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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNOR IN REPLY TO HIS
EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH OF AUGUST 26, 1891.

To His Excellency the President of the Legislative Council, Sir ARTHUR ELIBANK HAVELOCK, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon, with the Dependencies thereof.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE Legislative Council thank you for the very interesting outline of the condition of the trade and industries of the Island which has been laid before them.

2. They receive with much gratification the assurance given of the continued and increasing prosperity of the Colony.

3. They have witnessed with attention Your Excellency's untiring exertions to make yourself personally conversant, by travel and otherwise, with the actual circumstances of a large portion of the Island, being convinced that the experience which has thereby been acquired cannot fail to prove useful in the highest degree to Your Excellency in considering the welfare of the people.

4. The Legislative Council join with Your Excellency in regretting the absence from their number of two Members who fulfilled their duties with no ordinary ability. By the transfer elsewhere of Mr. O'Brien the Colony has lost the assistance of a very distinguished officer, who entirely devoted to the service of the Government a singularly just and acute judgment combined with a rare power of work.

By the resignation of Mr. Thomas North Christie the Council have been deprived of a Member whose independent views, fearless criticisms, and unusual grasp of subjects won the regard even of those who differed from him in opinion.

5. As the experiment of thoroughly registering all titles to land in a selected area was designed to benefit the numerous class of small landholders, the Council regret that the measure

proved so costly and tedious, on the scale on which it was attempted, that its suspension became necessary.

6. The result of the Census of 1891, and the comparison which has been made between it and the result of the previous Census, are very noteworthy.

7. Taking the Registrar-General's calculation of an increase at the same rate that obtained during the intercensal period 1871-1881, corrected by the actual statistics of the ebb and flow of the tide of Indian cooly immigration, the Council find the population by the last Census was 7,778 souls in excess of the calculation made up to the 1st January last,—a result which, though it may have fallen short of expectation, may yet be considered far from a disappointing one.

8. The decrease of population in the localities specified by Your Excellency may be attributable to the failure of the coffee plants which used to flourish in those districts,—a failure which compelled the floating population to seek subsistence elsewhere.

9. In the event of the report of the Select Committee of this Council on the Grain Tax Ordinance of 1878 not being adopted by the Government, the Council trust that before any definite course of action is decided upon by the Secretary of State they may have an opportunity of perusing the correspondence and of expressing an opinion on the proposed course of action.

10. The very favourable accounts of the revenue of the Colony given by Your Excellency are a cause of general satisfaction. The Colony is fortunate in having again been favoured with a Pearl Fishery, and the growth of the Customs revenue is viewed with especial pleasure as surely indicating an increase in the prosperity of the people in general.

11. Considering the gross revenue now derived from the operations of the Forest Department, the Council express their hope that all due precautions are taken to secure the permanence of that revenue by working on a system calculated to secure, before the visible supply becomes exhausted, the actual reproduction in equally convenient localities of the quantity of timber consumed in each year.

12. With regard to the decrease in Land Revenue, while regretting the short harvests brought to their notice, the Council note with satisfaction that the commutation assessment has been lowered in localities proved to be over-assessed.

13. The Council cordially concur with Your Excellency's observations on the Tea enterprise, which is of paramount importance to the Colony, and they join in hoping that the cultivation of other economic products will be extended with similar success.

14. The results of the changes in the administration of the Police Force which have been indicated will be watched with deep interest. The full responsibility for the suppression of crime and the maintenance of order which will henceforth devolve upon the Government Agents will be a charge requiring much personal attention and energy on their part, and it is to be hoped that the headmen subordinate to the Government Agents will be induced to take a more active share in the prevention and detection of crime.

15. It will be necessary to arrange that returns and statistics of all crimes (whether resulting in a prosecution or not) may be sent promptly to some central authority, on whom will devolve the task of advising the Government of the progressive increase and decrease of crime in each locality and of the comparative success or failure of the several Agents in the measures they may adopt for giving the public the protection they have a right to expect.

16. The Council will give their most careful consideration to the various Draft Ordinances mentioned by Your Excellency. They are sensible of the great importance of the legislation proposed for cattle disease, for licensing hotels, for dealing with first offenders, and for the registration of deaths, and they hope that before the close of the Session it will be found possible to lay before them the promised amendment of the Forest Ordinance.

17. The Council will be pleased to examine any schemes for Railway Extension for which surveys may be prepared, and they hope that the Secretary of State will be pleased to sanction the proposed survey from Kurunegala to Jaffna. They will also give their best attention to the designs for completing the Harbour Works in Colombo by the addition of a Northern Arm and a Graving Dock.

18. In the measures necessary for raising whatever funds may be required for large reproductive Public Works, the Government may rely on the cordial support of the Legislative Council.

19. The Council is grateful to Your Excellency for the steps that have been taken to secure the laying before them the Annual Estimates for the ensuing year as early as the month of September. This will enable them to examine those Estimates with the care and attention which their importance merits.

20. It is gratifying to learn that the means at the disposal of the Government will admit of a liberal appropriation for Public Works, and the Council will be glad to co-operate with the Government in endeavouring to allot whatever sum may be available so that it may be expended with the best advantage to the country.

21. The Council will consider with attention all proposals for Irrigation expenditure which may be laid before them. They desire to record their conviction that great care is necessary that not only the expenditure undertaken by the Government, but also the labour of the villagers, should be bestowed to the best advantage in works which will permanently improve the supply of water necessary for grain cultivation.

22. In view of the resolution of this Council dated May 1, 1890, the Council consider the decision of Her Majesty's Government on the Military Contribution to be demanded from Ceylon to be one of such extreme importance that the matter should be reserved for further discussion in Council.

Legislative Council Chamber,
Colombo, September 2, 1891.

By order of the Council,
H. L. CRAWFORD,
Clerk to the Council.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

I THANK you for the gratifying Address which you have presented to me. I rejoice to find in it a cordial agreement with the general policy of the measures proposed by me, and a strong claim for confidence that we shall continue as heretofore to work together for the good of the country.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NOTICES.

MUNICIPALITY OF COLOMBO.

Supplemental Budget No. 2, 1891, approved by the Standing Committee on August 28, 1891.

REVENUE.							
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.		Rs.	c.
Estimated revenue for 1891 as per Supplemental Budget No. 1 of May 8, 1891 ...	—		624,658	99	<i>Interest Account.</i>		
<i>Supplemental.</i>					Interest ...	1,000	0
Commutation ...	2,000	0			<i>Revision of Town Survey.</i>		
<i>Licenses.</i>					Saving on vote of Rs. 6,500 in Budget ...	4,000	0
Cart, issued by Government Agent	250	0			<i>Interest and Sinking Fund on proposed Loan.</i>		
Boat, issued by Master Attendant	500	0			Saving of vote in Budget ...	5,000	0
<i>Judicial Fines.</i>					<i>Public Works.</i>		
By Municipal Magistrate ...	2,000	0			Savings, &c., on estimates (see letter No. 338 of June 22, 1891, from Superintendent of Works) ...	5,600	0
<i>Markets.</i>					<i>Scavenging.</i>		
Gintupitiya street market, stallage	400	0			Saving on vote for scavenging ...	5,000	0
Edinburgh markets, saving on coolies' wages ...	80	0			<i>Assessment Account.</i>		
<i>Stamp Duty on Advocates' and Proctors' Warrants.</i>					Sale of water ...	5,000	0
Stamp fees ...	700	0					33,530 0
<i>Fort Latrine.</i>							658,188 99
Contribution from lessees of coal grounds towards cost of Fort latrine ...	2,900	0					
EXPENDITURE.							
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.		Rs.	c.
Estimated expenditure as per Supplemental Budget No. 1 of May 8, 1891 ...	—		606,356	49	<i>Commutation Account.</i>		
<i>Salaries.</i>					Cost of writing out warrants against defaulters for 1890 ...	—	25 0
Additional Municipal Magistrate ...	352	0			<i>Market Account.</i>		
Horse allowance to Acting Sanitary Officer for three months ...	120	0			Edinburgh market, cost of renewing 12 meat stalls ...	1,000	0
Punkah puller for office of Superintendent of Works ...	20	0	492	0	Gintupitiya street market, gas fittings ...	81	50
<i>Pension Account.</i>					do. do. supply of gas... ..	100	0
Pension to late Municipal Inspector G. C. Ferdinands ...	—		104	10	do. do. laying on water ...	40	0
<i>Furniture Account.</i>					do. do. 4 new meat stalls ...	3,000	0
Furniture ...	—		200	0	Dean's road market, alterations ...	1,150	0
<i>Audit of Accounts.</i>					do. do. reconstruction of boundary wall ...	112	0
Audit of Municipal accounts ...	—		1,000	0	Grandpass market, coolies' wages ...	80	0
					Tools, &c., for markets ...	40	0
							5,603 50
					<i>Slaughter-house Account.</i>		
					Dematagoda slaughter-house, watering trough for cattle ...	87	0
					Madampitiya slaughter-house, building exposing shed for sheep ...	340	0

	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Madampitiya slaughter-house, increase of watcher's salary ...	18	0			Side drain, Korteboam street ...	120	0		
Tools for slaughter-houses ...	100	0			do. Gintupitiya street ...	35	0		
			545	0				1,956	0
<i>Volunteer Band.</i>					<i>Miscellaneous.</i>				
Contribution voted for 1891 ..	—		3,500	0	Four sheds for fire engines ...	5,320	0		
<i>Costs in Legal Proceedings.</i>					Pontoons for dredger ...	2,050	0		
Supplemental vote ...	—		500	0	Blomendahl street extension (taking levels, &c.) ...	50	0		
<i>Fine Account.</i>					Repairing and tarring carriage stands ...	285	0		
Refund of informers' share ...	—		64	0	Altering hydrants, &c., Kotahena street ...	170	56		
<i>Scavenging Account.</i>					Railing round Sir Edward Barnes' statue ...	120	0		
Repair of latrine buckets ...	—		460	0	Lowering gas main, Alutmawata road ...	92	0		
<i>PUBLIC WORKS.</i>					Repairing lane from Fishers' Hill fish market ...	130	0		
<i>Upkeep of Gordon Gardens.</i>					Cost of four water-posts ...	500	0		
Supplemental vote required on account of amended estimate for upkeep ...	250	0			Renewing toll-house, draw-bridge..	284	0		
Ornamental flower pots ...	51	0			Flushing tank (supplemental vote)	80	0		
			301	0				9,081	56
<i>Upkeep of St. Sebastian Canal.</i>					<i>Assessment Account.</i>				
Original estimate ...	1,650	0			House numbers and street boards	40	0		
Supplemental estimate ..	1,615	44			Refunds ...	100	0		
			3,265	44	Extension of street lighting ...	500	0		
<i>Bridge.</i>					Lighting streets ...	2,000	0		
Reconstruction of abutments, Urugodawatta bridge ...	—		4,100	0	Gas fittings, Fort latrine ...	205	75		
<i>Drains, &c.</i>					Supply of gas to Fort latrine ...	100	0		
Repair of culvert, Campbell street	220	0			Water supply to Totawatta ...	1,776	0		
Repair of barrel drain, St. Sebastian street ...	557	0			Completing water service, Arab lane	90	0		
Building culvert, Horton place ...	44	0						4,811	75
Repair of Dam street sewer ...	380	0						642,365	84
Side drains, Silversmith lane ...	270	0			<i>Amount reserved for—</i>				
Building retaining wall, St. Sebastian quarry ...	250	0			Salaries of Overseers and others ...	—		13,149	25,
Reconstruction of culvert, Fishers' Hill ...	80	0						655,515	9
					Balance ...	—		2,673	90
					Total ...	—		658,188	99

The Municipal Office,
Colombo, August 28, 1891.

H. HAY CAMERON,
Mayor and Chairman.