

ADDRESS

of

WAZIR-UD-DOWLAH RAI BAHADUR

SIR SERAY MAL BAPNA, C.I.E.,

Prime Minister

to

H. H. THE MAHARAJA HOLKAR

to the

INDORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, November 14, 1938.



INDORE.  
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Members of the Legislative Council,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you today to the sixth session of your Council. This should normally have been your last session but it has been deemed advisable for certain reasons to extend the life of this Council by one year, which will enable you to continue the good work you have been doing until the end of March 1940.

The year has been one of progress in many directions and I feel sure you would like me, as usual, to give you a brief account of the most notable occurrences of 1938 and of the more important features of the administration.

The relations of His Highness's Government with the Government of India, the Central India Agency, and with neighbouring States continued to be most cordial and satisfactory.

**External relations:**

When His Highness the Maharaja returned to India in November last year he had unfortunately not recovered his normal good health and strength, but everyone in Indore hoped that fitness would return during the cold weather. His Highness, on medical advice, avoided too strenuous activities and spent some time in camp; nevertheless, he did not regain that health which is so essential to a Ruler, and his doctors considered it advisable for him to return to Europe and spend some months under expert attention. Accompanied by Princess Usha Devi, therefore, His Highness sailed on the 2nd of March.

**The health of His Highness the Maharaja.**

For the first few months there was great improvement in his health and had that continued His Highness would have been with us again for Dasserah; but a set-back occurred and he was compelled to prolong his stay abroad and to have a complete rest. This has had its effect and of late His Highness's health has improved, so that he hopes to be able to return to Indore by the end of this year. All of us in Indore hope that this will be the case and that his Medical Advisers will pronounce His Highness fit to undertake the journey.

**Federation  
and Political  
Affairs.**

Political affairs, especially in connection with Federation, have been greatly to the fore on the Indian stage this year and negotiations continue. The exact terms of the Instrument of Accession have, however, yet to be decided in final detail. As you all know, the situation in Europe two months ago can, without exaggeration, be described as desperate, and caused the greatest anxiety here in India as well as in Europe. At one time it appeared almost certain that a war would break out—a war in which Great Britain would have been compelled to take part. So serious did the crisis appear at the time that His Highness the Maharaja offered to place his troops and the entire resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty the King Emperor should Britain have to take the field. His Majesty sent his warmest thanks to His Highness, as did His Excellency the Viceroy. It is due to the magnificent efforts of the British Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, that war was averted and that affairs in Europe are going more settled.

**Charter of  
Liberty for  
Harijans.**

There can be no justification for the ill-treatment and suppression of a large section of the Hindu community on either moral or humanitarian grounds; religious sanction cannot rightly be called to the aid of reactionaries. These are the considered views of His Highness, whose deep concern for the well-being of everyone of his subjects is too well known for me to expatiate upon it here. But views, however sound, can do little good unless they are put into practice; convictions, however deep-seated, must be followed by action; His Highness acted. Just before his departure for Europe he granted what, perhaps, you will permit me to describe as a Charter of Harijan Liberty, a charter the object of which is to ensure the amelioration of the conditions in which the so-called "Depressed Classes" live and the rapid removal of the moral and social restrictions placed upon them. His Highness's proclamation reads as follows:—

1. "All State temples within the limits of the State be thrown open to Harijans for darshan according to the rules that may be laid down by Us.
2. All existing public wells as well as all wells constructed by the State hereafter be invariably open to all classes alike. This is Our policy, but in

enforcing it in regard to the existing public wells the District Officers will act in their discretion according to the local needs and circumstances.

3. All concerned should make it possible for the Harijans to have an unrestricted use of public places such as hotels, restaurants and public conveyances.
4. Our Minister I/C Municipality should, subject to his discretion in the light of the conditions and requirements of a particular locality, allow Harijans to build or own houses in all areas open to higher castes and communities.
5. Full and hearty effect be given to the existing orders relating to the unrestricted admission of the Harijans' children into State Educational Institutions.
6. There shall be no restrictions in the matter of recruitment to State services, except where the incumbent has essentially to be recruited from a particular class or community.
7. All State public offices and buildings are open to Harijans for entry.
8. There shall be no restrictions on the wearing of ornaments, the taking out of processions and performance of ceremonies.

Harijans and advanced and progressive minded Hindus all over India welcomed this measure with the warmest enthusiasm and work for the uplift of the former was started immediately and vigorously in the State. District Boards and Pergana Committees have been formed to assist in the work, and Pracharaks have been appointed to visit Harijan localities and to give them all possible instruction and aid to enable them to raise their standard of living.

It would be false if I were to paint the picture of the progress of this great work entirely in bright colours: some of the orthodox Sanatanists of Indore resented the proclamation to such an extent that when Harijans started to exercise their new right of entry into the temples, bodies of Sanatanists endeavoured to prevent their doing so and

a very difficult and tense situation arose. I am glad to be able to say that good sense eventually won the day.

The rigid clinging to customs and ideas that are out-worn means the stultification of progress, the strength and prosperity of a State depends upon the ready acceptance and practice of all that is best in the new concepts of a broad-minded humanitarianism, acting as a leaven upon social and administrative principles which tradition and history have shown to be sound. To keep a large section of the people in a permanent state of subjection convicts the subjectors of a narrowness of outlook and an inelasticity of mind which eventually can redound only to their own disadvantage. I hope—and I am sure you all hope with me—that the Sanatanists of Indore will increasingly realize the justice of giving to their less fortunate brethren opportunities for the improvement of their conditions of life. Only in this way can they become a source of strength instead of one of fatal weakness to the Hindu community.

**Encourage-  
ment of  
Swadeshi.**

In keeping with the policy which His Highness has steadfastly pursued since he ascended the throne was the important order he passed early this year that wherever it is possible articles of indigenous manufacture are to be used in all State departments.

**The King  
Emperor's  
Anti-  
Tuberculosis  
Fund.**

You will remember that just a year ago Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow issued an appeal to the people of India for funds to stamp out tuberculosis. Her Excellency wrote a personal letter to His Highness the Maharaja asking for his co-operation and practical sympathy in this All-India Anti-Tuberculosis Fund, which had been founded in commemoration of the King Emperor's accession to the throne. His Highness has always been a warm supporter of all measures designed to fight disease, and he immediately offered a donation of Rs. 2,00,000 to the cause. The appeal was published in the Holkar Government Gazette and a Committee of ten, with the Minister-in-Waiting as convener, was formed to collect subscriptions and to handle the affairs of the fund in Indore. As you already know, a unique feature of the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund—a fund which, in passing, is being generously supported in every part of the British Empire, is that 95 per cent of the contributions collected in any one State or Province will go back to that

State or Province for the fight against the dread disease in its own area. The response from the public of Indore to the appeal had produced Rs. 41,469-15-0 by the end of September this year.

His Highness the Maharaja has graciously sanctioned the grant of the Holkar Wada at Poona together with its site as a gift to the Deccan Education Society. The Society has agreed to preserve the historical tradition of the Wada in some conspicuous manner.

**The Holkar  
Wada at  
Poona.**

You will wish to learn of the year's finances. At first sight these appear to be disappointing, for revenue receipts for 1937-38 came only to some Rs. 117 lakhs whereas the revenue estimates had been Rs. 119 lakhs and actual receipts in the previous year had amounted to Rs. 126 lakhs. On the other hand, our general financial position is both sound and satisfactory, for actual expenditure came to some Rs. 112 lakhs only whereas the estimates had provided for an expenditure of Rs. 118 lakhs. A revenue surplus of Rs. 5 lakhs is expected, compared with the anticipated revenue surplus of Rs. 10 lakhs in 1936-37. The financial year opened with a cash balance of Rs. 50,56,881 and the budget estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1938-39 are:—

**Finances of  
the year.**

Revenue	Rs. 1,20,00,000
Expenditure	„ 1,19,07,000

I should explain to you that the framing of the budget this year was most carefully scrutinized and planned with the object of achieving the greatest possible economy in every direction without in any way impairing the sound and progressive character of the administration; and one of the most notable results of this policy is that expenditure on the Head Army has gone down, while expenditure under the heads of Education, Medical Services and Public Health, and Works of Public Utility has increased.

The State's share in the Central Road Fund last year came to Rs. 46,184, while His Highness's Government received from the Government of India Rs. 82,422 as the State's share in the Match Excise Duty.

The General and Famine Reserve Funds stood at Rs. 28,29,000 and Rs. 3,32,000 respectively on October 1st, 1938, while the Cultivators' Benefit Fund has now risen to Rs. 3,49,426. This latter is administered by a Committee which is working on a programme of starting Cottage Industries whereby the cultivator will be able to increase his income.

**State Life Insurance.**

You will agree with me that the Life Insurance Fund of about Rs. 4½ lakhs is an indication of the general prosperity of the State. This is the figure at which our Life Insurance Fund stands, and an actuarial valuation is about to be made. The Holkar State Life Insurance scheme is progressing steadily and today no less than 3098 policies are current assuring all-told a sum of Rs. 21,53,000 yielding a yearly premium of Rs. 77,472.

**Excise, Maximum Revenue, Minimum Consumption.**

The Excise policy of the State continued upon the principle which has been followed for so many years of the maximum revenue with the minimum consumption, and there was an almost cent-per-cent recovery from licence fees. The soundness of the policy pursued by His Highness's Government is shown by the fact that the consumption of liquor in the State, which was 14.34 L.P. gallons per hundred of population in 1924-25, was only a fraction over half of that amount—7.46 L.P. gallons—in the last financial year while indulgence in opium and ganja has also greatly declined of late. I may perhaps mention here that a fresh agreement has been made with the Government of India whereby they have agreed to purchase 390 maunds of raw opium upto the year 1939-40.

**Revenue and the Rains.**

The rains last year were heavy and irregular in almost every part of the State, while owing to an unfavourable season the Kharif crops matured late. In addition, world conditions and other factors over which we have no control caused a considerable drop in the price of cotton. All these things worked to the disadvantage of the cultivator and to enable him to watch for an upward trend in prices the realization of the first instalment of revenue payable by the tenants was postponed by one month throughout the State; as a further measure of relief the export duty on cotton, both ginned and unginned, was reduced and the collection by cotton dealers of a number of charges in the name of Dharmadaya from the growers was stopped for the year.

The actual land revenue collections during the year 1347 Fasli were lower than they have been during the past few years. The receipts were estimated at Rs. 59,25,000 but so cautiously and carefully were these estimates made that actual receipts were only Rs. 37,083 short, amounting to Rs. 58,87,917. When you consider the damage suffered by the Kharif crops, the unusual fall in the price of cotton, and the low out-turn of the Rabi crop owing to poor winter rains, you will agree with me that a collection of revenue so near to the original estimate is a matter for congratulation. Owing to the abnormality of the year only Rs. 3,28,437 were recovered of the demand for arrears of Rs. 35,18,544.

Tenants of the Nemawar District have had a series of bad years, while excessive rains damaged the Kharif crops in some parts of that area: a remission of some Rs. 35,000 of the first instalment of land revenue was therefore granted while arrears amounting to Rs. 1,20,400 due for the year 1340 Fasli were also remitted, a sum of Rs. 35,000 being at the same time advanced to cultivators for the purchase of seed for the Rabi sowings. An advance for the same purpose of Rs. 23,000 was made to tenants in Mahidpur District.

**Relief and Remissions.**

This by no means exhausts the list of measures taken to assist the agricultural population, for not only were Rs. 30,000 given in taccavi loans to needy cultivators, but His Highness has ordered that the interest on these, which used to be 9 per cent per year, be reduced to 4 per cent, this reduced rate to apply to all outstanding advances. His Highness also decreed that the rate is to be reconsidered every three years, so that it may be kept constantly in proper ratio to prevailing conditions in the money market. The present reduction follows this principle and will undoubtedly be of great benefit to the agricultural populace. Special taccavi loans were sanctioned during the year to those who had suffered loss from fire or flood, while Rs. 22,800 were granted for the repair or construction of minor irrigation sources.

**Taccavi Loans.**

Much else has been and is being done for the rural populace. The State Cattle Breeding Farm at Simrole is proving a most successful institution and the premium bull system whereby this Farm supplies stud bulls is being extended in

**The Premium Bull System.**



many directions; 8 centres have already been supplied and 17 more young bulls are available at the Farm for further distribution, for which suitable centres are at present being selected.

**The Co-operative Movement.**

I am glad to be able to inform you that steady progress has also been made by the Co-operative Movement, one urban society and 23 primary agricultural societies having been registered last year, while a Central Co-operative Bank at Mouza Susari, in Nisarpur Pargana, was registered recently; this brings the total of Co-operative Societies in the State from 777 to 802 and a scheme to affiliate or merge the District Co-operative Banks with the Central Indore Premier Co-operative Bank is at present being considered.

**Works of public utility.**

With the progress of works of public utility is inevitably bound up the progress of the State both agriculturally and industrially. You will be glad to hear that the water works are very nearly completed and filtered water will probably be supplied from the beginning of 1939. At the same time a detailed project for the internal drainage of the City is being prepared.

The produce of the peasant's toil is of no value either to him or to the State unless it can be conveyed from his fields to the markets whence it is distributed to those who require it; so that a great deal depends upon communications. Funds have recently been sanctioned for the construction of the incomplete portion of the road between Kantaphor and Satwas; when this is finished not only will it facilitate transport locally but will provide another link in the chain of communications with the Central Provinces. A great deal of other road construction work and improvement is under consideration and I may mention the Jirapur-Machalpur road, the Indore-Sawer road, and the linking of Sunel to Bolia with a branch to Kothari. The Lakhandar and the Garha nalas in this State's portion of the Agra Bombay Road are to be tackled and plans and estimates for submersible bridges are being prepared; similarly, as the railway-owned bridge on the Narbudda near Mortakka will shortly be closed, the scheme for the construction of a submersible bridge there also is being pushed forward. After personal discussion with the Agent of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, the problem of the railway over-bridge on the main

Tukoganj road in Indore City has been almost settled and detailed plans and estimates are expected from the railway very shortly.

Reverting to the importance of an adequate supply of good drinking water, which would appear to be assured now for the city, the needs of the villages have not been forgotten. Some time ago funds were provided by His Highness's Government for the provision of proper village water supplies: these funds will be utilized under certain new arrangements which have been made so that before many years have elapsed no village in the State will be without at least one good source of water supply. Step wells are hygienically undesirable and those that exist will be converted into draw wells, while measures have been adopted to prevent the future construction of the old-fashioned unhygienic type of well.

Agricultural crops are often the basis of industrial prosperity—and this is specially true of cotton, on which Government have concentrated their attention with the provision of an establishment for cotton improvement. Some 350 maunds of M-9 cotton seed were distributed this year under the Malwi Cotton multiplication scheme—more than twice the amount (170 maunds) distributed last year. For this distribution an advance of Rs. 7,500 was sanctioned last year and Rs. 10,000 this year.

**Cotton.**

The 8 cotton markets already established have worked well and another has been sanctioned at Shamgarh, while proposals for yet other markets are awaited.

**Cotton  
Markets.**

The survey and settlement work of Jagir villages is almost complete and the new settlement has been announced in 159 villages.

**Survey and  
Settlement.**

The plight of the educated unemployed is not peculiar to Indore; it is a problem which has engaged and is engaging the best brains of the Governments of all British Indian Provinces and of the major States. A scheme which will eventually absorb a number of these potentially useful citizens is that which has been evolved for the training of candidates for the posts of Sadar Munsarims and of Munsarims in the Land Records Department. These posts

**Relief for  
educated  
unemployed.**

demand special technical knowledge and substantial scholarships are offered to University graduates and other persons with higher education to enable them to undergo this training. I think you will agree with me that this scheme is doubly to be commended, for not only will it rescue from poverty men from whose education and abilities the State can derive advantage, but the subordinate staff of the Land Records Department will in a short time to come consist of men better qualified and trained than in the past, which should result in greatly increased efficiency in the Department's work.

**Forestry and  
Natural  
History.**

The Forest Department worked steadily during the year under the five years' scheme of forest demarcation, many grass birds of the Indore range having been properly surveyed and marked off, while the demarcation of coupes on modern scientific lines has been insisted upon. The forest villagers were not forgotten and in many places taccavi loans were granted to cultivators.

An ornithological survey of the State was done by the Bombay Natural History Society, which collected many fine specimens of birds native to this part of the country.

**INDUSTRY.  
Textile Mills.**

The importance of Indore as an industrial and commercial centre has grown almost without a break every year since 1860 and evidence of this was the marked increase in the activity of the textile mills in 1937-38 which necessitated the working of double shifts for several months in the bigger ones, the number of labourers employed rising from 22,108 to 29,426. Unfortunately it was found that the city could not produce the number of skilled workmen required, which at times led to dislocation of work and loss to the industry. The provision of the Factories Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the Maternity Benefit Act were vigorously enforced.

You will recall that in the award I made last year when I did my best to bring about happier relationships between mill-owners and operatives, I made certain recommendations for the improvement of the material conditions in which the mill hands worked. Many of these recommendations have been adopted and it is reported that the mills now provide

better medical facilities for the labourers and better arrangements for meals and bathing water. Some of the mills are installing air-conditioning plants. In general the workers now receive their wages on or about the tenth of every month. All this is most gratifying, and I look forward to the day when the mills of Indore will set an example to the whole of India.

Other measures designed to improve the lot of the industrial population are the enforcement by the Public Health Department of the regulations framed for the protection of child workers, while Government have under consideration a scheme for the provision of suitable houses for mill labourers.

Experiments are being tried to put the Maheshwar hand-loom industry on a more stable footing and its progress will be watched with interest.

**Maheshwar  
Hand-loom  
Industry.**

Yet other evidence of Indore's industrial growth is to be found in the number of new Corporations coming into existence every year. Joint Stock Companies now number 25 and registered societies 13 while there are 120 cotton ginning factories, 26 cotton pressing factories, and 196 flour mills. It must be admitted that a large number of the ginning and pressing factories lay idle on account of the slump in the cotton trade, but private enterprise in other directions showed greater activity than ever. The two open pan sugar factories, capable respectively of dealing with 57 tons and 14 tons of cane per day, were working to such effect during the year that a great impetus was given to sugar-cane cultivation; no less than 4,500 acres have been devoted to this and further expansion is already planned, while varieties of cane of superior yield and sugar content are being introduced.

**New  
Companies  
and Factories .**

The two ice factories produced 9210 maunds of ice compared with 7716 maunds in 1936-37, while the hosiery factory made sufficient progress to justify the expectation that it will continue to expand. The oil-expeller mills produced 40902 maunds of oil and 66786 maunds of oil-cakes. They also started the manufacture of boiled oil and varnishes.

Indore has many other industrial activities: the thymol factory is in full swing but its profitable operation was rendered difficult by the competition of cheap synthetic thymol: the glass factory made some progress. Motor transport came in for its share of attention, and an addition to the vast number of small factories which cater for the growing needs of this great industrial city was one for the remoulding of tyres. Permission has also recently been granted for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

**Customs.**

The income from Customs fell from Rs. 17,23,246 in 1936-37 to Rs. 13,54,095 last year mainly as a result of the fall in exports of cotton; the general trend of trade in Indore, however, maintained its level, exports and imports approximating to the previous year's figures of Rs. 68,00,283 and Rs. 2,09,68,927 respectively.

**Bonded Warehouse.**

The bonded warehouse in the cloth market has proved a successful experiment and goods worth 18 lakhs were distributed outside from it, while facilities and concessions were granted to 6 markets in the Districts for the development of trade in rural areas. The year saw an alarming increase in the smuggling of sugar from Siyaganj into parts of Indore protected by duties; to combat this smuggling a scheme has been sanctioned whereby sugar may be imported wholesale into Siyaganj under license free of duty the import duty being collected at the place of sale. No restriction is placed on the distribution of sugar from Siyaganj outside the State free of duty.

**Indore Electric Supply Profits.**

Increased profits in public utility concerns are a certain sign of industrial prosperity, so that you will be interested to learn that the Indore Electric Supply this year made a nett profit of no less than Rs. 1,75,000 which is an increase of Rs. 32,000 over the previous year's receipts. Past deficits and depreciation have of course not yet been equalised by the Indore Electric Supply profits during the past year or two, but there is every reason to believe that this important concern will soon be entirely self-supporting. To this end new plant costing Rs. 3,66,000 has recently been installed which is expected not only to permit of greater economy in production and in expansion, but that these in their turn will enable Government to consider the revision of the present rates in the not too far distant future.

A drive has been started to speed up the disposal of cases in the Civil and Criminal Courts and tours of inspection made by the Chief Justice followed up by clear detailed instructions in matters relating both to procedure and to practice, have brought about very considerable improvement. A conference of Judicial Officers, in which prominent members of the Bar took part, was held to examine difficulties in the working of the Courts. In order to expedite the disposal of arrears a temporary additional Small Causes Judge has been appointed in Indore and three Munsiffs are working in the city to the same end. The Magistrates at Manasa and Mahidpur have been given enhanced powers which will enable them to deal more adequately with litigation in those places. Another step likely to assist in the quick disposal of cases is the rule issued this year that copies of orders passed by the presiding officer of every Court must be submitted to the Chief Justice whenever a Civil case which has been pending for more than one year, or a Criminal case for more than four months, is adjourned.

**Speeding up  
of cases in the  
Courts.**

The Police report for last year is highly satisfactory. Three years ago subjects of the State living near the borders in certain districts went in-terror of their lives owing to the depredations of Kanjar gangs. This menace was met by the introduction of the Border Patrol system and after many months of hard and courageous work by the Police comprising these Patrols, the Kanjar gangs were brought under control. Last year the Border Patrol system was brought to such a state of efficiency that no serious Kanjar dacoities took place at all nor any grave disturbances by gangs of other types. Such immunity has been rendered possible only by continuous day and night patrol by parties of armed police operating from 28 frontier posts and in the open season from 34 station houses. There was little heinous crime in the State during the year.

**Police.**

I have already mentioned the fact that expenditure on the Army has been curtailed to make possible a bigger budgetary allowance for education and other social services. Nevertheless, His Highness's Army last year maintained the efficiency which of late years has been one of its distinguishing characteristics. A large number of selected officers and N.C.Os. attended courses at the Indian Army Training Centres, on their return passing on the training

**The Army.**

and knowledge they had received to their own Units in special classes.

The Horse Artillery has been disbanded, and its replacement by a mechanized force is now being considered. This measure not only reduces expenditure but will eventually place the Army on a more practical footing in keeping with the requirements of today. At the same time Government have decided to arm part of the 2nd. Battalion with modern rifles. With the exception of one unfortunate incident, when fire broke out in the stack yards of the Horse Artillery of Princess Usha's Own Lancers destroying 125 thousand pounds of grass, the Army's record during the year under review was one of steady progress. New barracks for 44 married men and quarters for 9 junior Officers have been completed, being part of the programme of general rebuilding already embarked on. A pipe line for the Maharani's Own Body Guard has been laid down at a cost of Rs. 6,300 and the provision of a good water supply for the Transport and for Princess Usha's Own Lancers is being carefully gone into. The year saw the inauguration of a Central Military Hospital in the Southern quadrangle of the Fort and this has proved a great success, for all the sick in the Army are now readily available for inspection and observation at any time, while the fact that the new Hospital enables patients to get a better diet undoubtedly contributes to the general health of the Army. An Army Benevolent Fund Scheme is under Government's consideration. Finally the Central India Horse Show organized by the Military Authorities last year was voted on all hands one upon which its organizers could most heartily be congratulated and it received the support of almost every Ruling Prince of Central India as well as of the Mhow Brigade.

**EDUCATION:** Once again the Holkar College is able to report a year of expansion and consolidation; the examination results bear tribute both to the staff and the system which prevails, every entrant in the M.A. Final Economics, the M.Sc. Final Chemistry and the M.Sc. Previous Chemistry passing. In the University Examination for the Final LL.B. the first place went to a student of the Holkar College and two others were awarded by the University Master of Science scholarships.

**The Holkar College.**

Consonantly with the policy of bringing education in the State up-to-date—a policy which has been steadily pursued for many years—the Primary School Curriculum has been completely revised and reorganised and many new subjects have been introduced, among them practical hygiene, agriculture, nature-study, sanitation, and social service; while as an experiment handicrafts are being taught in 4 selected vernacular Middle Schools. Should this latter prove a success it will be extended as soon as possible to other schools.

Recent years have seen a growing realisation on the part of Governments almost throughout the world of the value of bodily fitness among their citizens. Indore cannot yet claim to have regimented its people into semi-military physical culture classes such as are popular in certain parts of the Continent of Europe, but a great deal of attention is in fact being paid to the health and physique of school children and to this end teachers are being sent to physical training centres outside the State in order that they may have the benefit of learning the most modern methods. The Education Department is also carrying on uplift work in the villages both through the schools and in other ways. Efforts to improve the health and physique of children are not confined to physical culture and in 3 selected schools in Indore germinating gram, milk, and Soya beans are being given experimentally at mid-day; this form of tiffin will be extended to other schools if it results in an improvement in the general standard of health among the school children to whom it has been given.

I must mention here the generosity of Seth Mohan Lal Ladha, who made a donation of Rs. 21,000 for the supply of milk to poor children from families unable to afford sufficient milk themselves. Milk is thus being supplied from this fund to sixty under-nourished children from very poor vegetarian families.

Seth Mohan Lal Ladha's example is one which I hope will be followed by other generous-minded citizens of Indore.

Important additions have recently been made to the antiquities in the Museum and the Nar Ratna Mandir, while the results in the Calcutta examinations this year achieved

**The Museum  
etc.**



by students of the Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya were extremely good, coming to no less than 72 per cent. This is the only Maha Vidyalaya in Central India to attract large numbers of students from outside.

#### Hospitals.

The Medical Services of the State have not stayed still and His Highness the Maharaja is considering the construction of a new up-to-date hospital. The efficiency of the Maharaja Tukoji Rao Hospital has been improved by the conversion of two posts of the grade of Sub Assistant Surgeon to the grade of Assistant Surgeon, and the appointment of a Bone-Setter. The Mental Hospital has been enlarged and can now accommodate 56 persons, while the Leper Asylum will hold 45 victims of this terrible disease.

The popularity of the Rao Sanatorium has grown so steadily that its expansion and a hospital for tuberculosis patients are both being considered.

#### Jails.

The construction of a new Central Jail or, if that should prove not immediately possible, of at least additional barracks in the existing jail, is contemplated, for the number of prisoners in the Central Jail today averages 750 and the number of those in the district jails of Garoth and Mandleshwar has also increased. Society now-a-days is realizing that the mere confinement of criminals behind bars is no solution to the problem of crime; everywhere prison administrations are concentrating more and more on the transformation of the forbidding old type of prison into what amounts to a specialised educational institution wherein those convicted of offences against the State may be educated to fit them in later life to be useful citizens. This is the ideal which Government have before them for the future of the Central Jail.

#### Public Health.

Cholera broke out last March and raged until September, starting in Nemawar it spread to other districts and out of 2848 cases in the State 1302—or 45 per cent—succumbed. That these figures were not very much worse is to be attributed to the adoption of immediate preventive measures and no less than 2,05,249 persons were inoculated. Nevertheless, public apathy and superstition gravely hindered the task of the doctors and in general it must be admitted that the people avoided inoculation until faced by the dread fact of

an epidemic. The ravages of cholera would have been far less severe and the deaths far fewer, especially in Garoth and Nimar Districts, had the people got themselves inoculated as soon as the doctors were ready with the vaccine.

The travelling dispensaries instituted some time ago show encouraging results; almost three villages out of every four in the State were visited and simple home talks and lantern lectures were given to explain to the peasants how preventive measures against disease may be taken and village and domestic sanitation may be achieved. Medicines were distributed where they were needed.

So far as we have figures last year there were 33,778 births and 33,287 deaths or nearly 250 deaths per thousand among infants—a depressingly high rate. Unfortunately even persons of education are either indifferent or averse to the registration of births and deaths and therefore the figures we have cannot be considered either satisfactory or reliable. When it is remembered that both preventive and curative health measures can properly be taken only when a Government has in its possession accurate vital statistics, the importance of registration will be realised, and I hope that men and women with a sense of responsibility will co-operate with Government both in complying themselves with the registration rules and in explaining their necessity to others with whom they come in contact.

**Births and  
Deaths.**

The village panchayat system instituted a few years ago continues to do good work and the number has risen this year from 138 to 167, while the demands coming in from other villages for panchayats where they do not at present exist show that the rural populace appreciate their advantages and importance.

**Village  
Panchayats.**

The Town Planning Officer has prepared a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of Indore city, and Mr. T. H. G. Stamper, late Consulting Surveyor to the Government of Bombay, came here last February to examine this and to make specific recommendations. These are now under Government's consideration. At the same time the city's municipal affairs are receiving serious attention and a Committee is at present investigating the entire field of municipal administration and will doubtless suggest improvements

**Indore City  
Improvement  
and  
Municipality.**

when its labours have been concluded Indore's roads are better than they were, and under the existing programme more of them will be asphalted in the near future.

**Legislation.**

And now, Members of the Legislative Council, I turn to the sphere of activity in which you as a body have most interest. Since I addressed you at this time last year the Money-Lenders Act and the Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, two highly important pieces of legislation, have been added to the Statute Book. Both these measures affect so vitally the welfare of the State as to require no further comment from me here, though I would like to say how gratifying it is that the Bill relating to money lenders was passed without opposition by your Council.

Now legislative measures of the first import will come up before you this session. The Payment of Wages Bill, the object of which is to remove a number of just grievances of those employed in industry, is now in its final stages; the Bill to regulate the transfer of property is an intricate and complex piece of legislation which will tax your time and energy; while the most serious attention will have to be concentrated on the Bill to amend the Child Marriage Act—a Bill which has resulted from the labours of a Committee which had the great benefit of the advice of two of your Members. It aims at the compulsory registration of all marriages in the State and the closing up of loopholes existing in the present Child Marriage Act.

You must have followed with keen interest the progress and passage of the new Companies Act in British India. The position of and conditions governing Joint Stock Companies here are very much the same as they are outside our borders and it is therefore highly desirable that our Companies legislation should be, as far as possible, on the same lines as those that obtain elsewhere. To this end a Bill to consolidate and bring our Companies law up-to-date will be introduced in your Council this session and will, I am sure, receive your most earnest and sympathetic consideration.

**Circulars and Notifications.**

A long felt public want has at last been met in the completion of the work of compiling circulars, orders and

notifications and their publication for public sale in up-to-date volumes.

The Committee of Officials and non-officials appointed on your recommendation to examine Dharmadaya levy throughout the State has, you will be interested to learn, submitted its report which is now being considered by Government. The report of the Committee appointed at your instance to examine the problem of unemployment and to suggest a means to solve it is still awaited.

**Dharmadaya  
Committee.**

It is greatly to be regretted that although the Public Trusts Registration Act is now in operation the public in general shows indifference towards it and only five Trusts have so far been registered. I know that you realize as well as I do the paramount importance of the proper control and regulation of all public Trusts and Charities and I am sure that, in asking for your whole-hearted co-operation in bringing this home to the public, I shall be sympathetically heard.

**Public Trusts.**

Before I conclude my address I feel that I should refer to the political agitation which has disturbed Indore City during the year. The genesis of this agitation, which first reared its head last year, was in regard to the restrictions placed on public meetings, which a few public workers held to be unreasonable. Then certain outsiders mixed themselves up in it and—as so often happens—the agitation began to assume, both in the Press of India generally and in the City itself, proportions which threatened seriously to disturb public peace and order. The presence of three undesirable foreigners was found distinctly to be detrimental to public tranquillity and Government were therefore compelled to expel them. But as Government were anxious to avoid such measures and wished to remove any misunderstandings which had arisen and to explain the real position, I requested representatives of the political associations of the State and a number of other public workers to meet me and my colleagues in conference. After prolonged discussions and consultations with them the air was cleared and a satisfactory arrangement was reached.

**Political  
Agitation.**

That is all that I have to say to-day, Members of the Legislative Council, save to thank you for the patience with which you have listened to me. Your labours during this session will, I am assured, be directed, as they have always been, towards the promotion of good-will and the most harmonious relations between the subjects of Indore, His Highness the Maharaja, and His Highness's Government, for without such social and spiritual co-operation between the Ruler and the ruled no progress is possible in any State.