BARODA : : STATE

A Souvenir
to commemorate the visit of
Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon

PUBLISHED BY
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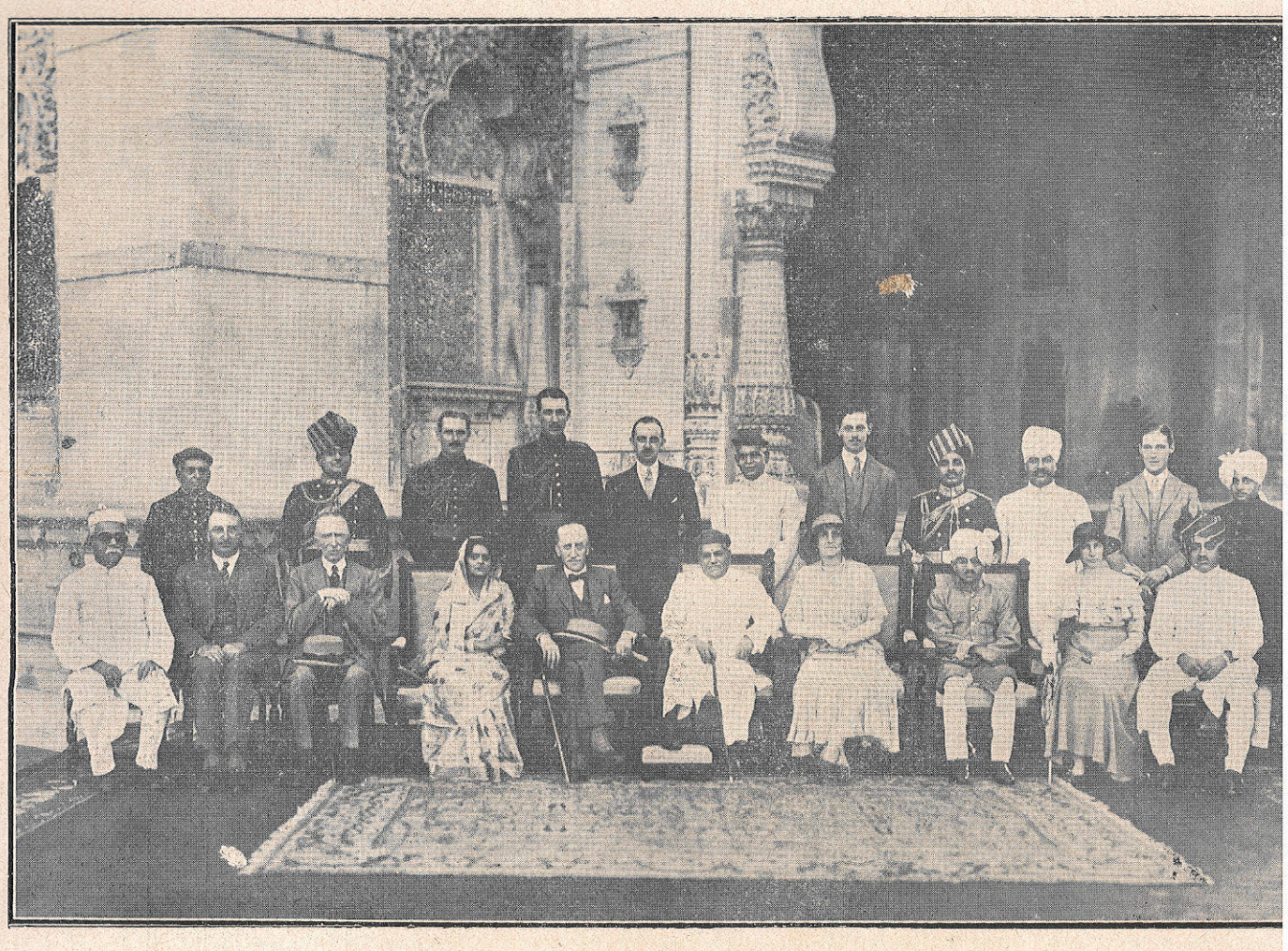


A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES' VISIT TO BARODA.

Baroda: To-day.

DECEMBER 18, 1881, was an auspicious day for Baroda, and one that will ever be remembered in the annals of the State as marking the opening of a new epoch. For it was on that day, now over fifty years ago, that His Highness Farzand-i-Khas-i-Dowlat-i-Inglisha, Maharaja Sir Sayaji Rao Gaekwar, Sena Khas Khel, Shamsher Bahadur, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., Maharaja of Baroda, was invested with ruling powers by His Excellency Sir James Ferguson, Governor of Bombay, who acted as the representative of the Right Honourable the Marquis of Ripon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

From that memorable day till now, record of Baroda State has been one of con tent and considerable progress, so that nov stands in the forefront of Indian India, of all the countries of the world, as an exan of what an enlightened, public-spirited statesman-like ruler can do to ameliorate lot of his people and promote the moral material welfare of his subjects. The half-century has witnessed such an adva in the spheres of social reform and educat industry and agriculture, art and culture, a well-nigh without parallel elsewhere. For t Baroda has to thank the genius who with c summate skill and intelligent foresight

H. E. the Right Hon'ble the Earl of Willingdon, P. C.
G.M S.I., G.M.I.E., G.C.M.G., G.B.E,
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

guided her destinies through troublous times. For a better appreciation of the remarkable achievement of this outstanding personality in the Order of Princely India, His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, it is necessary to go back to the origins of the history and trace the development of the State through the past two centuries. We may then understand what is the nature of the revolution that has been brought about—a revolution in the true sense of the word, that is, a change which has been fraught with unmixed benefits for the whole population of Baroda.

Area and Population.

Although by no means the biggest Indian State, Baroda is a substantial political and geographical entity covering an area of 8,164 square miles and supporting a population of 24,43,007, according to the latest census returns. (Incidentally, the Baroda Census of 1931 is a remarkable document, packed with vital facts and figures, and in itself an epitome of the achievement of the past five decades). Situated within the limits of Bombay Presidency, Baroda has been in direct political relationship with the Government of India since 1875, that is, since the year of the accession to the gadi of the present ruler.

HON'BLE SIR CHARLES WATSON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. I.C.S., Political Secretary to the Government of India.

Origin of State.

Historically, the origins of Baroda are to be found in the period of the break up of the Moghul Empire and the rise to power of the great Mahratta race. Of the early leaders of that race (of whom Shivaji is the greatest hero), one of the most distinguished was Khanderao Dabhade. He overran Gujer (then a Moghul dominion) in 1705 and i posed a tribute upon the inhabitants. Af he had successfully engaged in battle the re nants of the Moghul forces on several oc sions, his military genius earned for him the year 1716 the appointment of Senapati Commander-in-Chief by the King of Sata At the same time, his right hand man, anot leader named Damaji Gaekwar, acquitted hi self so valiantly on the field that he was e alted to the rank second-in-command a honoured with the ti of Shamsher Bahadu which distinction to th day remains a pro title of the Gaekwars.

Founder of Dynasty.

When Khandera Dabhade and Dam Gaekwar both died 1721, they were succee ed the former by his s Trimbakrao and t latter by his nephe Pilaji, who is consider to be the real founder the present dynasty Baroda. Trimbakr was killed ten years lat in an encounter wi the Peishwa and his minor son Yeshwar rao succeeded him with Pilaji as his Mutali bearing the title of "Sena Khas Khel" Yes wantrao, when he later came of age, prov to be unfit to wield power, and soon t Gaekwars took the place of the Dabha family and were appointed representativ in Gujerat of the King of Satara. Songha was the seat of their government and the levied tribute in Gujerat from 1723 onward Pilaji's career was abruptly terminated 1723 when he was done to death at Dak

HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF WILLINGDON, C.I., G.B.E.

by the hired assassins of Abhai Singh, the Moghul Viceroy.

Damaji II.

Pilaji was succeeded by his son, Damaji II, who soon showed the stuff he was made of by capturing Baroda in 1734 and going on to extend his power in every direction. Before long, he had established his supremacy in Gujerat, defeating the Moghul General and chasing him out of the country. Then arose internal strife among the Mahrattas, beginning with the death in 1749 of the King of Satara. His powers passed into the hands of the Peishwas, who governed the land in his stead. This policy was not approved of by Damaji, and consequently when, two years later, there arose an opportunity to challenge the Peishwa, Damaji lent a willing ear to the appeal of the widow of the former King of Satara and prepared an expedition to the Deccan with the object of restoring the then King of Satara after rescuing him from the Peishwa's thraldom. With an army of 15,000 horse and foot he met and defeated a larger force at Nimb which attempted to impede his progress. Later, however, the fortunes of war changed and he suffered a severe reverse. He was forced into an unfavourable position and faced with the possible annihilation of his army. He, therefore, had to open negotiations with the Peishwa and come to terms. The terms involved the cession of half of Gujerat and all his future conquests. Entering into an alliance with the Peishwa, he maintained his sovereignty intact and, years later, in a joint assault toge with the Peishwa's forces, he laid seig Ahmedabad and captured it. This was end of the Moghul power in Gujerat and area was thereupon apportioned betwee Peishwa and the Gaekwar.

MR. A. C. LOTHIAN, C.I.E., I.C.S., Resident, Baroda.

Panipat and After.

The next important landmark in the tory of those days was the great battl Panipat, when the Afghans met and defe the Mahrattas. Da fought on the side the Peishwa and he his forces distingui themselves in the flict. They were ab withdraw and retu Gujerat, where Da consolidated himself prevented the Mog from gaining any adv age from the battl Panipat. In fact, extended his terri by conquering the which now forms Kadi division of State.

Sayajirao to Govind

The death of Da in 1768 was follo by a period of disorder in which tw his sons, Sayajirao and Govindrao disp the succession. Ultimately, the former and ruled from 1771 to 1778, when he succeeded by his younger brother, Fat singh. On his death in 1789, a fo brother, Manaji seized the reins of po and it was not until he died in 1793 Govindrao, the second brother, bec ruler, but only after he had paid a h nazar to the Peishwa in order to se the title of Sena Khas Khel Sham Bahadur.

His Highness Farzand-i-Khas-i-Daulat-i-Englishia Maharaja
Sir Sayaji Rao Gaekwar Sena Khas Khel Shamsher Bahadur,
G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Baroda.

Anandrao.

Govindrao died in 1800 and was succeeded by his eldest son Anandrao. The early part of his reign was a period of turbulence and unrest due to family feuds and other factors, until both parties sought the aid of the British Government who intervened and decided to uphold Anandrao. In return, a treaty was signed between the Gaekwar and the East India Company in July, 1802, which was later consolidated in 1805 and was supplemented by the treaty of 1817. By these engagements the British bound themselves to support the Gaekwar, an offensive and defensive alliance was entered into and the State agreed to receive from the British a subsidiary force of 4,000 Native Cavalry, a company of European Artillery and two companies of gun-lascars. For the payment of these troops, the State ceded territory which at that time produced a revenue of Rs. 24,31,909 per annum, and gave over the direction of its foreign policy to the charge of the British Government

MR. E.C. MIEVILLE C.M.G., C.I.E.,
Private Secretary to H. E. The Viceroy.

Sayajirao II. and Ganpatrao.

In 1819, a year after the Peishwa's power was finally overthrown by the British (and Baroda consequently released from its annual payment, on account of past claims), Anandrao died and was succeeded by his brother, Sayajirao II. His reign was marked by differences between Baroda and the British Government which continued for nearly twenty years until they were finally composed by Sir James Rivett Carnac, Governor of Bombay, in 1841. After the death Sayajirao in 1847, his eldest son, Ganpatra came to the throne. Ganpatrao, in spite some differences with the British, was enlightened ruler who did much for the Stat He it was who suppressed the practice child slavery. He imposed a ban on infa ticid and stamped it out. In public work he adopted a constructive policy and bu roads, bridges and public buildings. Duri his time, the first line was laid of the Bomba Baroda and Central India Railway, a proje which had His Highne enthusiastic support. transferred to the ra way free of cost, all la within his boundari required for its pu poses, stipulating on that he should be co pensated for the loss revenue from trans duties.

Khanderao.

Ganpatrao died 1856 and was succeede by his eldest survivin brother, Khanderao. few months afterward there broke out th Sepoy Mutiny whi threatened to overthro the British Raj over large part of Norther India. Its repercussions were felt Gujerat, where there was a rebellio outbreak, but the then Maharajah did n waver in his loyalty to the British power. H steady support was later recognised by th grant of the right of adoption, while he w created a Knight Grand Commander of th Most Exalted Order of the Star of Indi Further, he was presented with a splend pair of fans made of peacock's feathe (morchals) and the British Governme

HER HIGHNESS MAHARANI CHIMAN BAI GAEKWAR, C I.

remitted the annual payment of Rs 3,00,000 which had hitherto been made for the upkeep of the Gujerat Irregular Horse. Khanderao was in many respects a liberal ruler, as witness his improvements in the administration and his inauguration of a revenue survey of land. But his tastes were rather too magnificent to enable all the necessary reforms to be carried out, and his love of hunting and sport, his zeal for building fine palaces and collecting jewellery and his pleasure-loving habits prevented him from carrying out some of his projects.

SIR V. T. KRISHNAMACHARI, KT., C. I. E., MINISTER. BARODA.

Malharrao.

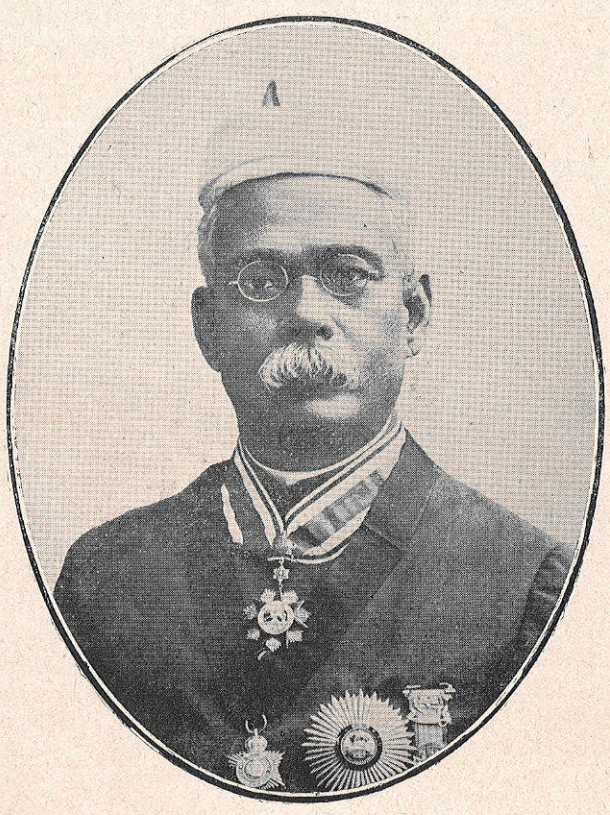
When Khanderao died in 1870 without male issue, the next to ascend the gadi was Malharrao, a brother of the previous Gaekwar, who was at the time in prison for having engaged in a plot to oust his predecessor. Having been released, he assumed the reins of power and straightway began to show how unfit he was for the task. He began by attempting to wreak vengeance on the supporters of the previous Maharaja and went on to oppress his subjects financially and otherwise. This is not the proper place to enter into details of the story of Malharrao's misrule, or to trace the events lea up to his ultimate deposition by the Br Government. Suffice it to say that he tried for attempting to poison Col Phayre, the British Resident at Baroda, the mixed Court returned a divided ver the three British Commissioners holding guilty and three Indian C missioners hol him not gu The British vernment decl to act on verdict, but fin decided, in a clamation of 1 that he must deposed on grounds of gen misrule and e ent incapacity carry out ne sary refor which had b established b previous inqui

Sayajirao III.

In 1875 British author Her Highn Maharani Jan Bai, widow of late Mahar Khanderao, adopt a succe to inherit wealth and power of her late husba The wisdom of her choice is a matte which the people of Baroda, then since, and for many generations to c have good cause to congratulate themsel For the choice fell on a youth who has s shown that he possesses that genius, flair for good governance which was

HER HIGHNESS THE MAHARANI OF COOCH BEHAR.

inherent principle of the doctrine of the "divine right of kings". The fortunate lad selected by the Maharani was a scion of the ruling family, a Prince who, after long search, was deemed to be best fitted for the arduous task of ruling. He was Gopalrao, son of Kashirao, a descendant of Pratap-rao, the third son of Pilajirao Gaekwar, the founder of the State. He had been born on March 11, 1863, in the obscure village of Kavlana, and he inherited from his forebears all the talents in state-craft which have since stood him in such good stead that he has become a model for other rulers. Gopalrao was adopted with all the sacred rites according to the Shashtras and his name was changed to Sayajirao. He ascended the gadi in 1875 while still a minor.



RAO BAHADUR G. B. AMBEGAOKAR, NAIB DEWAN, who acted as Minister during the Viceregal visit.

Childhood and Education.

During the minority of the Maharaja, the administration of the State was carried on by a regent, Raja Sir T. Madhavarao. He conserved the resources of the State, and made it his especial duty to ensure that the young ruler should be fully equipped by education and training to make the best use of those natural talents he so amply possessed. Accordingly, there were engaged tutors and instructors who would bring out and develop the character and capacity of the lad. Mr. F. A. H. Elliot, I.C.S., was appointed tutor and devoted himself to giving his charge a first-class education and a thorough training in the arts of administration. For six years, the fortunate youth upon whom had devolved the immense responsibi of making a modern State out of a medie one, devoted himself assiduously to the st of all the subjects necessary fully to eq himself for the task, and when he reac manhood, he was in a position to make most of the opportunities which had come way. Moreover, during his minority he attended the ceremony in Delhi of the p clamation of Queen Victoria as Empress India. That was in 1877, and on that occas the young Gaek made the acquainta of some of his fel peers in the Prin Order, notably His Hi ness the late Mahar of Mysore and His alted Highness the Nizam of Hyderal The occasion further noteworthy that the Queen England, recognising great potentialities so promising a ru conferred upon him title of Farzand-i-Kha Dowlat-i-Inglisha, "I oured son of the Bri Empire."

Coming of age.

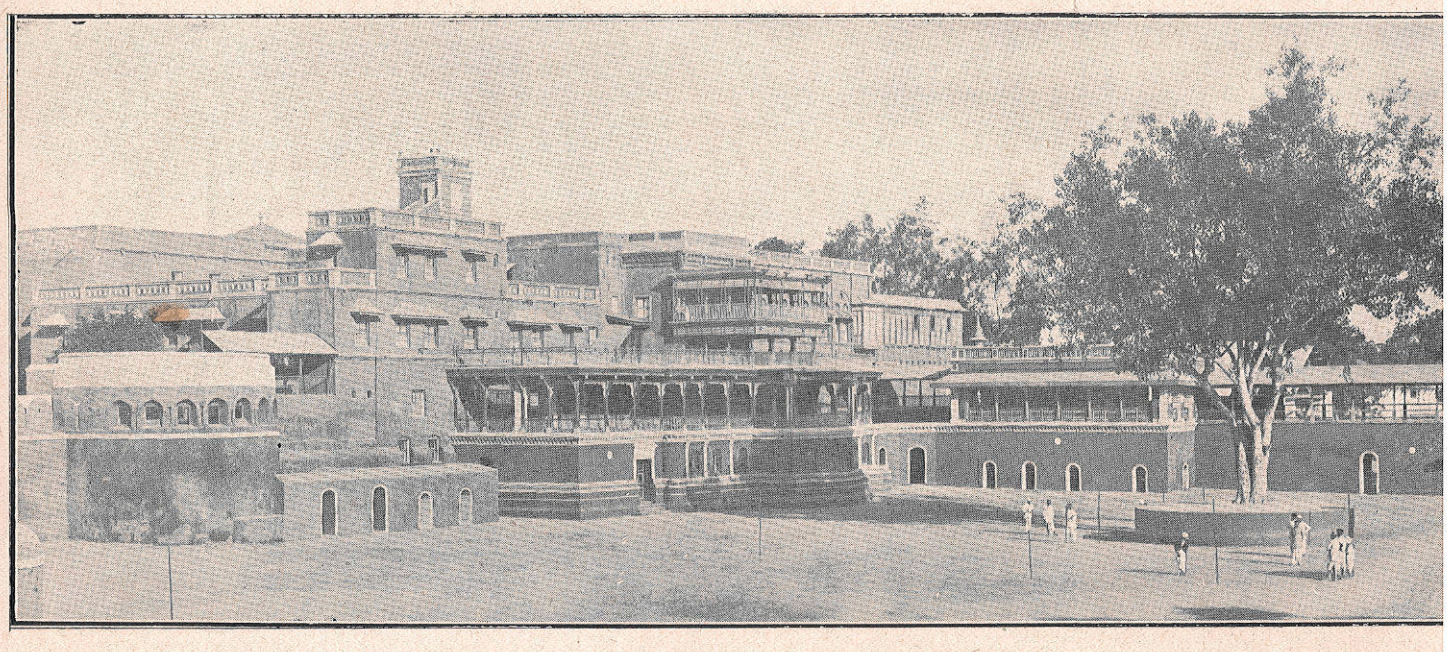
In 1881, the Maharaja came of age was duly invested with ruling powers by Governor of Bombay, with all the custom pomp and panoply. He straightway th himself with vigour and zeal into the w of administering his State in accordance v the principles of democratic kingship, such was the force of his character example that he inspired a like zeal in all officers of State, so that the Governmen Baroda soon become an efficient machine

SRIMANT YUVRAJ PERTAP SINHA GAEKWAR.

the improvement of the condition of His Highness' subjects. The history of Baroda in the last half century has been wrapped up in the career of the man who, with singleness of purpose and a clear perception of what was needed, has pursued a policy of reform in every sphere of public activity. In that policy, he has been aided by a succession of able Ministers and supported by the mass of intelligent opinion in the State.

Foreign Travels.

The better to enable him to initiate such schemes, His Highness together with his consort has carried out several extensive foreign tours during the course of which he made it his business to study the economic, social and political conditions of the countries he visited. The ideas he assimilated have been put into practice wherever they were applicable to local conditions. His first trip to Europe was undertaken in 1887 and covered such countries as Italy, Switzerland, France and England. In England, the Maharaja and the Maharani were the honoured guests of the late Queen Victoria, and the former, during a royal interview, was invested with the Knight Grand Commandership of the most Exalted Order of the Star of India. This trip was followed by a series of others in part necessitated by the fact that His Highness had applied himself to his duties with such energy that his physical resources were sapped and he was compelled to recuperate his health in Switzerland and elsewhere. Thus he visited Europe in 1888, 1892, 1893, 1825, 1900. In 1910, His Highness ventured further afield and toured the East including Malaya, China and Japan, and went on to America. There he visited a number of the bigger centres in the United States and Canada before crossing the Atlantic to England. In the following year, His Highness had again to visit England and was present at the Coronation of the present King-Emperor and Queen Empress. Since then, in post-war years, he has more than once been abroad for reasons of health, and is thus a widely travelled man with that breadth of outlook which comes to the observant traveller. Moreover, he has put his foreign experience to good use at home where he has spent the bulk of his time and energies.



THE ARENA WITH THE BHADRA OFFICES IN THE BACKGROUND.

LAXMI VILAS PALACE.

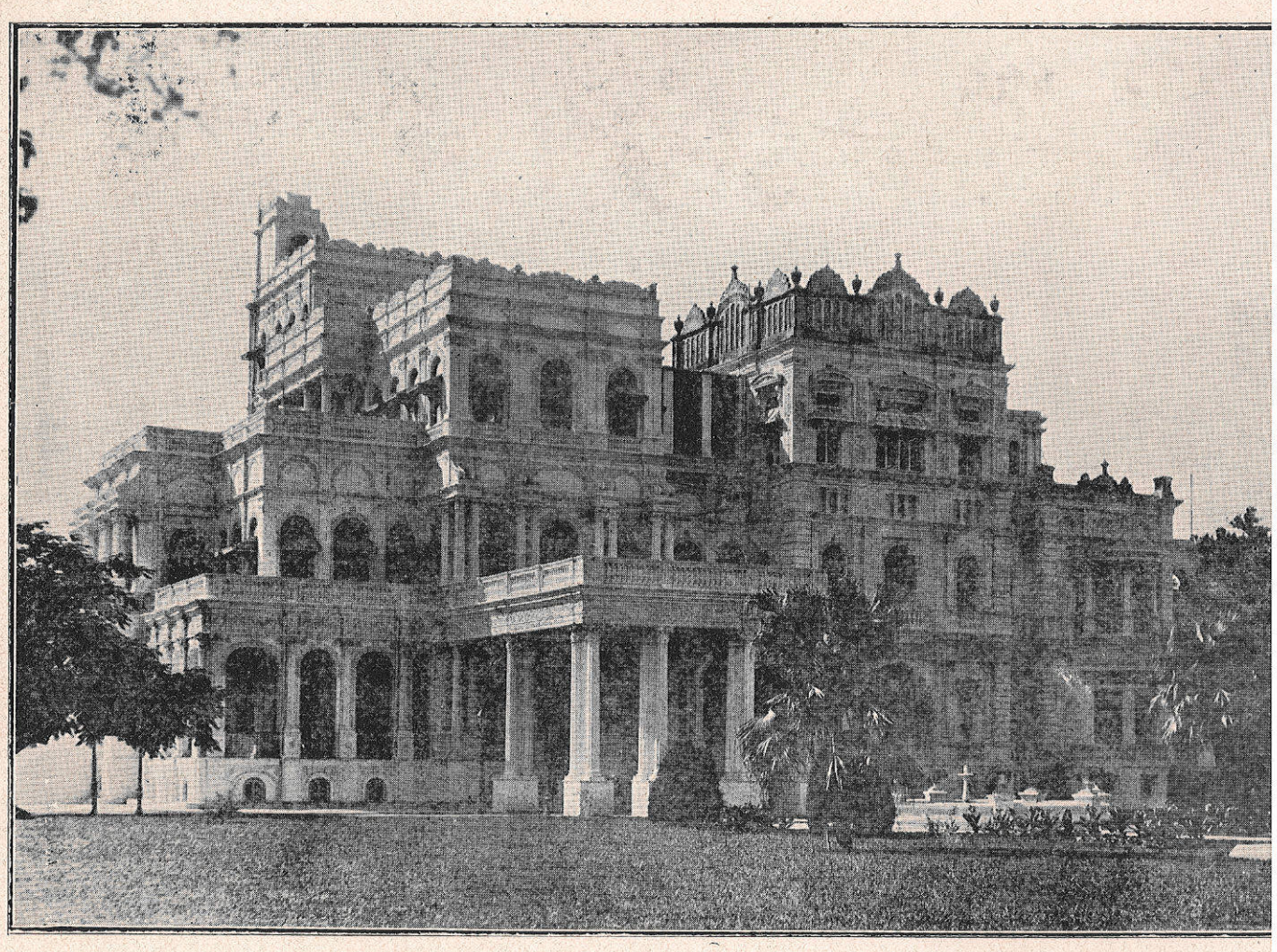
Domestic Life.

The domestic life of His Highness has been blessed with that happiness that comes of perfect unions. In 1880, he married the gifted Princess Laxmibai, a niece of the Maharaja of Tanjore. Of that union two children were born, a daughter and a son. The son was the Yuvaraj Fateh Sinh Rao, who died prematurely in 1908, leaving two daughters and one son. The last mentioned,

Sinh Rao having died in 1923 and P Shivaji Rao in 1919. The daughter ma the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and is the Dowager Maharani of that State.

Structure of State.

Coming now to public affairs, we first outline the structure of the Stat then go on to trace the developments have taken place. The administratio Baroda is carried on by His Highness a



NAZARBAG PALACE.

Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratap Sinh Rao, is the heir-apparent to the *gadi*. The first Maharani died in 1885, and His Highness later married Princess Gajrabai of the Ghatge family of the Dewas State. Her title is Her Highness Maharani Chimnabai II. This union has been blessed with three sons and one daughter, but only one son, Prince Dhairyashil Rao now survives, Prince Jaya

ed by His Executive Council. The Co consists of five members, inclu the Dewan or Chief Minister, two more Naib Dewans or Deputy Ministers, one or two other officials. The Governr is further assisted for purposes of legisl by a Legislative Council which enacts ce measures for application throughout State. The Dhara Sabha (as the Coun

His Highness The Maharaja Gáekwar and his Ministers.

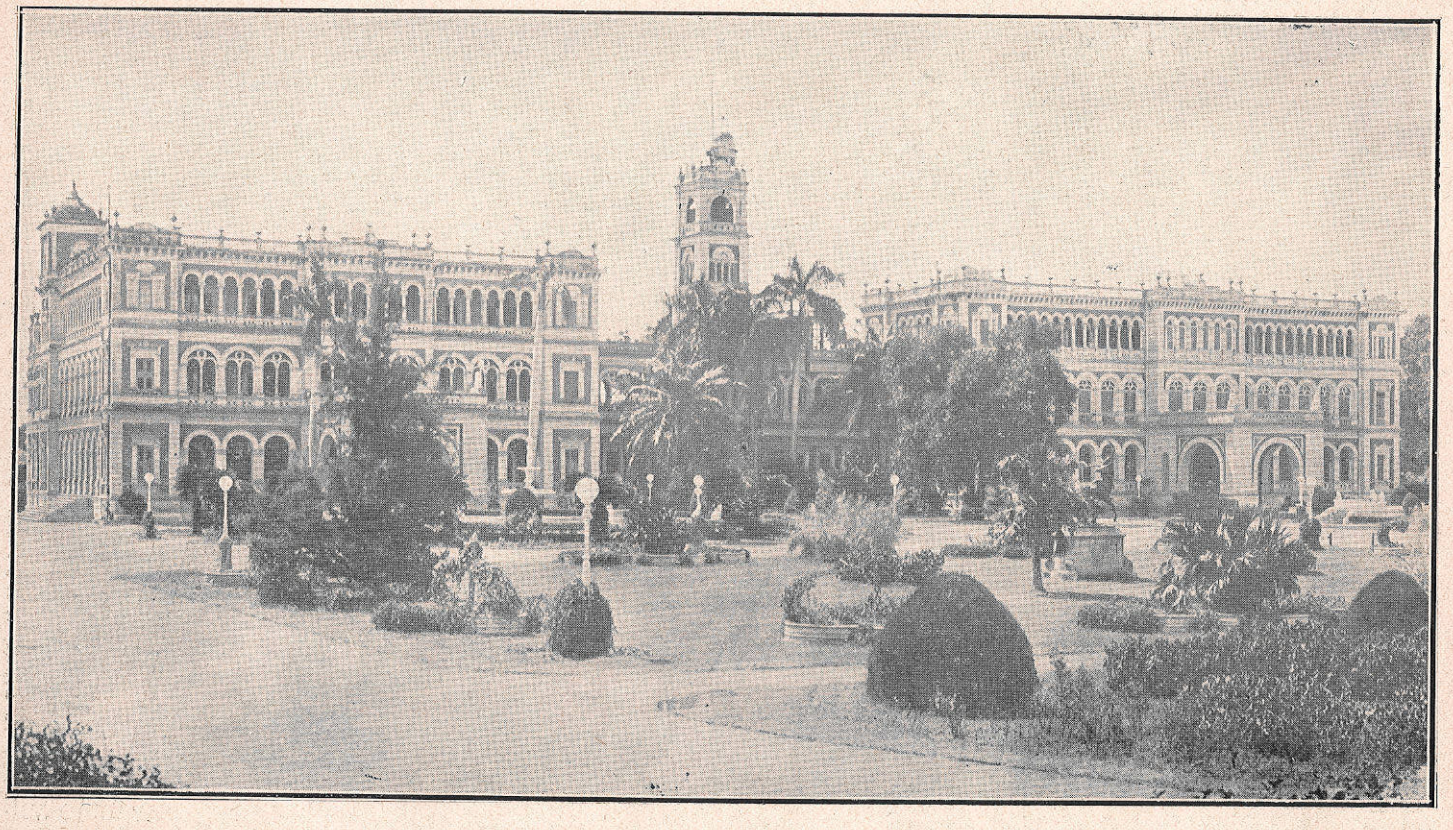
known) contains a non-official majority, the total number of members being 27 (exclusive of the President), of whom officials number 13. The official members include the members of the Executive Council together with other Government officers. The functions of the Legislature are mainly advisory, but members can put interpellations and move resolutions.

Local Self-Government.

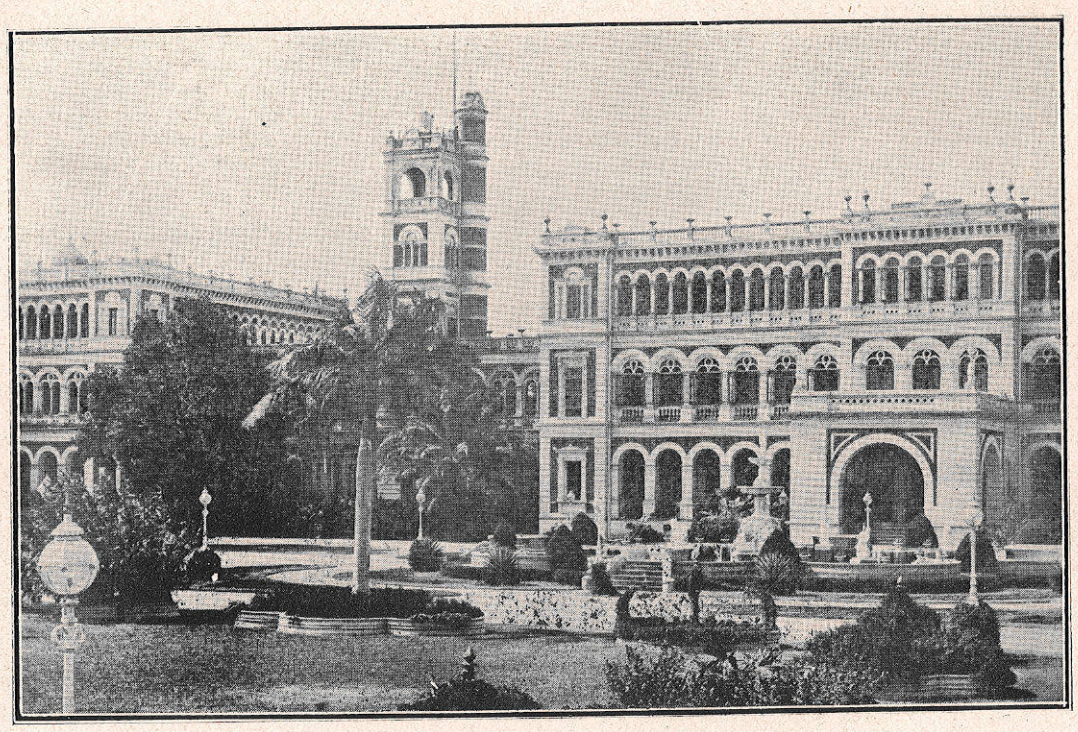
The central legislature is strengthened by a net-work of local self-governing institutions. The urban areas are under the control of Municipal Councils, of which there are eleven, and of "Vishisht Panchayats" or minor urban Councils with a less elaborate organisation than the municipal councils. There are 33 Vishisht Panchayats. Members of these councils are partly elected and partly nominated, the former preponderating. In rural areas there are village Panchayats which number 2,118, and over them are five Prant Panchayats or district boards. On all these bodies, the elected members are in the majority. This system of self-government, for the introduction of which His Highness the Gaekwar is responsible, is functioning most satisfactorily today and affords full scope for the democratic instincts of the people.

Judicial System.

The judicial system, again, is well constituted, consisting as it does of a Varisht (High) Court with several judges on the bench. This is the highest tribunal in the land, but provision exists for the hearing of appeals from it before the Huzur Naya Sabha or Privy Council, subject to certain conditions. Under the High Court there are five district judges' courts, together with a large number of Assistant Judges, Subordinate Judges, District Magistrates, Revenue and ordinary Magistrates and Munsiffs Courts. In the villages themselves, there are Panchayat courts exercising civil and criminal jurisdiction. Thus the legal



A VIEW OF THE MAKARPURA PALACE AND ITS GROUNDS.



MAKARPURA PALACE FROM THE NORTH.

system is calculated to bring justice within the reach of the humblest in the land.

Early Reforms.

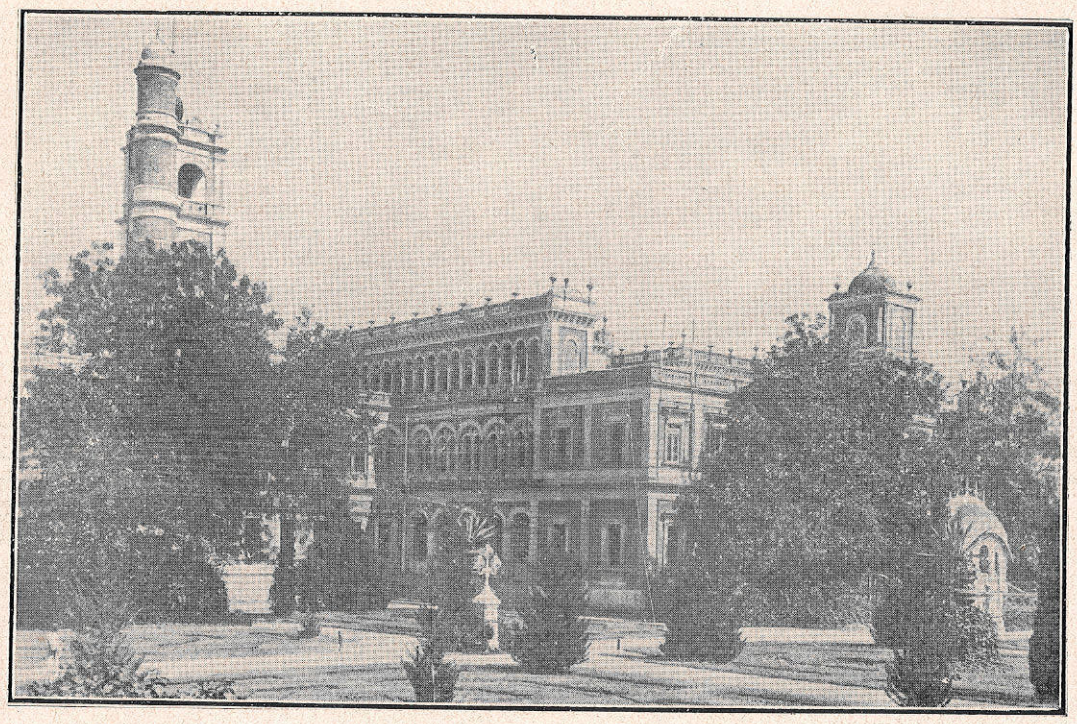
In other departments of State, there has been such a quickening of the administrative pulse as has resulted in radical reforms all round. For instance, soon after he took over the reins of power, His Highness set on foot a scientific land-revenue survey. The benefits of such a reform from the standpoint of the peasant are obvious. The new settlement established security of tenure and definition of rights where formerly there had been confusion. It did away with payment in kind, it lowered the prevailing rates of land revenue and it placed taxes on an equitable basis according to the nature of the soil. Further, it overhauled the system of revenue collection and laid down particular rules. The tenant was thus in a much better position than he had been, for he could till the land in the knowledge that his dues were fixed and his rights would be respected.

Aid for Agriculture.

This was one of the earliest reforms undertaken by His Highness. It has been followed by a series of enactments which have helped the agriculturist to maintain himself on a sound economic basis. For instance, the establishment of model demonstration and experimental farms has shown the people how to improve their methods and thus get more return from their labours. Village uplift is inculcated through these and other agencies, so that cultivators are taught the best methods of tillage, the values of manures, the rotation of crops, scientific irrigation, and other practical aspects of their occupation. Special inspectors tour the villages demonstrating and lecturing to cultivators, and advising them on problems of husbandry such as improved ploughing, better seed, greater return per acre and destruction of pests.

Research Work.

To take one specific case, that of cotton cultivation. The State being a constituent member of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it is in a position to keep in touch with the latest scientific developments. The improvement of cotton cultivation has



MAKARPURA PALACE FROM THE WEST.

been a subject to which the Development Commissioner has paid special attention, with the result that to-day inferior varieties of cotton have been almost completely eliminated, while war is being waged on the pests which attack the cotton plant. The Indian Central Cotton Committee having launched a scheme for research on "root rot" in the cotton plant in Gujerat, the research work is being conducted by the State Department of Agriculture in the Baroda Experimental Station.

Co-operative Movement.

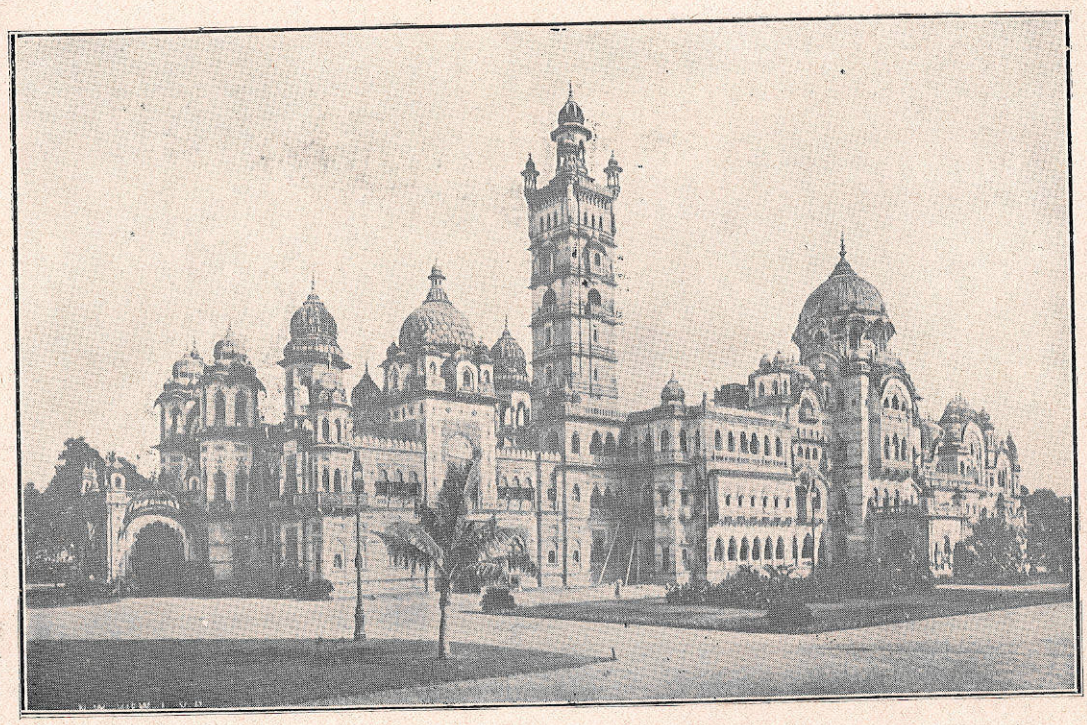
Another branch of the rural reconstruction movement which has received every encouragement at the hands of the State is the co-operative movement, now widely spread through the State. There are 1,063 co-operative societies with a membership of 39,552 and a working capital of Rs. 77,00,000, in addition to non-credit societies such as cotton sale societies, land consolidation societies and the like. In the early days of His Highness' reign, the numerous miscellaneous *Veros* or imposts in the nature of professional taxes which had been levied upon people residing in villages and following several occupations and trades were abolished, and a uniform system of income tax introduced. Transit duties also went by the board. Now, the State has opened a rural reconstruction centre at Kosamba for the purpose of uplift propaganda and tuition.

Industrial Development.

On the industrial side, the progress made has been nothing short of phenomenal. His Highness' warm support of commercial and industrial enterprizes together with the forward policy adopted by the Development Commissioner for the encouragement of all practical projects have resulted in a large expansion of the industrial activity of the State. Baroda to-day supports a large number of flourishing industries, and is engaged in fostering a number of infant industries which some day will be equally flourishing.

Economic Inquiry.

Soon after the war, a commission was appointed to inquire into the economic conditions of the people and the measures to be taken for the further industrial development of the State. The recommendations of the

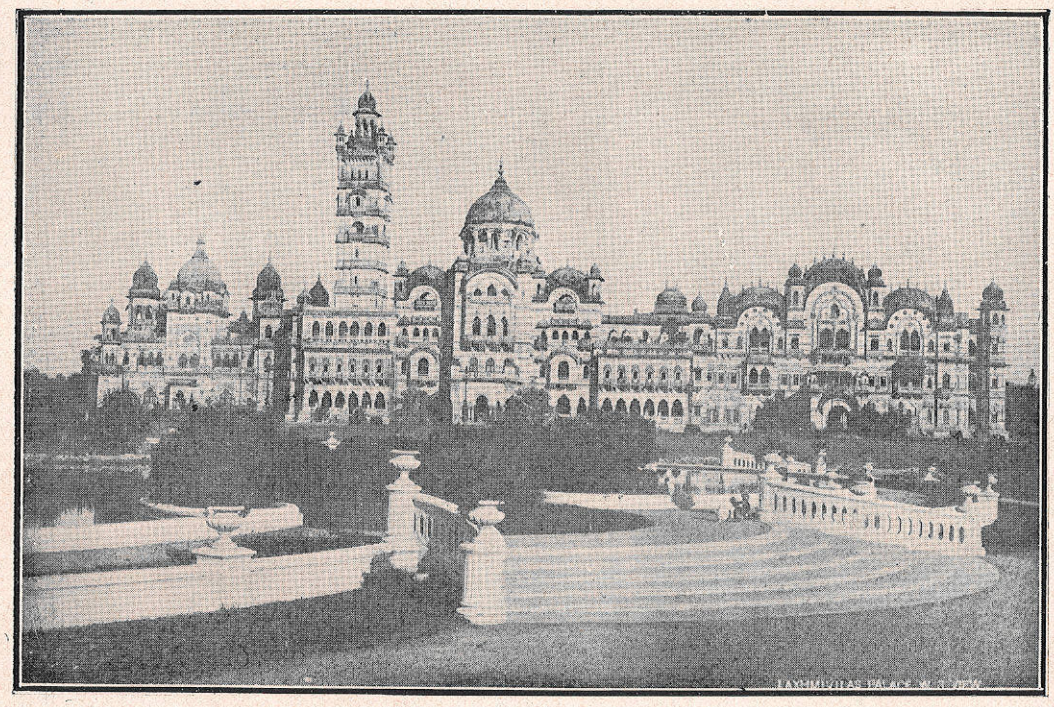


ANOTHER VIEW OF THE LAXMI VILAS PALACE.

commission have been largely implemented and as a result, new industries have sprung up in several directions. Among the more important enterprises thriving to-day are several cotton mills, dyeing and bleaching works, chemical works, tile factories, potteries, cement works, oil mills, and rope factories. In addition, there are a number of subsidiary industries on a smaller scale, but they are all growing. Financially it has been the policy of the Bank of Baroda (a sound institution with a clientele extending far beyond the boundaries of the State) to extend the utmost assistance consistent with the circumstances. Further assistance to industry has been forthcoming from the State which has undertaken scientific exploitation and research work into particular problems, and has enlisted the services of experts at its own cost to advise manufacturers. The department of industries has introduced improved processes in weaving, calico printing, tanning, lacquer work and other industries, and has conducted wide surveys of the economic resources of the State with a view to encourage industrialists to invest their money in the development of those natural products which have hitherto lacked exploitation. Forestry and fisheries have also come in for their share of attention and are both being administered on the most scientific lines. Baroda is rich in timber and her wealth is being conserved by afforestation, while at the same time it is being put to good use by exploitation in rotation.

Railways.

Allied to the subject of industrial development is that of the growth of the railways, and here again Baroda has been in the vanguard of progress. Ever since 1856 when (as we have mentioned) the first sod of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway was turned and His Highness' predecessor Ganpatrao made a free gift of the lands needed for railway purposes, the policy of the State has been to encourage the extension of railway enterprise. The State now owns 21—42 miles of broad gauge railways, 330·52 miles of metre gauge and 355·73 miles of narrow gauge railways, the construction of which has cost over fifteen cro-



A VIEW OF THE LAXMI VILAS PALACE FROM THE WEST

res of rupees. In this matter, His Highness takes the view of the true economist, namely, that even if a railway is not directly remunerative having regard to the volume of traffic it carries, yet its existence is justified if it opens up a new hinterland and enables its inhabitants to avail themselves of transport facilities for the marketing of their produce. The soundness of this attitude has been borne out by the extent to which the railways have resulted in the development of the interior and have contributed to the well-being of rural districts.

Port Development.

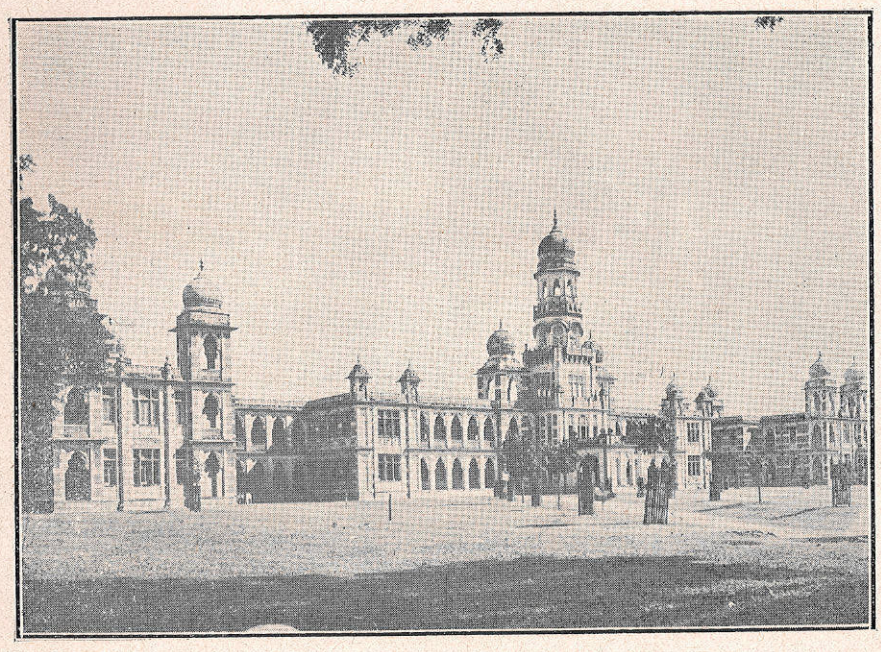
Together with railways, the Maharaja has been responsible for a bold policy of port development, and the State now possesses a modern outlet for its trade in the port of Okha, on which over thirty-four lakhs of rupees have been spent. Okha (or Okha-mandal) has from time immemorial been a centre of Hindu pilgrimage. It is now also a flourishing seaport, connected by railway with Baroda. The railway passes through the territory of Nawanagar State, the Baroda Government having made a loan to that State for the building of the railway, and the port serves a large hinterland in Gujerat and Rajputana.

Public Works.

As in other directions, so in public works proper, the Baroda Government have been progressive. The Public Works Department has an annual allocation of some twenty-five lakhs of rupees, and even the most remote country districts are served by good roads. The capital has all the architectural amenities of to-day, the palaces and parks are well cared for, and the State is rich in noble edifices worthy of itself. In particular, its schools are well housed and numerous.

Education.

With the mention of schools, we come to one aspect of the Maharaja Sir Sayajirao's administration which is a shining example of practical idealism, not only to other States, but also to British India. In matters educational, Baroda leads the way and proves what can be accomplished by a ruler who is a firm believer in the right of every citizen to equip himself with a modicum of learning and culture. As a former Viceroy,

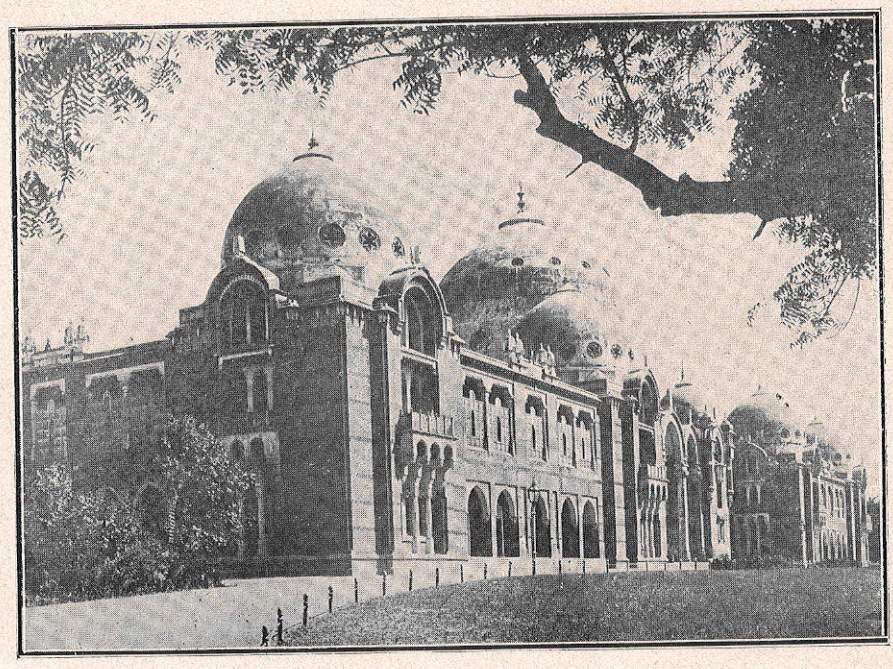


KALABHAVAN OR THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

the late Lord Chelmsford, remarked, addressing His Highness the Maharaja, "In your efforts to bring the benefits of literacy to the entire male population of your State, to spread knowledge among women, to uplift the backward and depressed classes, to improve economic conditions, and to induce a desire and an aptitude for local self-government, Your Highness has addressed yourself to questions the right solution of which would bring about the cure of many political ills."

Facts and Figures.

A few facts and figures will illustrate the magnitude of the task that has been successfully undertaken and is every year being brought nearer to completion. Primary education has been free and compulsory in the State since 1906, having been tentatively introduced in one taluqa thirteen years before that and later generally applied. The total number of primary schools in the State is 2,501, and the number of pupils, boys and girls, attending them is 2,34,489. This figure represents seventy per cent of the population of school-going age, and is much above the percentage in any other part of India. The State also maintains 97 secondary schools of all grades and a first grade college, and also a fully developed technical institute. The education of the depressed classes has received special attention. There are two training colleges, one for men and the other for women. A useful adjunct to the compulsory education scheme is a network of district, village and travelling libraries on which an expenditure of Rs. 1,06,000 is incurred. There are in the State one Central library, 45 town libraries, 12 women's and children's libraries, 818 village libraries, 180 reading rooms and 407 travelling libraries. The total expenditure on education per annum excluding that on buildings, is Rs. 35,00,000. This vast sum is all spent with discrimination and forethought, and it

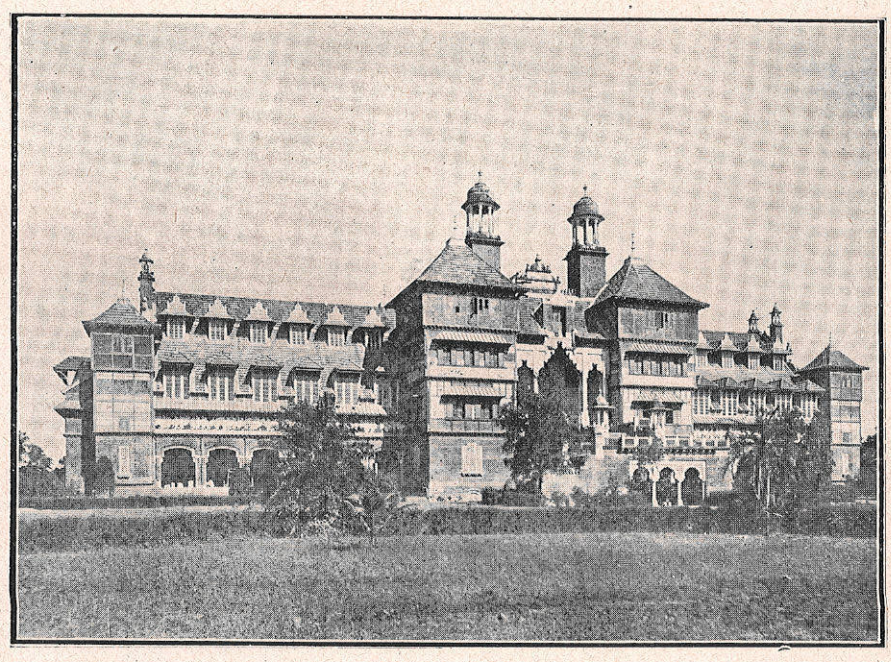


ARTS COLLEGE, BARODA.

has resulted in the literacy statistics for Baroda, as given in the latest census, showing a vast improvement in the past two decades. Moreover, education is popular in the State and is eagerly availed of by the people. Whatever objection there was at first to free and compulsory primary education (and it has to be remembered that His Highness was the first in India to embark on this bold step) has long since vanished and parents are now enthusiastic supporters of the principle for their children. Thus His Highness' view, that the measure was absolutely necessary "for the realisation of my ambitions and wishes for the future of my people" has been amply borne out by experience. His example has been followed by others, but Baroda was the first to reap the benefits of this enlightened policy.

Baroda College.

Of educational institutions in the State, the foremost is the Baroda College. Founded in 1882, it is recognized by the University of Bombay for all courses in Arts and Sciences. It is staffed by a number of scholars well known in their particular branches of learning, including a principal and sixteen professors. The alumni of the College include in their ranks many who have made good in all walks of life, and there are distinguished men throughout the length and breadth of India who owe their success partly at least to the excellent instruction imparted by their alma mater, Baroda College. The fame of the institution is such that it draws pupils from all over Gujerat, but the people of Baroda are well represented in the ranks of its students and many officials of the State are graduates of the College.



MUSEUM AND PICTURE GALLERY.

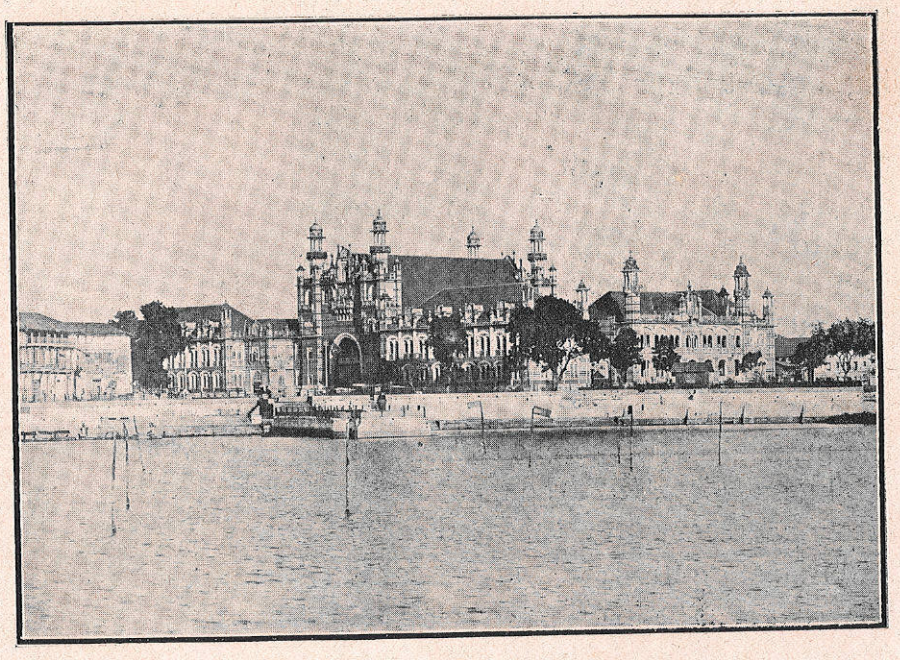
Other Institutions.

Apart from the college, splendid work is being performed by many other institutions too numerous here to dilate upon. Suffice it to say that the Library movement has been organised to such an extent that its influence permeates through the villages; that the education of girls and of the depressed classes has made enormous strides; that the Public Museum and Picture Gallery in Baroda are both institutions whose scope and standard have earned them recognition in foreign countries; and that the Kala Bhavan (approximating to a Polytechnic school) has inculcated the theory and practice of such subjects as civil and mechanical engineering, chemical technology, textile manufacture and commercial training in a large number of Baroda subjects. This, then, is a summary, albeit inadequate, of the noble educational structure His Highness has erected. It is a structure more enduring than mere bricks and mortar, a monument which will make his name remembered and blessed by posterity when more ephemeral achievements are forgotten.

Social Reform.

In another respect also, Maharaja Sir Sayajirao has earned an enduring niche in the hall of fame. His educational work,

taken alone, forms a *magnum opus* which might well content the most ambitious individual. Taken in combination with his policy of social reforms, it constitutes a lifework, the like of which no single ruler in history has perhaps achieved. Certainly in India, a land bound hand and foot by the tyranny of social customs and caste usages (or at least, it was so bound until the genius of the people began to burst its bonds), there is no parallel to the revolution in Baroda. Here is a Noble Experiment which has justified itself a thousand fold. Here are ideals translated into realities, here is the regeneration of a people inspired and brought about by the efforts of one man. True, he has been ably seconded by his officers of State, but the initiative in the farreaching measures of social reform which are now a *fait accompli* lies with His Highness.



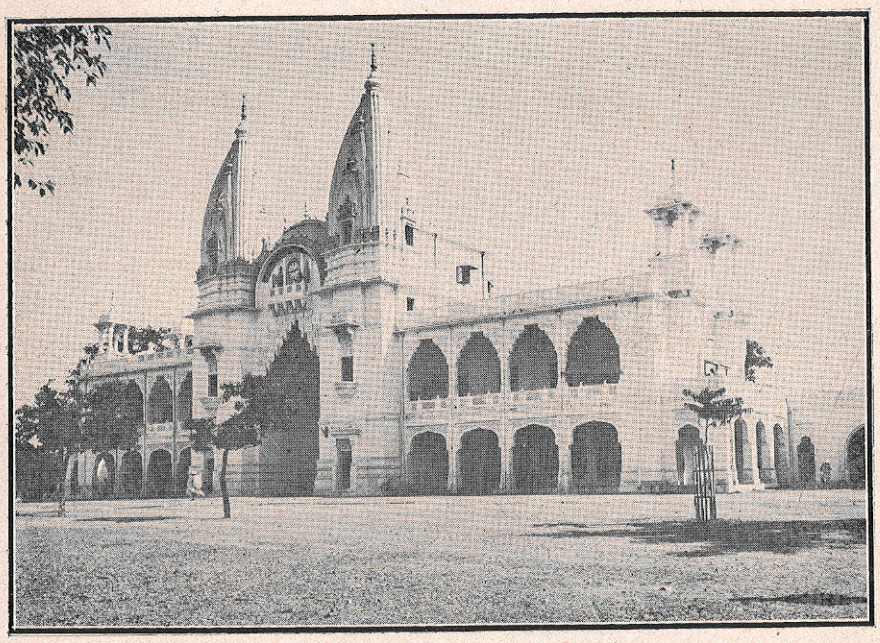
NYAYAMANDIR OR THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE.

Legislation.

Let us see what is the nature of this revolution in the lives of the people. Social legislation has always been His Highness' personal concern. From his early days, he has waged war upon such pernicious practices as child marriage, caste disabilities, the prohibition of widow re-marriage, purdah and untouchability. In 1901 was passed the Freedom of Religion Act which removed disabilities in regard to the inheritance attaching by law or customs, to change of religion. In 1904, the Infant Marriage Prevention Act was passed. This Act prohibts the marriage of girls below the age of 14 and of boys below the age of 18. When the Act was first passed, the penalty attached to infringements of this provision was a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees. As it was found that this was not a sufficient deterrent, the penalty was increased by an amendment made in 1929. The amendment makes a person who is found guilty of performing the marriage of a girl or a boy under eight years of age liable to be punished with simple imprisonment not exceeding one month or with a fine not exceeding two hundred rupees; and a person who is found guilty of performing the marriage of a girl who is more than eight years of age but not more than fourteen years, or of a boy who is more than eight years of age but not more than eighteen, liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred rupees. It has also been enacted that a marriage in the State between a boy and a girl either of whom may be less than eight years of age shall be void. Under the State Penal Code, the age of consent for girls is fourteen within marriage and eighteen outside marriage. As it stands to-day, the Infant Marriage Prevention Act is far from being a dead letter, and is rigorously enforced.

Recent Enactments.

By a recent amendment of the Hindu Marriage Act of the State, it has been laid down that the priest officiating at a marriage must translate and explain to



KHANDE RAO MARKET.

the bride and bridegroom the Mantras (hymns) recited at the ceremony in their own vernacular. Authoritative translations of the marriage ritual in Marathi, Gujerati and Hindi have been published by the State. The Hindu Divorce Act is another important piece of social legislation, and contains provisions for dissolution or nullity of marriage, judicial separation, separate residence, maintenance of offspring, etc. A further radical breach with tradition is the proposed Caste Tyranny Act, which is designed to give relief to persons from certain tyrannous customs prevailing in certain castes, such as the formation of "gols" (circles) for the restriction of marriage to within themselves.

Great Achievement.

Taken together, these far-reaching reforms in the spheres of local self-government, industrial developments, mass education and social legislation form a contribution to the weal and well-being of the people of which any ruler might justly feel proud. His Highness of Baroda, who has been actuated throughout by the most lofty motives, may to-day look back on the past half century and congratulate himself and his subjects on the work that has been done. His own guiding principles were set forth in a letter to one of his former Dewans, when he wrote: "My policy has always been to be a friend to the British Government, to be a father to my people and to safeguard the dignity, rights and self-respect of the State and its Ruler, always straight forward, honest and sympathetic in dealing with subordinates and others, self-abnegation to an extent which others can hardly realise, taking in the light of knowledge and truth from whatever quarter it may happen to come, high or low, within the sole purpose and desire to do justice to all interests concerned."

War Services.

These noble sentiments, as we have shown, have been acted upon by their author throughout his career. To add one more specific instance of this, we may cite His Highness' war services as proof of his friendship for the British Government. Assistance in the shape of men, money and materials was readily forthcoming from Baroda for the Empire in its hour of trial, and the strength of the State's loyalty to the Crown, as in the dark days of the Sepoy Mutiny, was amply demonstrated. The following is a short account of the assistance rendered by Baroda and its Ruler from 1914—1918.

The number of subjects of the State who joined the British Indian Army up to November, 1918, as combatants, non-combatants, skilled and unskilled labourers, was 1,417. From the State Regular Forces, 157 men were allowed to join the British Army, and three European officers were given permission to go to England on special leave to join the Expeditionary Force, while a fourth

was also granted special leave to join the British Army at Muttra. Two hundred Sowars and six officers were sent to Muttra to train remounts. The services of Dr. C.A.L. Mayer were placed at the disposal of the British Government and he was paid a salary of Rs. 1,200 a month by the Baroda State in addition to the allowance drawn by him in British service.

The total of money gifts by His Highness for War purposes was Rs. 33,96,050. This sum included moneys for the provision and equipment of aeroplanes, for the War Gift Fund, for Ford Motor vans, Red Cross subscriptions, contributions to the Prince of Wales Fund, and other contributions for miscellaneous purposes. Further, both His Highness and his people subscribed very largely to the various War Loans, the total of such subscriptions being more than a crore of rupees.

Lastly, the Baroda State gave freely of materials, such as horses, tents, loans of a palace and of a steam tug, while it supplied on payment much needed articles such as horses, a large amount of railway rolling stock and surveying instruments. Thus it will be seen that the contribution of Baroda to the ultimate triumph of the Allied Arms was generous in the extreme.

Ministers.

To complete our account of the factors which have made of the State the prosperous and contented land it is to-day, we append a list of the Dewans or Chief Ministers who have, under His Highness, conducted its affairs since he came to the *gadi*. A perusal of the names given in the list below will serve to convince the reader that, as in everything else, so in his Ministers, His Highness is not concerned with consideration of caste, creed or colour, but engages the best brains and the best characters to help mould the destinies of his people:

(1) Raja Sir T. Madhaverao, K.C.S.I., served from May, 1875, to September, 1882; (2) Khan Bahadur Kazi Shahabudin, C.I.E., September, 1882, to July, 1886; (3) Dewan Bahadur Laxuman Jagannath Vaidya, August, 1886, to May, 1890; (4) Dewan Bahadur Manibhai Jasbhai, May, 1890, to November, 1895; (5) Dewan Bahadur S. Shrinivas Raghava Iyenger, C.I.E., July, 1896, to October, 1901; (6) Dewan Bahadur R. V. Dhamaskar, October, 1901, to June, 1904; (7) Mr. Kersapji Rustomji Dadachanji, July, 1904, to February, 1909; (8) Mr. R. C. Dutt, I.C.S., C.I.E., June, 1909, to November, 1909; (9) Mr. C.N. Seddon, I.C.S., December, 1909, to January, 1912; (10) Mr. B. L. Gupta, I.C.S., C.S.I. January, 1912, to March, 1914; (11) Mr. V.P. Madhavarao, March, 1914, to May, 1916; (12) Sir Manubhai Nandshankar Mehta, K.T., C.S.I, May, 1916, to January, 1927; (13) Rao Bahadur Sir. V. T. Krishnamachari, K.T., C.I.E., from 1927 who continues to hold office

Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.

Of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, it may truly be said that he has worthily upheld the best traditions of his predecessors in office, and has himself raised the standard of his high office until he now commands the respect and admiration of a public extending far beyond the boundaries of Baroda State. His statesmanlike qualities have enabled him to second the reformist activities of His Highness, while his skill as an administrator has enabled him successfully to direct the efforts of the State authorities along the lines of greater efficiency and greater sympathy. Moreover, his talents as a constitutionalist have found full expression in the discussions which have been proceeding in London during the past four years. Among the architects of the noble edifice of the Indian Federation, the name of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari deserves a high place. He has taken a prominent part in the deli-

berations of the successive Round Table Conferences, and subsequently in those of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and his influence, like that of His Highness the Maharaja, has ever been on the side of ordered advance towards the goal of Indian self-government.

A Miracle.

Inadequate as is this resume of the history of Baroda, it contains within it enough facts to convince the most casual reader that in the brief space of five decades, well-nigh a miracle has been wrought within the boundaries of the State. That miracle is the change that has come over the face of the land and over the condition of the people as the result of a great driving force intelligently applied. The intelligence lies in this, that whereas all influences making for stagnation and backsliding have been ruthlessly eliminated, those other factors characteristic of the best elements of an Indian State have been encouraged. Maharajah Sir Sayajirao has concentrated his energies on giving his people the benefits of that type of personal rule which makes the greatest good of the greatest number the paramount consideration. His success is unquestionable; it is evident on every side, so that to the stranger in search of proof, it need only be said, taking him by the hand into any village or town of Baroda:

"Si monumentum requiris, circumspice."

H. E. Lord Willingdon.

H. E. Lady Willingdon.

Viceregal visit to Baroda.

THE State was honoured by a visit by His Excellency the Right Honourable Freeman Freeman-Thomas, Earl of Willingdon, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.M.I.E., G.B.E., Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon, C. I., G. B. E., on December 11th, 12th and 13th, 1932.

On this occasion, elaborate preparations had been made to give a fitting welcome to the illustrious guests and no pains were spared to ensure that they would have an enjoyable time. The traditional lavish hospitality of Baroda was displayed and both State officials and the general public combined to greet Their Excellencies with enthusiasm.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb was particularly concerned to make the visit a success because of his long-standing friendship with Lord and Lady Willingdon which extended back to the time when Lord Willingdon had been Governor of Bombay. Thus it was that the whole State was *en fete* for the Viceregal visit, and from start to finish it went with a

swing. The proceedings throughout were without a hitch and only pleasant memories remain in the minds of all those who participated in the ceremonies.

Private Arrival.

The visit began at 5-30 p. m. on Sunday, December 11, when Their Excellencies made a private arrival at Baroda railway station. The station was decorated by the B., B. and C. I. railway authorities and distinguished gathering was present on the platform while outside, the streets of the city were thronged with people. A guard of honour of the State troops, with band and colours, was drawn up on the platform.

The Viceregal escort, composed of four divisions of the State cavalry, took up its position just outside the station and on the opposite side of the road were drawn up the State guards, the Resident's escort and the Minister's escort. Three elephants carrying the Jari Patka, Banner and Sahib Naubat were located near the Dutt Mandir facing the north, the Jilib with tomtoms and music was drawn up opposite to the elephants facing the south, and the gold and silver guns, three elephants fully caparisoned and carrying gold and silver ambarees and the peacock saddle and caparisoned horses were drawn up near His Highness the Maharaja Saheb's equestrain statue. A guard of honour composed of the Baroda Boy Scouts was stationed opposite the statue.

The Gathering.

Before the Viceroy's Special arrived, the Resident and his staff, the Officer Commanding at Baroda, the Officer 2nd in Command, the Station Staff Officer, the District Superintendent of Police, Panchmahals, and twenty-three nobles and high officers of the State took up their positions on the platform. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, accompanied by two Aides-de-Camp, arrived five minutes before the train was due to arrive.

As soon as His Excellency alighted from his saloon, His Highness, accompanied by the Resident, received him and the guard of honour of State troops presented arms. (A royal salute of 31 guns was fired by the State artillery at sunrise the next morning). Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon alighted from the saloon and was received by His Highness. His Highness introduced Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh to Their Excellencies.

Introductions.

The Resident then introduced the Officer Commanding at Baroda, his own staff and other British Officers present to His Excellency. After this, the Resident introduced the Minister, and the nobles and high officers of the State present at the station to His Excellency. Simultaneously, the First Assistant Resident introduced the British and State officers present to Her Excellency.

His Excellency, in the company of His Highness, the Resident and His Excellency's Military Secretary, inspected the State guard of honour. The inspection over, His Excellency and His Highness returned to where Her Excellency was waiting. His Excellency, His Highness, Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon and the members of the Viceregal party, the Resident and the State officers who were to take part in the procession then proceeded to the station porch. When His Excellency approached the steps of the station, the tomtoms of jilib began to play.

The Procession.

Their Excellencies and party then left for the Makarpura Palace. They proceeded up to the Vishrambag level crossing in carriages. Two divisions of the State cavalry led by two State mounted police officers preceded the procession. In the first carriage, drawn by six horses, were His Excellency the Viceroy, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, the Resident at Baroda and the Military Secretary to the Viceroy. In the second carriage were Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon, the Political Secretary, and two Aides-de-Camp to the Viceroy. There followed one division of

the State cavalry and the remaining members of the procession in three carriages. Last came another division of the State cavalry with the State guards, the Resident's escort and the Minister's escort.

From the Vishrambag level crossing, motor cars were used for the rest of the route. In the first car were His Excellency the Viceroy, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Military Secretary to the Viceroy. In the second car were Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon, the Political Secretary and an Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy. The rest of the members of the procession followed in four cars, the escort being dispensed with at the Vishrambag level crossing.

Public Welcome.

As His Excellency's carriage or car passed, the troops lining the road presented arms, the police stood to attention and the Boy Scouts guard of honour saluted His Excellency. The general public which thronged the route gave His Excellency a rousing reception.

HIS HIGHNESS FARZAND-I-KHAS-I-DAULAT-I-ENGLISHIA MAHARAJA SIR SAYAJI RAO GAEKWAR SENA KHAS KHEL SHAMSHER BAHADUR G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., MAHARAJA OF BARODA.

On arrival at the Makarpura Palace, Their Excellencies were met by Mrs. Lothian and Col. Kumar Shivraj Singh, the 'liaison' officer. His Highness introduced Col. Kumar Shivraj Singh to Their Excellencies. His Highness then took Their Excellencies into the drawing room on the ground floor of the Palace, and after a few minutes conversation, took leave and returned to the Laxmi Vilas Palace. Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh and the Minister and State officers followed His Highness in their cars.

At 6-30 p. m., Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon left the Makarpura Palace for St. James' Church in the Cantonment *via* Vishrambag, Indira Avenue and through the Public Park. After attending Divine Service at the Church, Their Excellencies returned to the Makarpura Palace by the same route, reaching there at 7-30 p.m.

Mizaj Pursi.

The ceremony of Mizaj Pursi then took place. At 7-35 p.m. four of the principal officers of the State, namely, Mr. V. D. Satghare, Dr. R. B. Chandrachud, Mr. R. R. Pawar and Shrimant Krishnarao S. Kathiawad Diwanji, called at the Viceregal residence to inquire after His Excellency's health. They were received on alighting from their cars in the porch of the new wing of the Palace by an Aide-de-Camp of His Excellency, who conducted them up the steps of the Palace.

The Political Secretary and the Military Secretary received them on the top of the steps and took them to Room No. 2. The Political and Military Secretaries and the Aide-de-Camp took their seats on one

side and the members of the deputation on the other. After inquiries about His Excellency's health and exchange of a few civilities on both sides, garlands, bouquets, lavender, attar and pan were given to them by the Political Secretary. After this, the deputation took leave and departed, the same ceremonies as were observed on their arrival being repeated at their departure.

At 8-15 Their Excellencies had a quiet dinner at the Makarpura Palace.

Visit to Library.

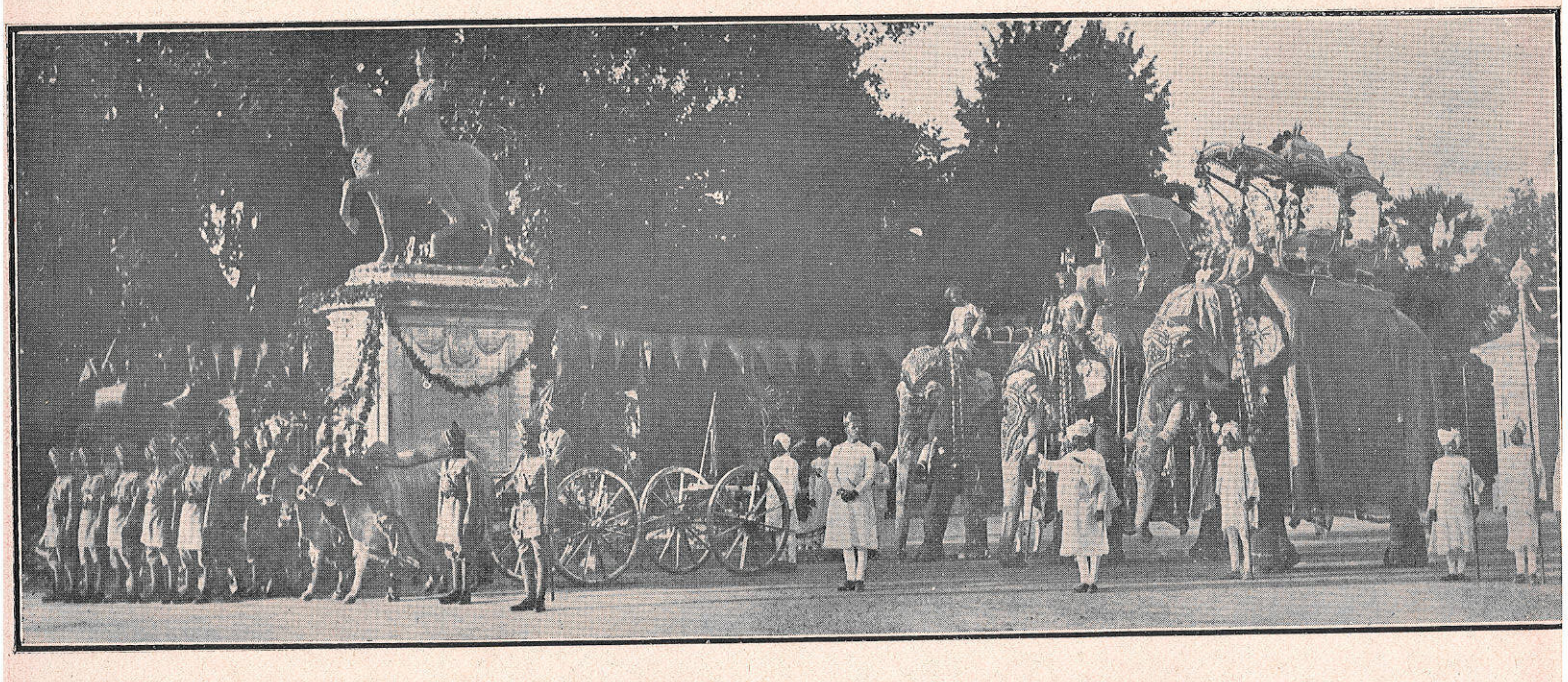
Early on Monday, December 12, Their Excellencies paid visits to the Central Library and the Museum and Picture Gallery. Their Excellencies left the Makarpura Palace at 7-45 a.m. and arrived at the Central Library at 8 a.m. The Resident and several members of the Viceregal party followed Their Excellencies in separate cars. Their Excellencies' car drew up in front of the library and the other cars drew up behind Their Excellencies' car and the occupants got down where their cars stopped and proceeded to the library.

On alighting from their car, Their Excellencies were met by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Minister. The Minister introduced the Commissioner of Education and the Curator of State Libraries to Their Excellencies. The Curator took the party round the library and explained to Their Excellencies the working of the lending section, including the stack room, the reference section, the children's section and the village library system.

Museum and Picture Gallery.

From the Central Library, Their Excellencies, His Highness and the party proceeded to the Museum and Picture Gallery. On arrival the Curator of the Museum and Picture Gallery was introduced to Their Excellencies by the Minister. The Curator showed Their Excellencies round the gallery and explained the details of the important works of art shown to Their Excellencies.

The Curator then took Their Excellencies to the main hall of the Museum, where a selection of the handicrafts of Baroda were shown. The party later left by the main porch of the Museum, Their Excellencies returning to the Makarpura Palace and His Highness returning to the Laxmi Vilas Palace.



A PART OF THE ROUTE ALONG WHICH THE VICEREGAL ARRIVAL PROCESSION WENT.

First Reception.

At 11 a.m. the same morning, the reception of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb by His Excellency the Viceroy took place. A deputation consisting of the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, the Under Secretary in the Foreign and Political Department and an Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy started from the Viceregal residence at 10-25 a.m. in a motor car for the purpose of escorting His Highness the Maharaja Saheb from the Laxmi Vilas Palace and arrived at the main porch of the Palace at 10-40 a.m. The Resident arrived at the Palace a few minutes earlier and was received by the Minister and taken to Room No. 13.

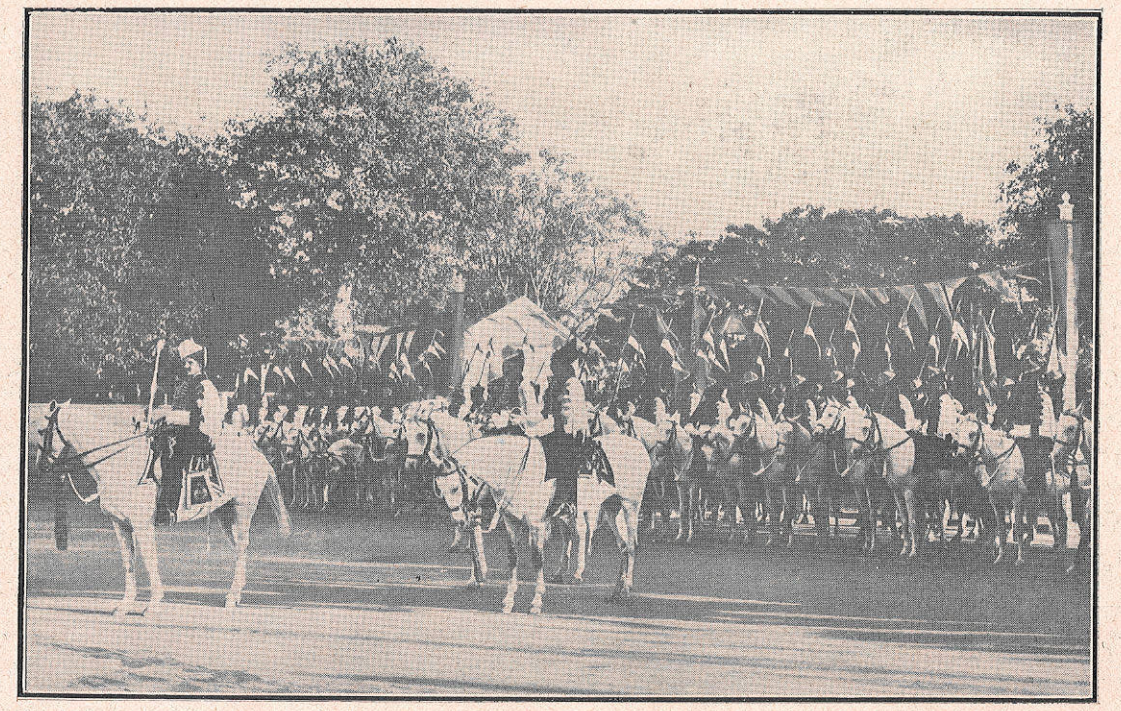
On their arrival, the members of the deputation were received by the Minister as they alighted at the main porch and were conducted to Room No. 12, where His Highness and the Resident joined them. The Resident introduced the members to His Highness. After a few minutes' conversation, His Highness accompanied by the deputation, the Resident, Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh, the Minister and the nobles and high officers of the State to the number of eleven, proceeded in motor cars to the Makarpura Palace.

The Procession.

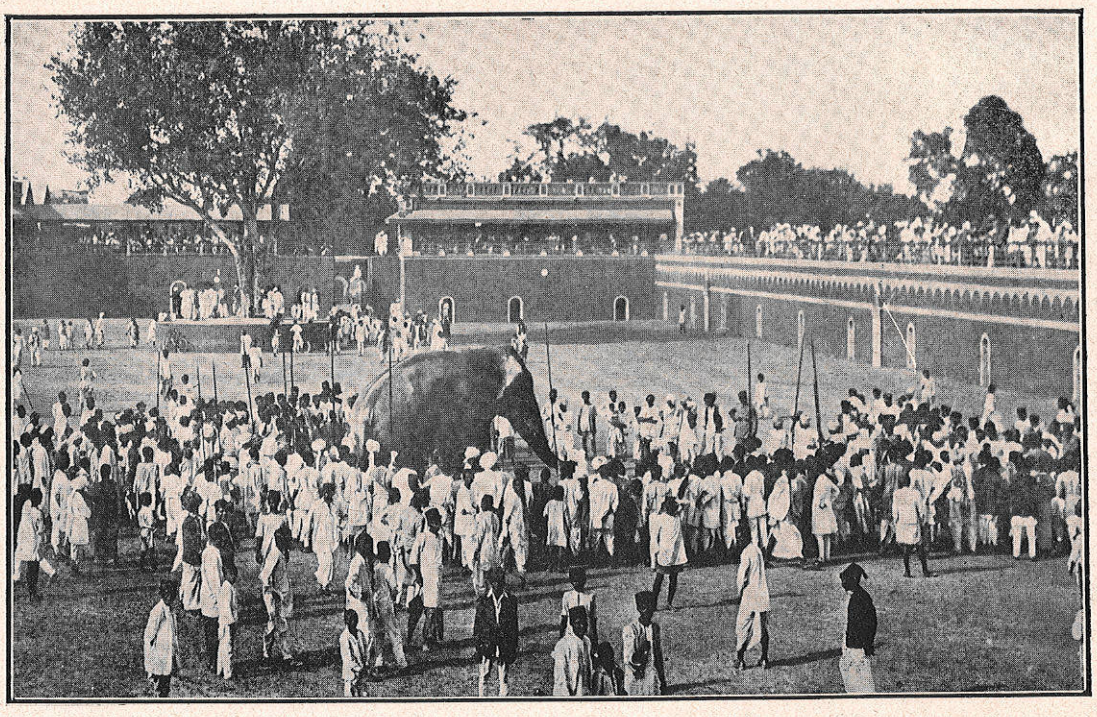
In the first car was His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, the Resident and one Aide-de-Camp to His Highness; in the second car, members of the deputation and in the third car, Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh, the Minister and one State officer. The sardars and officers of the State followed in four cars.

The road from the lodge-gates of the Makarpura Palace to the Palace itself was lined by a detachment of the State Infantry in lieu of the British troops, and a guard of honour of the 1/16th Punjab Regiment with band and colours was drawn up in front of the Viceregal residence. As His Highness' car passed, the troops lining the road and the guard of honour, presented arms and the State artillery located in the open fields outside the Palace fired a salute of 21 guns on behalf of the British Government.

His Highness reached the Makarpura Palace at 11 a.m. On alighting from the car, His Highness was received by an Aide-de-Camp to the Viceroy who, with the deputation,



THE STATE GUARDS.



THE ARENA. (ELEPHANT BAITING.)

led him up the steps. The Political Secretary received His Highness at the top of the steps and conducted him to the drawing room on the ground floor of the new wing of the Palace where the Durbar was to be held.

The Durbar.

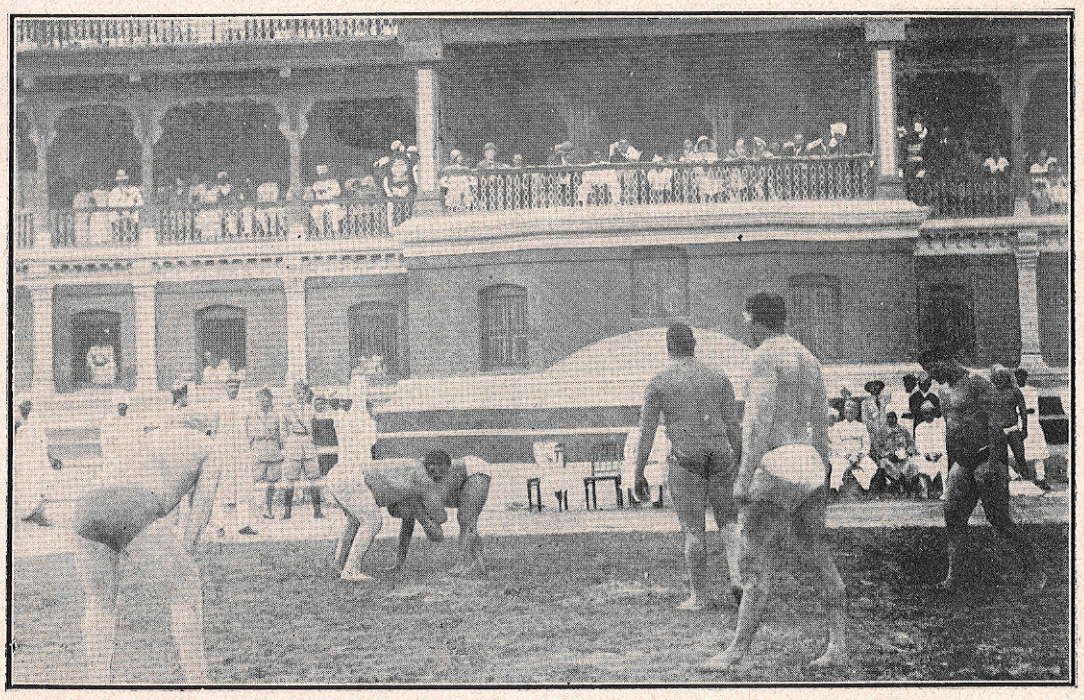
His Excellency the Viceroy received His Highness within the Durbar room at a distance of one pace from the threshold and conducted him to a seat at his right hand on the same sofa. On the right of His Highness sat the Resident and next to him Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh, and beyond him the Minister and sardars and officers in attendance on His Highness according to their rank. The morchal-bearers and one chamar-bearer stood behind His Excellency and the same number behind His Highness.

On the left of His Excellency the Viceroy sat the Political Secretary, the Private and Military Secretaries to the Viceroy, the Officer Commanding at Baroda, the Under Secretary, His Excellency's personal staff, the Resident's staff and the Military staff in order of their precedence.

Ceremonies.

After a short conversation, His Highness introduced Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh to His Excellency. He stepped one pace forward from his chair and bowed to His Excellency. The Resident then introduced the Minister and other Darbaries who approached His Excellency, bowed and offered nazars of five gold mohurs each, which were touched by His Excellency and remitted.

At the close of the interview, His Excellency garlanded His Highness and gave a bouquet, lavender, attar and pan to him. His Excellency also garlanded and gave a bouquet, lavender, attar and pan to Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh who approached His Excellency to receive them. The Political Secretary then garlanded the Minister and three principal nobles and officers and gave them bouquets, lavender, attar and pan. The Under Secretary garlanded and gave pan etc., to the others. The ceremonies at His Highness' departure were the same as those at his arrival.



SPORTS IN THE ARENA. (THE CHAMPION WRESTLER GAMA GIVES AN EXHIBITION.)

During the interview, the band furnished by the 1/16th Punjab Regiment played outside the Viceregal residence. The guard of honour presented arms and a salute of 21 guns was fired by the State artillery on behalf of the British Government on the departure of His Highness.

Return Visit.

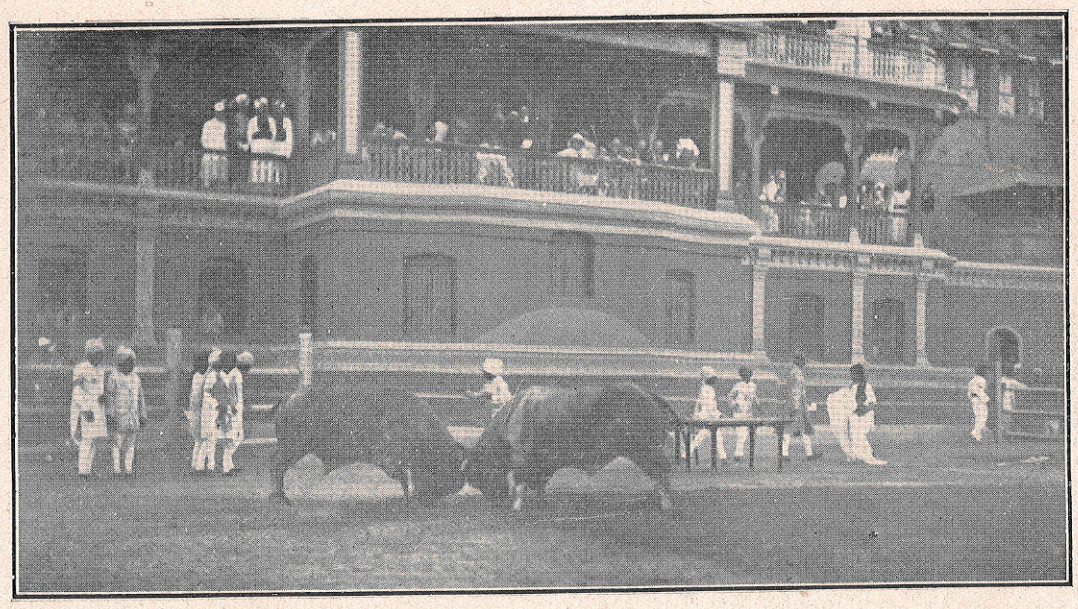
At 12 a. m. the same day, His Excellency the Viceroy returned the visit of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb at the Nazarbag Palace, where a grand Darbar was held for His Excellency's reception. This was a picturesque and colourful ceremony in which the pomp and splendour of the State of Baroda were seen to full advantage.

The State police lined the route from the lodge gates of the Makarpura Palace up to the Leheripura gate and the route from there to the porch of the Nazarbag Palace was lined on both sides by State troops. A guard of honour of State troops with band and colours was drawn up near the porch of the Palace. His Highness's guards in full dress lined the way from the steps up to the entrance of the Darbar Hall.

Deputation.

A deputation consisting of four of the principal officers of State, namely, Mr. S. V. Mukerjea, Mr. V. N. Patkar, Sahibzada Shamsad Ahmed Khan and Shrimant Ramchandrarao M. Fadnis, started from the Nazarbag Palace in motor cars at 11-20 a. m. and arrived at the Makarpura Palace at 11-35 a. m. to wait on His Excellency the Viceroy for the purpose of escorting His Excellency to the Nazarbag Palace. They were received by the Under Secretary in the Foreign and Political Department and introduced to the Political Secretary, who presented them to His Excellency.

His Excellency the Viceroy left the Makarpura Palace at 11-40 a. m. in a motor car under a royal salute of 31 guns fired by the State artillery on behalf of the British Government, and proceeded to the Nazarbag Palace by the same route. The deputation accompanied His Excellency in a se-



SPORTS IN THE ARENA. (BUFFALO FIGHT.)

parate motor car. The Resident and the Officer Commanding at Baroda with their staffs arrived in motor cars at the Nazarbag Palace some time before the arrival of His Excellency the Viceroy. When His Excellency passed, the troops lining the route presented arms and the police came to attention.

The Reception.

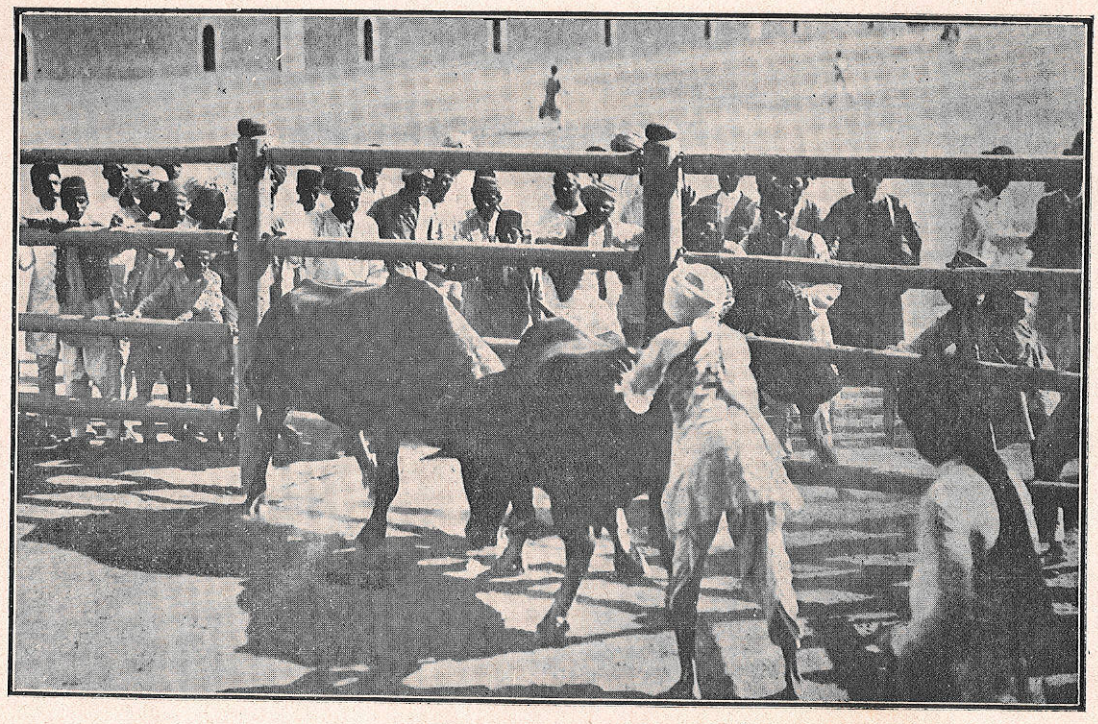
As soon as His Excellency's motor car arrived at the porch of the Darbar Hall, the guard of honour presented arms and a royal salute of 31 guns was fired by the State artillery from the arena. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Resident received His Excellency the Viceroy as he alighted from his car and conducted him to a seat at His Highness' right hand on the same sofa on the dais in the Darbar Hall

On the right of His Excellency, below the dais, sat the Political Secretary, the Private and Military Secretaries, the Officer Commanding at Baroda, the Under Secretary, His Excellency's personal staff, the Resident's staff and the military staff in order of individual precedence. On the left of His Highness, below the dais in the first row, sat the Resident, beyond him Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh, and after him the Minister and the nobles and officers of the State according to precedence. The other rows in the Darbar Hall were occupied by the remaining State Darbaries.

Introductions.

After a short conversation, the Resident, at the desire of His Excellency, presented to him the Minister and the sardars and officers of the State to the number of twenty. They approached His Excellency, bowed to him and offered a nazar of five gold mohurs each which were touched and remitted.

After the introductions were over, His Highness garlanded His Excellency and presented him with a bouquet, rose-water, attar and pan. Garlands, bouquets, rose water, attar and pan were then given by His Highness to the Political Secretary and the Resident, who approached him to receive them. The minister garlanded and gave pan supari to the other British officers present. His Excellency then rose to depart. His Highness accompanied by the Resident saw him off in the porch at the place where he had received him. The guard of honour present-



SPORTS IN THE ARENA. (BUFFALO FIGHT.)

ed arms and a royal salute of 31 guns was fired by the State artillery. His Excellency returned by the Vishrambag route. The Political Secretary and His Excellency's staff followed in separate cars.

Sports at Arena.

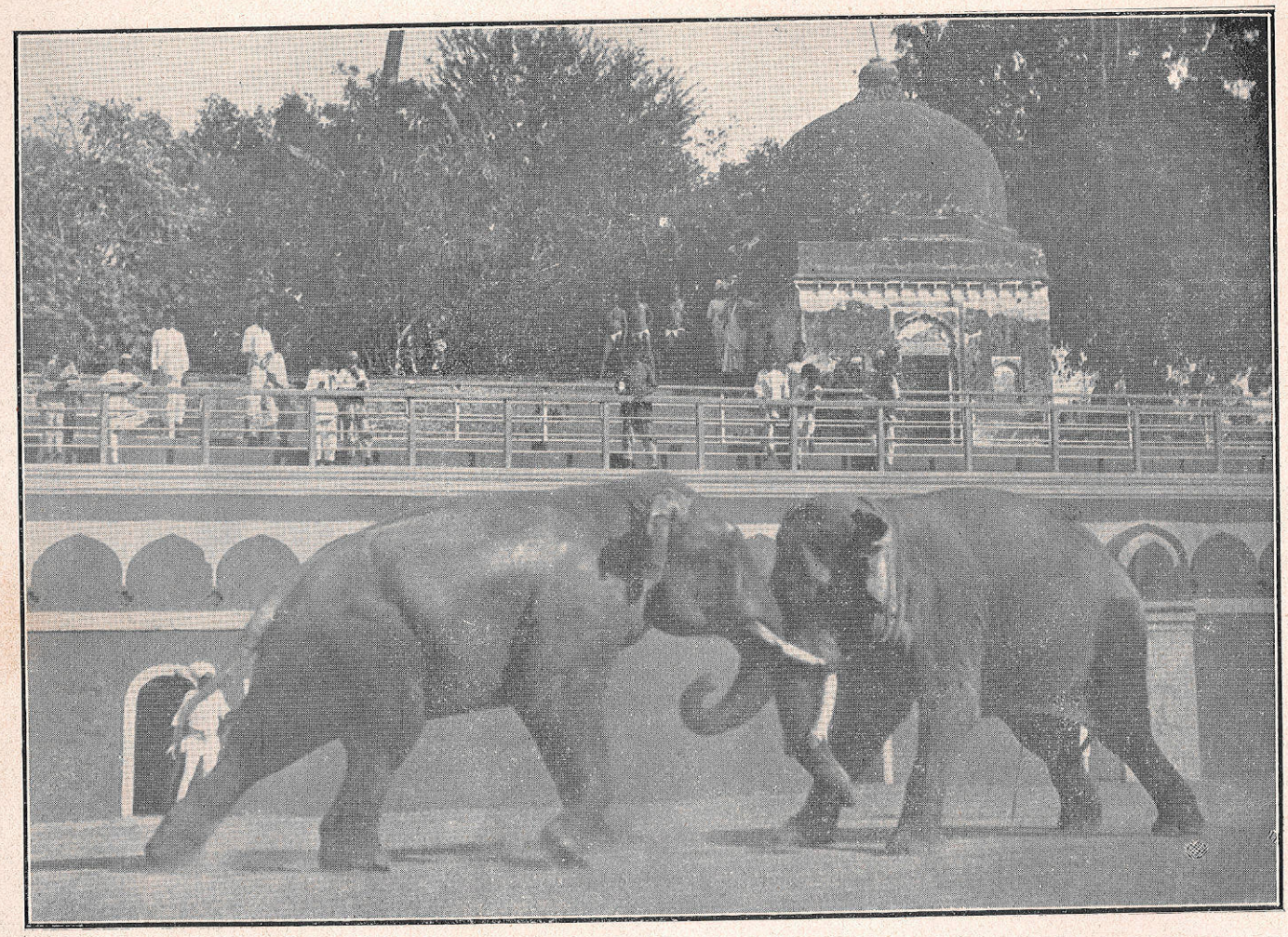
At 5 p.m. the same day, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon with the Resident and the members of the Viceregal party proceeded to the Arena by Vishrambag and Chamrajendra road. They were received by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb who took them to their seats. There followed an excellent and varied programme of sports which was much enjoyed by the Viceregal party and the crowds who filled the Arena. After the sports were over, Their Excellencies left for the Makarpura Palace, His Highness seeing them off.

State Banquet.

At 8-15 p.m. the same day (Monday December 12th), a State Banquet was held in honour of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon in the Durbar Hall of the Laxmi Vilas Palace. Covers were laid for a large number of guests who included the members of His Excellency's party, the members of His Highness' family, the Resident, his First Assistant and the Officers of the 1/16th Punjab Regiment stationed in the Baroda Camp of the grade of Captain and above, and the leading European and Indian officers of the State, with the ladies in their families.

Illuminations.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon left the Makarpura Palace at 7-55 p.m. and proceeded first *via* Vishrambag and Chamrajendra Road up to the Leheripura Gate, viewing the illuminations on the way. The principal buildings in the city along the route and the grounds of the Laxmi Vilas Palace were suitably illuminated. The members of the Viceregal party preceded Their Excellencies. Their Excellencies returned by the Chamrajendra Road and arrived at the main porch of the Laxmi Vilas Palace at 8-15 p.m.



SPORTS IN THE ARENA (ELEPHANT FIGHT.)

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb received Their Excellencies as they alighted from their car and conducted them to Room No. 12. The ladies and gentlemen who were to sit at the high table were assembled in Room No. 12, and were presented to His Excellency by the Resident and to Her Excellency by the Minister. Their Excellencies, His Highness and Shrimant Yuvaraj Pratapsinh proceeded to the Hathi Hall in a procession led by His Highness's Aide-de-Camp, followed by His Excellency's Aides-de-Camp. They were followed by the Political Secretary, the Resident, the members of the Viceregal Party and the Principal guests assembled in Room No. 12. The remaining guests who had assembled in the Hathi Hall, were presented to His Excellency by the Resident and to Her Excellency by the Minister.

The party then proceeded to the banquet hall. When His Excellency the Viceroy was announced, all the guests stood up. During the banquet, the State band discoursed sweet music. After dessert, His Highness proposed the toast of His Majesty the King Emperor in the following terms.

His Majesty The King-Emperor.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I rise to propose the health of the King-Emperor.

His Majesty's interest in and love for India is well known, and his name is cherished in every home in India.

May he long be spared to enjoy the love of his subjects whose well-being is so near to his heart.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING-EMPEROR.

THE STATE BANQUET AT THE LAXMI VILAS PALACE.

His Highness then proposed the toast of their Excellencies in the following terms:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I rise again to perform a most pleasant duty—that of proposing the health of our illustrious guests—Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Willingdon.

It is always a privilege to welcome to our midst the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor in India. Baroda is proud of its alliance with the Crown which began nearly a century and a half ago; and the years that have passed, with memories of grave anxiety shared with the rest of the Empire and of common contributions to the problems of peace, have only served to strengthen these friendly relations. On this occasion, this privilege is enhanced by the knowledge that, in Lord Willingdon, I am also welcoming a personal friend of many years' standing. Lord Willingdon, I need not remind you, is alone among Viceroys in that he has been the Governor of two Provinces, and not only has he thus acquired a first-hand knowledge of the more intimate needs of the people, but he comes to the Viceroyalty with numerous friendships made during the eleven years he spent in India. We are fortunate that, in these difficult times, the destinies of India have been entrusted to one who has proved himself a broadminded statesman, not only in this country, but also in other parts of the Empire.

We are now approaching the time when, as we all hope, the deliberations of two years

and more will bear fruit in a new Constitution for India. I am glad that to-day we are proposing to build on the wider basis and surer foundations of an All India Federation. I believe in the idea of a Federation. I do not pretend to have worked out any cut-and-dried scheme, complete in every detail: but, for many years, I have thought that a definite step should be taken towards the evolution of a United India, in which British India and the States, as equal partners, will work for the common good. I am fully convinced that in any such scheme the States can play a notable part; and to enable them to do this, two things are in my view essential. In the first place, the States should have complete autonomy in all matters outside the federal sphere: and restrictions and limitations imposed on them, or on individual States, in circumstances which have now ceased to exist, should be removed when the federal arrangements are set up. Only so, will States be living entities, full of vigour and of a deep sense of responsibility, and completely equipped for the manifold tasks of good government. Secondly, in the new order of things, there should be no striving after a crushing and soul-destroying uniformity. We are often reminded that it is unsafe to generalise about India, that the North is not the South nor the East the West, and if the mere observer who has to record his impressions needs that warning, far more weighty is it in the vastly more important domain of administration. We all want to develop naturally, each according to his tradition and according to the path of evolution on which he has set out, as the trees of the forest develop, and not as the trees which are moulded into fantastic shapes by the hand of man. This indeed has been my ideal in all I have done in my State. I hope I may say in all modesty that I have striven to develop the State according to the light that is in me, and on lines most acceptable to the genius of our people. In many fields of activity—mass education, re-orientation of indigenous culture, social legislation, devising of methods for associating the people with the administration, reconciliation of conflicting communal and other interests—States with their distinctive traditions, can embark on fruitful experiments, and it would be a pity to do anything which would deprive India of this wealth of political and administrative experience. While, therefore, I rejoice that the vision I have long had before me of that United India of which I have just spoken, is about to be realised, I cannot but feel that this realisation might be bought at too high a price, if it involved the sacrifice of individuality. The scheme of Federation should be so constructed that the States are left to themselves to develop along their own lines, with the necessary contact with the Federal Government to enable them to serve our common ends and the interests of our unified country. I want to see India develop with the splendid diversity of her mountains, and not with the barren monotony of her deserts.

I venture to think, my Lord that this ideal of unity can be the outcome only of co-operation and goodwill, not only between race and race, Government and the people, but also between Government and Government, community and community. And, it is my conviction that this co-operation and goodwill cannot be achieved without understanding. Perhaps that full understanding has hitherto been lacking: perhaps each party to this tremendous experiment has been blind to the point of view of others I am not imputing blame to any particular race, section or people, but I do say that disunity can never create unity, and that the best way to achieve the co-operation and goodwill for which I plead is for all of us to discard suspicion and to go boldly forward in faith, having before us the sole ideal of a

FIREWORKS.

prosperous and contented country and eschewing those differences which tend to keep us apart.

Nor can I, in making this appeal, ignore the most serious menace to the future of India that has arisen in recent years—namely, the methods of violence which a certain misguided section has adopted in parts of our country. Everyone, I feel sure, shares my horror of these senseless outrages, which can only set back the clock of progress and sully the fair name of India.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now turn from these problems to extend our cordial greetings to Her Excellency Lady Willingdon who has achieved so high a reputation for her

deep and abiding interest in all that concerns the public welfare. Her presence here has added much to the charm and the pleasure of the visit. Here in Baroda, we have done and are doing all we can by way of education, by instruction in the care of infants and otherwise—to enable woman to take her rightful place in society. This cause has been as dear to Her Highness the Maharani as it is to myself. I regret very much her absence, owing to unavoidable reasons; but I have brought my charming and genial daughter here along with me to help me to entertain Their Excellencies. Her presence here at this table is a source of additional pleasure to me. Her eagerness, I am sure, is as keen as her mother's to welcome Her Excellency Lady Willingdon to whose sympathetic guidance this movement, so full of promise for the country's future, owes much to its progress in all parts of India.

I ask you to raise your glasses to the health of Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Willingdon.

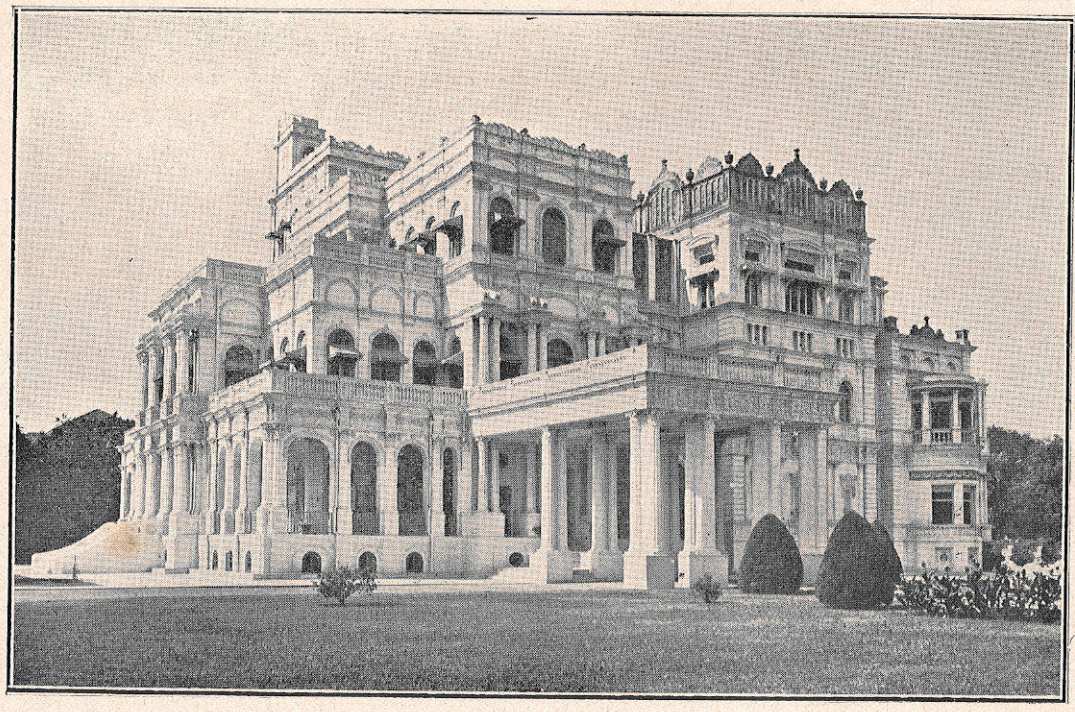
His Excellency the Viceroy's Speech.

His Excellency the Viceroy then replied as follows:—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am indeed grateful to Your Highness for the very charming words with which you have proposed the health of Lady Willingdon and myself this evening and I am particularly grateful for the very cordial personal references which you have made with regard to us both, for we can certainly claim to come to you as old friends who have been eagerly looking forward to renewing a friendship started many years ago when I was Governor of Bombay and strengthened with the passage of time until my return to you now as Viceroy. Our pleasuret his evening is, however, greatly marred by the absence of Her Highness the Maharani Saheb, who we can also claim as a very old friend and I would ask Your Highness to convey to Her Highness an expression of our regret at her inability to be here during the occasion of our visit. I thank Your Highness most gratefully for the generous and graceful remarks which you made with regard to my wife's constant efforts and activities on behalf of the womanhood of India which has extended over a period of many years, and assure you that the regret we feel at the absence of Her Highness the Maharani Saheba is considerably lessened by the fact that your charming daughter is here to greet us, who is also a very old friend to us both. I would only add that I trust that the delight which you tell us she feels at meeting and welcoming Lady Willingdon may be extended to Lady Willingdon's husband also.

Your Highness, in Your speech, has referred in hopeful terms to the outcome of the Round Table Conference now assembled in London with a view to discussing and, I trust, coming to general agreement upon a new Constitution of India. May I say that I cordially share Your Highness' hopes that their discussions will be entirely successful. My firm conviction is that an All-India Federation with necessary safeguards will be to the advantage and in the interests of the States and British India alike, and I was delighted to hear Your Highness express your decided opinion that my conviction is shared by the Ruler of so advanced a State as Baroda. It will indeed hearten those of us who are doing what we can to forward this great ideal and I think it is true to say that thanks largely to the acceptance by the States in general of the principles of Federation, our hopes have been increased that the deliberations of the Conference in London, where Your Highness is so ably represented by Your Dewan, Mr. Krishnamachari, may be expected to result in a successful conclusion. Two significant points were raised by Your Highness to which I should like to make special reference. You remarked that in the future Federation, the States should have their present autonomy in matters



NAZARBAG PALACE.

outside the Federal sphere and that in the new order of things, there should be no striving after a crushing and soul-destroying uniformity. With both these principles I am in entire agreement. It would indeed be a grievous pity if the individuality of the separate units composing the Federation were engulfed in one large featureless body, and although there must inevitably be a certain degree of uniformity in the administration of matters coming within the orbit of the Federal sphere, they surely need not interfere with the special characteristics and historic traditions of the States.

The many administrative improvements that have marked Your Highness' long and fruitful period of rule are too well-known to us all to need any lengthy remarks from me tonight, but in view of the great interest which is now being evinced in the matter of social and educational advancement throughout the whole of India, I would like for a moment to refer briefly to what Your Highness has done in this regard. I would mention the "Age of Marriage" Act, the "Hindu Divorce" Act, and the "Freedom of Religion" Act, the passing of which have been Your Highness' personal concern. Scarcely less striking is the forward plan which Baroda has secured for herself in the realm of education, especially female education which could only have been achieved by the unremitting interest shown by Your Highness and her Highness the Maharani Saheba. Primary education has been free and compulsory since 1906 whilst at the same time due provision has been made for secondary, technical and college educations. It is significant that in this same period the State Revenues have risen from 1¾ crores to 2½ crores of rupees and the revenue per head of population is higher than in any other Indian States of similar size and importance. Education alone would not, of course, account for this, but Your Highness has wisely seen that the economic development of your State has kept pace with the educational side of your activities. Your Picture Gallery and your Central Library with its remarkable system of circulating rural libraries, are famous beyond the boundaries of Baroda, and I was very glad to learn that this great scheme of giving the chance of educational study in

even the most remote villages of your State is progressing extremely well. As regards the other features of Your Highness' administration I do not propose to particularise, but I congratulate you on the fact that Baroda is well to the fore in every sphere of administrative activity—a gratifying reward of the half century and more of earnest effort on the part of Your Highness to improve the lot of your people; and in time to come posterity may well look back on Your Highness' period of Rule as the Golden Age of Baroda History.

One word more and I have finished. Your Highness mentioned the need for "co-operation" in the future amongst all classes and communities in India. In the first speech which I made on my arrival in this country after my appointment as Viceroy I appealed with all the earnestness at my command for the "co-operation" of all those who wished me well in the great task with which I had been entrusted. I can truly say that the result of that appeal has received a generous response, and I still hope that many of those who have refused to co-operate and have pursued a policy of civil disobedience may see the error of their ways and join with us in working for the great purpose we all have in view. In the new constitution, however, as Your Highness has so rightly said, the need for co-operation becomes greater still. For while greater responsibility in our Parliamentary life will bring, as in other countries, differences of views on great political problems, the necessity for getting rid of our personal and communal differences, and of working for the common

THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE LAXMI VILAS PALACE ON THE NIGHT OF THE BANQUET.

purpose of helping forward in every constitutional way the prosperity of our country and the welfare of its people will become more urgent than ever before. But with the lightening and ultimate removal of that control, these differences and divisions are bound to prove grave sources of weakness and it thus behoves all who have India's interests at heart to do what they can to forget them and banish them from their thoughts and minds for ever.

I thank Your Highness once again for your kindness and hospitality and I ask all those present to join with me in drinking long life and happiness to His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda and prosperity to his State.

His Highness replied as follows:

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

I thank you for the kind manner in which you have proposed my health, and you, ladies and gentlemen, for the cordiality with which you have received the toast.

Display of Fireworks.

The banquet over, His Highness conducted Their Excellencies to the terrace, to witness a display of fireworks which were let off from the ground in front of the Palace. The other guests viewed the display from the ground floor. After the display, Their Excellencies returned to the Makarpura Palace by the Vishrambag level crossing, His Highness seeing them off at the main porch. The other guests departed after Their Excellencies had left.

On the third day, Tuesday December 13, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon left the Makarpura Palace at 8 a.m. and arrived at the lines of the 1/16th Punjab Regiment in the Cantonment at 8-15 a.m. Their Excellencies were received by the Officer Commanding and went on a tour of inspection of the lines. They later returned to the Makarpura Palace.

Small Game shoot.

On the same morning, from 8-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m. there was a small game shoot at Timbi, several miles out of Baroda City. A number of members of the Viceregal party left the Makarpura Palace at 7-45 a.m. by Vishrambagh, Chamrajendra Road and Pani Gate. On arrival at Timbi the party was received by Col. M. M. Hakim (officer in charge of the shooting arrangements) and Major G. R. Nimbalkar. The party had a good morning's sport and made a large "bag". After breakfast at Timbi, the party returned to Makarpura Palace by the same route.

At 1 p.m. the same day, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon left the Makarpura Palace and arrived at the Laxmi Vilas Palace at 1-15 p.m. They were received by His Highness as they alighted from their car and were taken by the lift to the drawing room on the first floor. They proceeded to lunch in the dining room, and later left for the Makarpura Palace, His Highness seeing them off at the main porch.

Baby Show and Exhibition.

At 4-50 p.m. there was a Baby Show and Exhibition of women's work in Baroda at the Training College for women, which was attended by Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon. Her Excellency was received by Mrs. (now Lady) Krishnama Chari, Mr. Ramlal H. Desai, Councillor, Dr. Chandrachud, Miss Needham (Principal Maharani High School for girls), Mrs. Snehalata Pagar (Principal Training College for women), Mrs. Samarth and Dr. Pandit. After a short song of welcome, Her Excellency was taken round the Baby Show and the Exhibition and then gave away the prizes to the successful competitors. At 5-15 p.m. Her Excellency proceeded to the Laxmi Vilas Palace by the Chamrajendra Road for the group photograph.

Boy Scouts Rally.

At 4-50 the same day, His Excellency the Viceroy, the Resident and the Viceregal party arrived at the Public Park from the Makarpura Palace to attend a rally of the Baroda Boy Scouts. His Excellency was received by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Minister and was taken round the Camp of the scouts. After this, all proceeded to the shamiana, where the scouts marched past His Excellency and a few scout demonstrations were given. His Excellency and His Highness proceeded to the Laxmi Vilas Palace by Indira Avenue for the group photograph.

The group photograph was taken at 5-20 p.m. and Their Excellencies and His Highness proceeded to the Motibag grounds to attend the Garden Party arranged there.

Garden Party.

Members of His Excellency's suite, members of His Highness' family, the Resident, the First Assistant to the Resident, the Indian Assistant Resident and the European officers and ladies and gentlemen from the Camp and Sardars and officers of the State, with the ladies in their families, were invited to the party.

The guests were entertained to performances of parrots, acrobats etc. and music by a concert of Indian musicians and the State Military band. His Highness then took Their Excellencies to the table where refreshments were served. At 6-30 p.m. Their Excellencies took leave of His Highness and departed for Makarpura Palace in a motor car by the Vishrambag level crossing.

At 10-30 p.m. on Tuesday, the Viceregal visit to Baroda came to an end and Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Countess of Willingdon made a private departure by special train from Baroda Railway Station. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb saw Their Excellencies off at the station. A royal salute of 31 guns was fired at sunrise the next day by the State Artillery.

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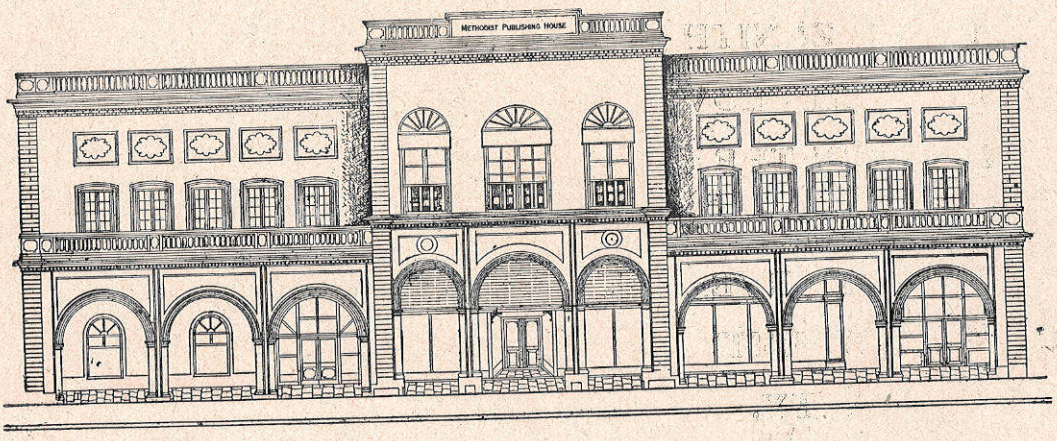

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