upon the Muhammadan students to whose wretched and indigent state, the benevolent Government have to pay their kind and special attention and it will be a great boon, specially to the Muhammadan community of this progressive town.

Government are well aware of the needy and miserable circumstances of the Muhammadans, and that almost all of them are employed in menial service, which even, the Government have now ruled not to be conferred on any person unless he is qualified by passing the Primary examination. This rule has entirely disheartened the helpless Muhammadans of this town who had some hopes of earning their livelihood by means of the said menial service, and they therefore earnestly pray your excellency to be graciously pleased not to apply the above rule, as a special concession, to this town, till a period of ten years.

Several Government orders were issued to the heads of all departments to improve the Muhammadans in higher grades of public service and to encourage them by giving some preference to their claims in filling up vacancies which occur under their control, and we therefore respectfully implore your Lordship's compassion to be extended to the miserable Muhammadan community—a ruling power and ready in assistance to the British—to be gracious enough to draw once more the special attention of heads of department to aforesaid orders. There is not a Muhammadan holding a higher position of Rs. 50 or above in any branch of the public service in this district, except a temporary Overseer in the Public Works Department, and two inspectors in the Police Department. But we are thankful to say that three or four Muhammadans of this district have qualified themselves for higher appointments in the Revenue Department, and we are hopeful enough that the stay for some days more of Mr. Arundel in this district will raise them to some higher situations and thereby we will enjoy the pleasure and happiness of seeing some of our co-religionists employed in a better position under his kind control.

May blessings about your Excellency and prosperity attend your reign.

Public Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following Paper:-
Minute by His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras, dated 24th January 1890.

Order, 29th January 1890. No. 58

Communicated for the information of Departments of the Secretariat Concerned and for early consideration of the points noted in His Excellency's minute and such action as may be necessary.

(True Extract)

A Butterworth

Offg. Asst. Secretary

CSI
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