

Wednesday, 29th August, 1934

THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

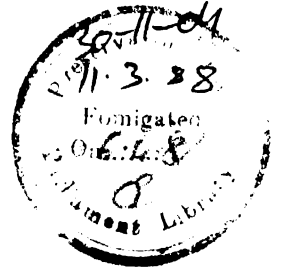
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*(8th August to 6th September, 1934)*

EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1934



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## COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Wednesday, 29th August, 1934.*

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### ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

GENTLEMEN,—

In greeting Honourable Members this morning after my short holiday, I need hardly tell you how delighted I am to be amongst you once again, to find you still engaged in your strenuous labours on behalf of India, and to take this opportunity of thanking you all for the assistance you have given to my Government during the past four years in passing into law the many very important measures that have been brought before you during the period of the life of this Parliament which will shortly be coming to a close.

In a message communicated to you on the 6th March, 1933, I announced my decision to extend the duration of the existing Assembly for such period as might seem expedient in the light of the conditions prevailing when the time came actually to effect the extension, and on the 22nd December 1933 I announced an extension up to the 31st December, 1934. The question whether the duration of the Assembly should be further extended beyond that date required and received my anxious consideration, and I finally reached the conclusion, the propriety of which has, I am glad to believe, been very generally recognised, that in all the circumstances of the case no further extension should be granted.

I am sure that you would wish, and here I can speak with all sincerity on behalf of my Honourable Colleagues, that I should express to the two Presidents my grateful thanks for the fairness and judgment with which they have guided the discussions in both Chambers and have secured the trust and confidence of every Hon'ble Member.

It is my custom on this occasion to give a general survey of the work done during the past year and of the economic and political condition of our country at the present time, and further to tell you as far as I can the outlook for the future.

In the sphere of Foreign Affairs I am glad to state the India's relations with her neighbours continue to be uniformly satisfactory. On the frontier between Burma and China incidents occurred last spring threatening a disturbance of the peace among the partially administered tribes, which in that area separate the Province of Burma from the Chinese Province of Yunnan. The international frontier in that area has never been demarcated and this circumstance

[His Excellency the Viceroy.]

coupled with the fact that there are no maps which have been accepted by both Governments as accurate, encouraged certain irresponsible persons to engage in hostile activities against the Burma Military Police, although the latter had scrupulously refrained from penetrating beyond the line claimed by the Chinese Government. That force effectively demonstrated their ability to deal with these marauders and no operations have been necessary during the last few weeks. Efforts are being made by His Majesty's Representative in China to establish, in agreement with the Chinese Government, certain principles upon which it will be possible to demarcate the international frontier and thus to find a solution for a long-standing disagreement. Events in Chinese Turkistan have caused my Government some anxiety, since as the result of a serious revolt against Chinese authority in Kashgar and the neighbourhood, security of life and property were for some time gravely endangered. I regret to say that some loss of life and property were caused to peaceful Indian traders in spite of the unremitting efforts of His Majesty's Consul-General to secure their protection. On one occasion His Majesty's Consulate at Kashgar was attacked by Tungán rebels, and it was only the gallant defence offered by the British and Indian *personnel* which saved the Consulate from more than a few casualties. The Chinese Government have expressed their deep regret for this occurrence and have also officially acknowledged the correctness of the Consul-General's attitude of strict neutrality towards the various factions which have from time to time secured control over this area. The latest news received is much more reassuring in that the Chinese forces together with a Pacification Commissioner entrusted with the task of restoring law and order have now reached Kashgar and are engaged in re-establishing Chinese authority. Some embarrassment has also been caused by the influx of refugees from Russia and from Chinese Turkistan who were able to enter India *via* Gilgit before they could be intercepted. These persons were for the most part completely destitute and were frequently accompanied by women and children, whose re-expulsion across the inhospitable mountains of Central Asia was repugnant to humanitarian principles. It is however obvious that the comparative security of conditions in India might encourage this influx to a dangerous extent and steps are therefore being taken to check it at the frontier, and it is also hoped to arrange for the disposal of a number of the refugees already in India by despatching them to other parts of the world.

Our neighbourly relations with Afghanistan have not been threatened by any untoward incidents on the frontier in recent months, and it is hoped to secure increased trade between the two countries as the result of the recent visit of a Trade Delegation to Kabul in April last. This Delegation consisted of Mr. W. W. Nind as Leader and Lala Shri Ram, Merchant of Delhi, and Khan Bahadur Syed Maratib Ali of Lahore as Members, and was sent to Afghanistan to examine, in consultation with informed opinion in that country, the directions in which it might be possible to foster and expand the mutual trade between India and Afghanistan. The report submitted by this Delegation is still under consideration, but it is gratifying to observe the interest taken by Indian

merchants and traders in the Commercial Exhibition which is now taking place in that city.

The North-West Frontier has remained uniformly peaceful during the last eight months except for the various unimportant disputes between sections of the tribes and a few small encounters between Government forces and hostile individuals, which have always been a feature of frontier administration. I need not say that cordial relations, as ever, continue to be maintained with our ancient Ally, the Kingdom of Nepal. As a fitting culmination of the long-standing friendship that we have enjoyed with that country, His Majesty the King Emperor has been pleased to raise the status of the British Envoy to that of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Nepalese Court, and also to receive a Minister of corresponding rank from the Kingdom of Nepal at the Court of St. James in London.

A great figure on the stage of Asia passed away with the death of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet on December 17th, 1933. The late Dalai Lama, the thirteenth of his line, had always remained on terms of amity with my Government and the Regent who has been appointed in his place pending the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama continues to act in the spirit of the Ruler of Tibet.

Lastly, I am glad to take this opportunity of acknowledging the keen and effective interest which Members of this Assembly have always taken in the welfare of Indian traders and settlers in foreign countries. There has been more than one case recently in which a foreign country has attempted to enforce, particularly in its colonies, what appeared to us to be unwarranted restrictions upon such Indian traders, who have by their enterprise and commercial ability contributed largely to the wealth and prosperity of the place concerned. My Government have in every case protested vigorously through His Majesty's Government against such proceedings and, if, as has happened in more than one case, their protests have been successful, this is very largely due to the hearty support they have received from Indian public opinion as represented by the Honourable Members of this House.

In connection with external commercial relations I would recall to your minds that when I last addressed you I mentioned the circumstances leading to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1906 and the passing of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933. Applications for assistance under the Act were received from a number of small Indian Industries. These were carefully examined, but eventually Government decided that it would be undesirable to use the Act, since such a step would have prejudiced the negotiations for a commercial agreement with Japan which had then started. At the same time the needs of these industries were met, where necessary, in another manner. This was by the imposition of minimum specific duties on the articles concerned. The imposition of these duties was secured by *ad hoc* legislation,—the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1934,—and in fixing the level of these duties, which were applicable to the imports from all foreign countries, due consideration was given to the necessity of adequately safeguarding the Indian industry concerned, while avoiding, as far as possible, any increase in the *ad valorem* incidence of the duties on goods the competition from which did not constitute a danger to Indian industries.



[His Excellency the Viceroy.]

The question of the grant of substantive protection to the Cotton Textile Industry in India, which was the subject of a Tariff Board enquiry in 1932, came up for your consideration in the last Delhi Session. I need not refer to the details of the legislative measure with which you were then concerned except to point out that for the second time statutory effect has been given to a rapprochement between the representatives of an Indian and a British Industry. My Government and I attach the highest importance to the creation of closer ties between the industrialists in India and in the United Kingdom and, consonant with the interests of the country as a whole, we shall always be prepared to consider sympathetically any agreement intended to promote the mutual interests of the parties concerned.

In accordance with the undertaking given when the Ottawa Trade Agreement was under consideration, an exhaustive report of the first year's working of the scheme of mutual preferences has been prepared and is now in your hands. I understand that this report is now under consideration by Committees of both Houses of the Legislature, and I shall not therefore comment further upon it.

When the Indian Delegation led by Sir Atul Chatterjee was at Ottawa certain tentative approaches were made by representatives of other countries within the Commonwealth with a view to the conclusion of further trade agreements. The Irish Free State has followed up their preliminary proposals and formal negotiations between India and the Free State were initiated in May last. These negotiations, at which Sir B. N. Mitra and Sir George Rainy represented India, have not yet been concluded.

During the course of my address to you in August last year I made a brief reference to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905, and the negotiations for a fresh Commercial Agreement with Japan. As you are aware, these negotiations commenced in Simla on the 23rd September 1933, and after lengthy discussions agreement was reached between the Indian and the Japanese Delegations in January, 1934. The agreement of views thus reached was embodied in a Convention and Protocol, the agreed drafts of which were initialled by the two delegations on the 19th April, 1934, and finally signed, on behalf of India and Japan, in London on the 12th July, 1934.

The Convention, and with it the Protocol, are to come into force immediately after the exchange of ratifications and will remain in force until the 31st March 1937. The provisions in the Protocol relating to the restriction of the imports of cotton piece-goods from Japan have, however, been given effect to with effect from the 8th January, 1934, from which date the Government of India reduced the import duty on Japanese cotton piece-goods to the level of that provided for in the Agreement.

The Agreement, while ensuring the continuance of the long-established trade connections between the two countries on a basis satisfactory to both, safeguards also the legitimate interests of the Cotton Textile Industry in India and at the same time secures a stable market for a substantial portion of the

exportable surplus of raw cotton produced in India. This, at a time of acute agricultural distress, should prove invaluable to the cotton growers in India who have been so seriously affected by the world depression.

You will remember that in 1930 the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, sanctioned a scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in certain foreign countries with a view to promote the export trade of India with those countries. In addition to the existing appointment of Indian Trade Commissioner, London, the scheme provided for six appointments, one each at Hamburg, Milan, New York, Alexandria, Durban and Mombassa. The office at Hamburg was opened in March, 1931, and an officer for the Milan post was selected on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. Further progress with the scheme was held in abeyance on grounds of financial stringency, the officer selected for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan being retained in the Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Department for a period of training. Among plans for the encouragement of the economic development of the country my Government have, however, now decided to resume the programme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries. As a first step in that direction, it has been decided to open the office of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Italy as soon as possible, and with this object Mr. M. R. Ahuja, who was selected for the post in 1931, has been sent to London for a short period of training in the Trade Department of the High Commissioner's Office before taking charge of his new appointment in Italy. The question of the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners at other places will receive the early consideration of the Government of India.

Whilst still on the subject of affairs which involve contact with the outer world, there are two further matters of interest relating to Indians overseas to which I wish briefly to allude. I refer, in the first place, to the Report of the Colonisation Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of the Union of South Africa, which was published both in South Africa and in this country early in July. The Government have been closely studying the reactions of public opinion in this country to the recommendations of the Committee. They have also ascertained the views on the Report of the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature. They hope to be able, shortly, to address the Government of the Union of South Africa on this matter. In formulating their conclusions it will be their endeavour to serve the best interests of the Indian community in South Africa.

The second event, to which Honourable Members will expect some reference, is the situation which has arisen in Zanzibar as the result of recent legislation. My Government had no previous intimation that such legislation was contemplated, and the time available between its introduction and enactment was inadequate for the effects of the various decrees on Indian interests in Zanzibar to be adequately studied and represented. Therefore early this month we deputed an officer to Zanzibar to make investigations. On receipt of his report the Government of India will consider what further action they should take. Honourable Members may be satisfied that in this, as in other matters concerning the legitimate interests of Indian communities overseas, the Government of India will strive their utmost to uphold them.

[His Excellency the Viceroy.]

I now wish to recall to your mind the part that the Legislature has played in the sphere of Labour in continuing to participate in the policy which I and my Government have set before us of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour. In 1933 you passed an important measure which improved the benefits received by workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In the course of this session a still more important advance has been registered by the new Factories Bill, the most important feature of which was the reduction in the hours of work in factories which work throughout the year from 60 to 54. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the helpful attitude of those of you who represent employers' interests towards this great amelioration in the condition of workers in organised industries. On the Industries side this Session has to its credit the very serviceable Petroleum Bill. You have now left to the Executive Government the important task of framing suitable rules under these two Acts. The helpful and enlightened spirit which has inspired the Legislature in passing them will, I have no doubt, beneficially affect their detailed administration.

During the current Session you have passed a measure designed to secure conditions of greater safety for an important section of the manual workers of this country. I refer to the Indian Dock Labourers Bill which, when it becomes law, will give effect in British India to the International Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships. The Bill empowers the Government of India to make regulations for the safety of such workers and to provide, through a system of proper inspection, for the enforcement of those regulations in accordance with standards internationally accepted and embodied in the International Convention, thus filling a gap in India's Labour legislation caused by the non-existence of any regulations which could be said to provide adequately for the safety of dock workers while engaged in their admittedly hazardous occupation. The Act which has now been placed on the Statute Book is still another earnest of India's desire to conform to the highest standards in her treatment of Labour.

Our progress in matters connected with industries has not been confined to legislation. At the Sixth Industries Conference which met shortly before this Session began my Government's proposals for the creation of a Central Bureau from which industrialists, particularly those interested in developing small industries, will be able to obtain such information and expert assistance as my Government in co-operation with the Governments of the Provinces can place at their disposal met with the unanimous support of the delegates present. I hope to see this organization come into being in the course of the next few months and, though it may seem that the beginning which is being made is a small one, I have great confidence that we are establishing an institution which will prove of real value in promoting the industrial development of this country. The Conference also made recommendations regarding the principles on which the grants my Government is making to assist the handloom-weaving and sericultural industries should be utilised. Those recommendations have been accepted in their entirety.

In the field of Civil Aviation there have recently been important developments. As our ground organization has become inadequate, it has been decided

to inaugurate a programme of development from loan funds. Accordingly we hope to equip the Karachi-Rangoon route and the Karachi-Madras route up to modern standards within the next few years, and we are prepared also to organise on similar lines the Calcutta-Bombay and the Karachi-Lahore routes, if these should be opened up shortly,—as it is much to be hoped they will be. You have just passed an Act—the Indian Aircraft Act of 1934—which will enable the Civil Aviation Directorate to control and encourage effectively this expanding activity.

I am also glad to announce that we expect to see a similar development in broadcasting in the near future. My Government have decided to proceed as quickly as possible with the erection of a large transmitting station in Delhi, which will broadcast entertainment in Urdu and English. This, we hope, will prove to be only the first step towards the establishment of a complete system of broadcasting covering the whole of India, under which the Provinces will have the benefit of an expression of their own culture in their own literary languages, with an added element of English programme matter.

Both Chambers of the Legislature adopted a Resolution last Session which will prolong the life of the Road Development Account. I trust this step will be of material assistance to the Provinces in the development of their road systems.

I take this opportunity to refer to a matter which is of particular interest to the commercial public. It has been decided to undertake a revision of the existing company and insurance laws in India at an early date. The law relating to companies is that contained in the Indian Companies Act, 1913. This Act is based on the English Companies Act, 1908, which has since been revised and replaced by the Companies Act of 1929. Certain proposals for the amendment of the existing legislation in India have been brought to the notice of the Government of India from time to time by Local Governments, commercial bodies and individuals, but it has always been thought more desirable to avoid piecemeal legislation and to await a suitable opportunity when a thorough overhaul of the Act could be undertaken. The need for early revision of the law has been more keenly felt recently as a result of the growing industrialisation of India and in particular, as is already known to you, there has of late been much criticism of the managing agency system. In the sphere of insurance law also the need for revised legislation is fully established. The rapid development of insurance business in the country during the past few years, not only in respect of the number of new companies formed but also in respect of the forms of insurance activities other than life, e.g., fire, marine, motor and employers' liability insurance, has created new circumstances in which the existing law has been found to be inadequate. The Government of India have therefore arrived at the conclusion that both company and insurance law should be revised as soon as possible, and as an initial step it has been decided to appoint Mr. S. C. Sen, Solicitor, as an officer on Special Duty in the Department of Commerce of the Government of India to make a preliminary examination of the various proposals for amendment received from time to time and to indicate broadly the lines on which revised legislation should be undertaken.

To turn to the wide field of Agriculture, which is still to the masses of India their main source of livelihood and is therefore one of the primary concerns of

[His Excellency the Viceroy.]

Government. Hon'ble Members must be aware that the Provincial Economic Conference, which my Government had convened last April, reviewed the position of the agriculturist from the standpoint of rural credit as well as agricultural marketing and production. One of the conclusions reached by the Government of India, after consideration of the proceedings of the Conference, was that all possible steps should be taken to ascertain how far agricultural production in India was being scientifically co-ordinated and whether any action was desirable or feasible to make such co-ordination more efficient and more effective. My Government accordingly convened, with the ready co-operation of Local Governments, which I take this opportunity to acknowledge, a Conference of Provincial Directors of Agriculture, Land Revenue officers and non-official representatives from the various Provinces last June. This Conference reviewed exhaustively the position of all the principal crops in India.

After a full consideration of all the relevant factors the Conference came to the satisfactory conclusion that crop planning in India had not proceeded on unscientific and haphazard lines, but had been well planned and had, on the whole, achieved its aim of helping the ryot to use his land to the best purpose. But in the prevailing welter of economic uncertainty the Conference, if I may say so, wisely held that machinery should be provided for the systematic and continuous study of problems relating to the cultivation of India's more important crops such as wheat and rice. To this end it recommended the establishment of appropriate *ad hoc* Committees. Honourable Members will doubtless be glad to know that this recommendation has been accepted by my Government. It is hoped that, by this means, periodical stock-taking of the position of our principal crops and of their prospects in the world's markets will be greatly facilitated. The value of continuous study and periodical review in this respect cannot be over-estimated. Adjustment of the agricultural activity of a country to changing conditions of demand is necessary for the prosperity of the agriculturist. Difficulties of such adjustment in a country of the size of India are evident. Adaptation to changing needs of the market will be impossible of accomplishment without the acquisition, and maintenance up-to-date, of all relevant information.

Another problem of even greater practical importance to the agriculturist is the marketing of his produce to the best advantage. This subject was also discussed in the Provincial Economic Conference, where there was general agreement that an intensive programme to develop marketing facilities for agricultural products offered the best immediate prospect of substantial results. The matter has been under close examination since the Economic Conference concluded. With the help of the Marketing Expert who recently joined the staff of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, a programme of work has been drawn up which, it is hoped, will very shortly be initiated. Experience gained elsewhere shows that the range of marketing activities must be wide. It must, for example, include the organisation of an efficient intelligence service in external markets regarding Indian products and the requirements of consumers both abroad and in this country. An efficient marketing organisation must also ensure the grading, sorting and bulking of the main staple products and the establishment and development of

regulated markets. In India the first task is the undertaking of market surveys for the purpose of ascertaining the data on which future developments can be planned. The initial step, therefore, will be to obtain and set out in detail the present system of marketing the more important commodities, such as wheat and rice, oilseeds, plantation and special crops, *e.g.*, tobacco and fruit, as also dairy products, in which term I include livestock.

This survey will be carried out not only in each of the Provinces separately, but will also deal with inter-Provincial, inter-State and foreign trade so as to provide an all-India picture of existing conditions and a common basis for future progress. The report on each survey will set out, in precise technical detail, definite suggestions regarding marketing organisation with a view to improving existing conditions in the interests of producers. The work connected with the execution of these surveys will be shared between the Central and Provincial marketing staffs, but it is the intention of my Government that, at least in the initial stages, the cost should be met from Central Revenues, so that the urgent task of ascertaining the data and formulating a co-ordinated plan of marketing organisation should not be delayed by reason of the inability of one or more Provinces to meet the cost of such investigations. The question as to how the cost of the various organisations and activities resulting from these surveys should be met will be one for future consideration on the basis of the benefits expected from the plans that may be adopted.

I should like also at this stage to make a brief reference to the financial position of our Railways. This, as you are aware, has not been all that could have been desired during the past two or three years, though in comparison with most other countries throughout the world we may be said to have escaped lightly. The situation this financial year shows much better prospects. Our earnings are better by over Rs. 1½ crores than they were for the same period of last year. In the nature of things we may expect set-backs, but I am optimistic enough to think that these, if any, will be temporary, and that the increased prosperity of our Railways is at least an indication of a general revival of trade and commerce throughout the country.

As you are no doubt aware, I had the privilege of performing the formal opening ceremony on the 19th December last of the Vizagapatam Harbour. The development of the harbour has been proceeding steadily and with the improved facilities which it is the constant aim of the Administration to provide, it will, it is hoped, be possible in the not very distant future to open the harbour to vessels of much larger dimensions than can be accommodated at present. There has already been a substantial increase both in the number of steamers calling and in the quantity of cargo handled at the port and as improved facilities become available, it will, it is confidently hoped, attract an ever-growing volume of traffic in the future. Vizagapatam Harbour supplies a long-felt need for a safe anchorage for ocean-going traffic on the East Coast of India between Calcutta and Madras and should assist greatly in the development of a hinterland, rich in natural resources, by providing for its produce a convenient outlet to the markets of the world.

On the two last occasions on which I have addressed you I have expressed the belief that the march of events would gradually carry the leaders of the civil disobedience movement further and further away from the sterile methods

[His Excellency the Viceroy.]

of negation and obstruction. A year ago I claimed that the events of the last few months had fully borne out that belief; civil disobedience at that time maintained a precarious existence and there were signs that the popular judgment had already condemned it. During the whole of the last 12 months that feeling has grown and spread and finally in April last the author of this subversive movement, which was started in 1930 and renewed at the beginning of 1932, advised all Congressmen to suspend civil resistance for Swaraj as distinct from specific grievances. A little later this advice was confirmed by the Working Committee of Congress which, at the same time, adopted the constitutional policy, at one time regarded as wholly futile by many Congress leaders, of entering the Legislatures. I was myself away from India during the concluding stage of these events, but the policy announced by the Government of India on June 6th, 1934, had my full approval. That policy has been criticised in some quarters as half-hearted and ungenerous, but, as I said in my speech in this House in September 1932, we should be failing in our duty if we did not ensure to the best of our ability, not merely that civil disobedience was brought to an end, but that there should be no chance of reviving it. Thus, though the ban on purely Congress organisations was removed, we could not take the risk of allowing freedom to those more revolutionary organisations which were distinct from Congress, though working at one time more or less in close association with its objects. Still less could we give up the special powers which had been found necessary for dealing with the movement and which had been given to Local Governments, by the Acts of this Legislature or of the Provincial Legislatures. The curtain has thus fallen, I hope finally, on the civil disobedience movement and one of the objects of the policy which I indicated in September 1932 has been achieved. That happy result I do not attribute so much to the action taken by Government as to the sturdy good sense of the mass of the people of India whose representatives you are and whose opinions you reflect. They recognise that true progress cannot be secured by carrying on an unmeaning and futile struggle with constitutional authority or by revolutionary methods. There is now I think throughout the country a general recognition of the truth that the right road to progress is not through coercion or mass action; and it is because of this that I have the confident hope that civil disobedience will not or cannot be revived. The problems before us, social, economic and political, are many, but a solution can be found to these difficult problems if all classes of political thought in the country devote themselves to the task in a spirit of friendly co-operation.

Once again I can chronicle a further improvement in the terrorist situation in Bengal, but incidents such as the dastardly attack on His Excellency Sir John Anderson show that the terrorist organisation, though on the whole greatly weakened, is still strong in some places, and that we are not free from the danger of isolated outrages whether they take the form of attacks on Government officers or of equally cowardly attacks on persons wholly unconnected with Government with the object of obtaining funds to keep the movement alive. But that attack on Sir John Anderson, providentially wholly unsuccessful, undoubtedly had the effect of rousing public opinion against terrorism

as perhaps nothing else could have done and called forth from all sides condemnation of the cult of assassination. In fact the most satisfactory feature of the last few months has been that there are distinct signs that a definite stand against terrorism would be welcomed in many quarters where in the past it might have been regarded as anti-national. The Provincial Councils of Bengal and of Assam have passed by large majorities the legislation which the Local Governments considered necessary for dealing with this evil, and you, gentlemen of the Central Legislature, have also accepted the legislation which we had to put before you to supplement the local Acts. But outside the Legislatures also public opinion is strengthening, and I trust that the appeal recently issued by leaders of all shades of opinion in Bengal and the Conference which they are summoning will result in practical steps being taken to create a healthier atmosphere in Bengal and to prevent the youth of the Province from being contaminated with these dangerous ideas. In this they will, I know, receive all possible support from His Excellency Sir John Anderson and his Government, who recognise that legislation and police action will not by themselves eradicate this hideous evil; public opinion alone can do that, and I am glad to see that so many of those in a position to guide that opinion in Bengal have now realised their responsibilities and have come forward openly with constructive suggestions for the protection of the youth of their Province from the insidious approaches of the terrorists by providing them with wider opportunities of useful service for their country.

Next year we shall be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the King Emperor, and I have received and accepted an invitation from His Majesty's Government to send certain official representatives from India to join in the celebrations in London.

My Government are now in communication with Local Governments and Rulers of Indian States as to the best and most fitting manner in which this auspicious occasion should be recognised in India. The King Emperor has been pleased to intimate that it is His Majesty's desire that celebrations should be on a local basis and that His Majesty's subjects should, wherever practicable, have the opportunity of observing the occasion near their homes. It is His Majesty's express wish also that celebrations should be as simple as possible and that all undue expenditure should be avoided. I feel sure that, when the time comes, the Princes and people of India will loyally comply with His Majesty's wishes and at the same time join with their fellow-citizens throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of our beloved Sovereign's reign.

I think you may expect me to give you some account of the impressions I have brought back here, as a result of my two months' visit to England, and of the general atmosphere towards the Reforms Scheme which has been under consideration for some years and is now reaching its final stages.

It will, I am sure, be obvious to you all, knowing Parliamentary procedure as you do, that it would not be possible for me to forecast information as to what recommendations the Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament is likely to contain. Nor again can I set your minds at rest as to the date of publication of the Report, for no final decision had been reached on that point when I left. As you know the Committee has dispersed for the summer recess, but will re-assemble early in October in order to carry its work to completion before Parliament is prorogued.



[His Excellency the Viceroy.]

During my short stay at Home I had many opportunities of meeting and having discussions with all sorts and conditions of people, with Members of both Houses of Parliament, with those interested in trade and commerce and business in India, and with many others, both men and women, who for one reason or another were keenly interested in Indian affairs. The general impression I have brought back with me is that the feeling amongst my countrymen in England is full of good will and sympathy for the natural aspirations of Indians in regard to political advance. A deep sense of the responsibility was moreover evident on all sides in the general anxiety to obtain first-hand information from those of us who have had the most recent experience of the affairs and conditions in this country. I should like to add that I come back with feelings of the keenest appreciation, which I am sure will be shared by every Member of both our Legislative Chambers and by the public outside, of the untiring labours which the Members of the Joint Select Committee have freely and readily given during the past 15 months to secure a proper solution of the great problem of Indian Reform.

One assurance I can confidently give you. When the New Constitution Bill is passed into Law, you may rely on my efforts to ensure that no time will be lost in carrying into effect as expeditiously as possible the intentions of Parliament as expressed in the Act.

I have spoken of the responsibility of my countrymen at this present juncture, but we who live and work here and who have position and influence in the public life of this country have a great responsibility too. During the coming months it will be our duty to guide public opinion in the highest interests of all classes of our people. Let us put aside all racial feelings if such still exist, let us believe in each other's sincerity of purpose to continue working towards the fulfilment of our cherished hopes for the welfare and advancement of this country.

I would ask you to look around the world at the present time, and amid all the troubles, anxieties and possible dangers that we see in many countries and in diverse lands, we can proudly feel that within the territories of the British Empire conditions are both sound and stable, and that we are slowly and steadily recovering from the world depression which has so seriously affected us all.

For the great part of my public life I have served the British Empire in its outward parts, and far the greatest number of years of that life have been spent in this country which I have always looked upon as my second Empire home. During that life I have become more and more convinced that it is by the influence and example of the friendship and close co-operation within our Empire that we shall more and more exercise an influence in securing peace and good-will in what is now a very distracted and unsettled world.

With this in my mind let my last word to Honourable Members at the close of this Parliament be a heartfelt prayer that as our two races by fate or destiny were brought together long years ago to work for the development and prosperity of India, so in the future, and particularly in the critical days that lie before us Providence should guide us still to secure the fulfilment of those political hopes and aspirations which many of us have striven for many years.