

## H. E. The Governor's Speech.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,—I must first thank you, Mr. Sampson, and the Agricultural Department very sincerely on behalf of Lady Willingdon and myself for the cordial welcome you have given us today and for your address to which I am sure we have all listened with the deepest interest. It is a great pleasure to me to come here and perform this ceremony. I regard it also as a great privilege for I feel that I am helping on a department which has done most invaluable service in the past and is likely, with the help of the new building, to do still greater service in the future. My predecessor, Sir Arthur Lawley, in the years 1906 and 1909, when laying the foundation stone of the Agricultural College and after performing the opening ceremony, did foresee a great future for this department and I think I can truly say that in this year 1922, when I lay the foundation stone of this new building, we have travelled far along the road up which Sir Arthur Lawley was looking. I observe that the building, of which I am to lay the foundation stone and with which I am glad to think one of my names is going to be associated, has already progressed very far beyond the stage at which foundation stones are usually laid. Let me say that I am very glad to see it for two reasons. One is that I need now have no apprehension that in future years I may find here a lonely stone, just that and nothing more. I say this for it is one of the sorrows of Governors to meet from time to time scattered throughout the country grim spectres of their past in the shape of foundation stones which have never borne the burdens they were intended to carry. My second reason is that it gives me an opportunity of congratulating the Public Works Department on the fair building which they are in process of erecting and this I do very sincerely.

The Director has referred to the criticisms which have been levelled against this department during this last year. Let me

console him by the remark that with some experience of public life I can safely assert that no public department, no public man, can or indeed should expect to be free from critics both helpful and destructive of their labours. But I do not think anybody with full knowledge of the facts could really deny that a very great deal of wonderfully useful work has been done by this department in recent years—work which, specially in the matter of research, has been of great value not only to our presidency but to many other parts of India. I say any one with full knowledge of the facts, for I do think that many people have been and still are ignorant of the valuable work of the department and as a proof of this, I would refer you to those very Legislative Council debates of which Mr. Sampson has made mention. It is true that certain Hon'ble members had some hard things to say about waste of public money by the Agricultural department, but I think I may say they quite changed their minds when my Hon'ble colleague here, Mr. Venkata Reddi, enlightened them on the department's activities. Then like the Queen of Sheba they cried "Lo! the half of it had not been told me." Yes, and I must tell you that this was the one criticism in which I had intended to indulge this morning, that the Agricultural Department was unduly modest, unduly inclined to hide its light under a bushel. In a sense your Director has disarmed me by meeting the criticism in advance and he has almost defeated me with that most potent weapon, a bunch of figures which shew the vast number of acres to be dealt with by one official in his department. Figures always frighten me and I give in before their attack.

To every member of the Agricultural Department I say that my sympathies go out to them fully, for I know well how badly more men are wanted for demonstration work and how really short-handed the department is to cope with all the work which could be done. But even so I think that members of the department might cultivate a little more the instinct of self-advertisement. I would ask them to consider whether they have explored all the

avenues of advertisement open to them. It is indisputably true that agriculture in India has benefited to a tremendous extent in recent years by the activities and researches conducted here and it is true that your department has literally put a very great deal of money into the pockets of the ryot. The cotton crop alone, as Mr. Sampson has remarked, is an excellent example of this, but the trouble is that most of the people don't realise it and think it is your duty to make them realise it. When you make a fresh discovery in your researches here, I believe the result is given in your College Journal. But how much farther does it get? Do you send copies to all the daily papers? Perhaps you do this already. Then there is the publicity leaflet and I know the Publicity Bureau would do all they could to help you, but far more important as a means of education is the spoken word and I cannot help thinking that this work might be done by your officials in the districts by making use of their opportunity, with as far as possible the help of local landholders and men of influence, of having a talk with gatherings of ryots and telling them the value of scientific discoveries. The ryot in India is more than any one else the victim of his own traditions and when science clearly shows the path of advance it is our duty to help him to get free from those traditions and adopt more modern and profitable methods.

And here I would like to suggest another form of advertisement which the Agricultural Department should be able to avail themselves of and which I wish to commend to your notice to-day, a form which I know has been tried before but, I think, in only a half-hearted manner. I refer to the organising of annual Agricultural Shows in the various parts of the Presidency. Now I want to say at once that such an organisation cannot be started and carried on wholly or even mainly under Government auspices. It must be established through the enthusiasm and energy of leading agriculturists in each part of the presidency. But through the agricultural department the Government could help in this

way that at each of these shows they could send their experts down to demonstrate and to lecture on such improvements in methods of cultivation or stock raising which might be of advantage to the particular district where any show was being held and thus bring into public notice the activities and usefulness of the department. I am fully alive to the fact that there are difficulties in the way. Such an organisation is of necessity a very democratic institution, for it is only by co-operation between the large land-holder and the smallest farmer that it can possibly succeed. Yes, and the great land-holder must learn not to suffer in his dignity or *izzat* if he and his tenant exhibit in the same class and his tenant wins the first prize. As an old agriculturist myself and one who was an exhibitor of a certain breed of cattle for many years, I can well remember being frequently beaten by my tenants without any ill-effect to myself. But this is, I realise, a very aristocratic country in all such matters and I fully realise the difficulties before us. Still it is because I believe, indeed I know from experience, that such shows are an immense advantage in creating competition in crop-growing and stock-raising and by such competition effecting great improvements in agriculture, that I urge it to-day and I trust that the desire to improve in the minds of all interested in this great industry may impel them to get over these difficulties. If they do, they can rely to the full on any support advice and assistance that I can give them and the Agricultural Department will by this means have the best possible opportunities of increasing their usefulness throughout the Presidency.

I fear I have indulged in rather a long sermon on the text of "Thou shalt advertise thyself" and you will be getting impatient to see this stone well and truly laid. I must tell you that Mr. Sampson's address has given me the text for yet another sermon and I might keep you here for some length of time to elaborate the text of the dignity of labour, but I will spare you that. I would, however, just say this, that many of the world's greatest

men have dug potatoes in their own garden and tended a pumpkin with their own hand and found no shame in it. The value of practical training in farm work has been well emphasised by Mr. Sampson and I commend his words to the attention of all.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I see Mr. Hawkins is anxiously waiting to ask me to lay the foundation stone and I will not delay you and him any longer. I would just say in conclusion that it is a great pleasure to meet here the chief officers of the Agricultural Department and to congratulate them personally and very sincerely on the fine work which their department has done in the past. There lies before them, I am confident, a still finer work in the future and I wish them all success in their labours. (Loud applause).

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### **Modern Agricultural Research.**

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In the modern sphere of natural science the most outstanding feature of agricultural research in recent years has been the introduction of physics and mathematics; the former in connexion with chemical and physiological problems, the latter in regard to methods of reasoning, including the statistical examination of approximate results. In other words, there has occurred an extension in the breadth of outlook in agricultural science, greater accuracy, and a breaking down of the arbitrary lines of demarcation which formerly existed between the mathematical sciences and biology. The result is that old problems are now being approached from entirely new points of view, and fresh knowledge is being secured which would never have been gained by means of the approximate and conservative methods that were in vogue for so long. How has this come about? It has come through an evolutionary process that has led to the recognition, especially in the United States of America, that the problems of agriculture are so varied and abstruse that they can only be solved by original work on the part of highly trained men in every department of science. And the modern outlook is even wider; for it is recognised that many problems, in fact most,