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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNOR IN REPLY TO HIS
EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1892.

*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 share the satisfaction felt by Your Excellency in the continued progress and prosperity of the Island.

They also join with Your Excellency in the appreciation of the services of the Medical Department and the local authorities in checking the spread of the epidemics of cholera which unhappily occurred during the past year.

It is gratifying to the Council to learn that the more deterrent system of discipline introduced into our prisons has resulted in an abatement of serious crime and a decrease in the number of prisoners.

The Council hopes that the Volunteer Forces will continue to increase in numbers and maintain the efficiency so highly commended both by the General Officer Commanding and Your Excellency, to whose personal interest in the Force this improved condition is largely attributable.

The exceptional success which has attended the preliminary labours of the Ceylon Special Commissioner, whose able advocacy the Council recognises equally with Your Excellency, gives every reason to hope for the complete attainment of the chief object aimed at by a representation of the Colony at Chicago—an extension of the market for tea and other principal products of the Island.

The issue of the Local Loan authorised by recent enactments must not only tend to add to the stability of the Government, but must also prove a material advantage to the community.

The Council, while regretting the continued diminution of the gold value of the rupee, feel it a cause for congratulation that the returns of General Revenue and Commerce show that the Colony is steadily advancing.

The Ordinances which your Excellency proposes to lay before the Council, some of which are of great importance, shall receive their careful consideration.

The prospect of the early opening of the railway to Haputalé, the certainty of a considerable saving on the original estimate of the cost of that work, and the progress of the Southern line towards Galle, afford the Council much gratification.

It is also exceedingly satisfactory to learn that the branch railway to Kurunégala will probably be completed by the end of next year, and that the preliminary steps have been taken for the survey of a railway line from Kurunégala to Jaffna.

The policy of extending communication by railway wherever practicable, and of connecting remote parts of the Island with the metropolis and principal port, is one which highly commends itself to this Council.

The Council hopes that the decision in the matter of the North-Western Breakwater and a Graving Dock at Mutwal will not be long delayed.

The Estimates for 1893 shall be attentively considered. Of the various public works for which grants are to be asked, the reclamation along the shore of Colombo Harbour in the direction of Mutwal, and the scheme of flood-outlets, appear to be the most important. The Council will give their best consideration to the plans and estimates for these and other works, including the Irrigation schemes mentioned, and Your Excellency may rely on the cordial co-operation of the Council in carrying out the various measures which may be devised for the benefit of the Colony.

Legislative Council Chamber,
Colombo, September 21, 1892.

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

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

I HAVE to thank you for your address. I have received with satisfaction the assurance that I may rely on your cordial co-operation in carrying out the various measures which may be devised for the benefit of this Colony.