

## THE DARBAR

**W**ITH all the oriental pomp and parapharmelia and amidst scenes of splendour and pageantry, the installation Darbar was held at Ernakulam on the 14th November. A distinguished gathering inside the Hall witnessed the ceremony.

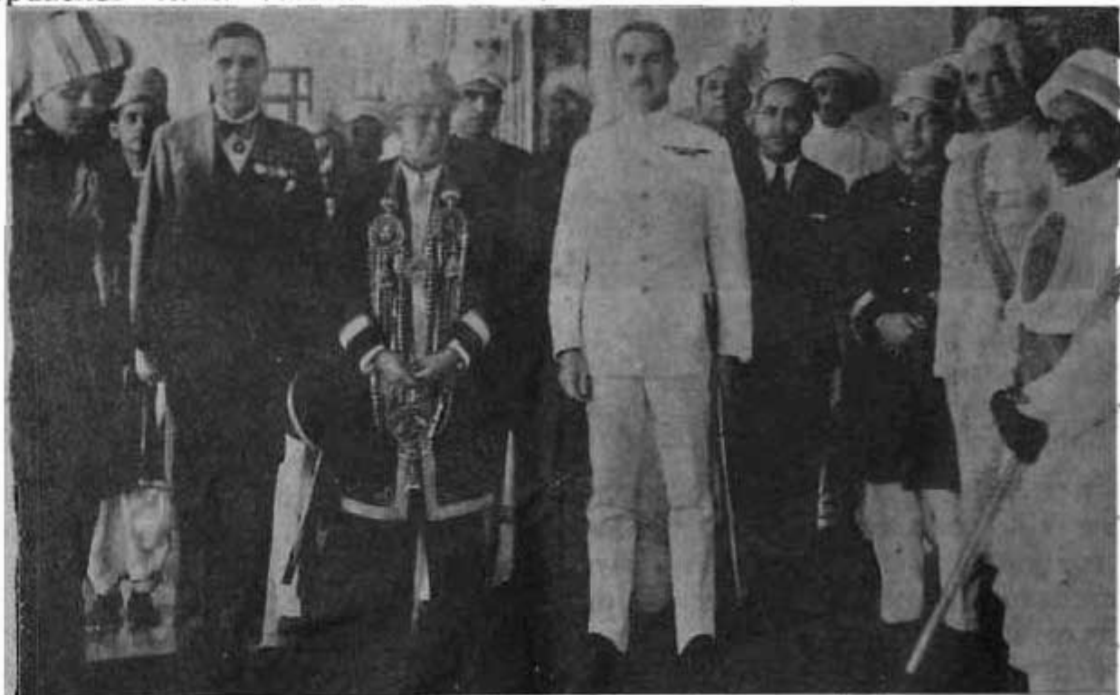
After the party had been assembled and seated His Highness Sri Ravi Varma, Maharaja of Cochin was conducted to the "Musnad" by Mr. H. J. Todd, Resident for the Madras States. The Resident then read the following proclamation.

"WHEREAS His Highness Sir Sri Kerala Varma, G.C.I.E., the late Maharaja of Cochin, departed this life at Trippunittura on the 13th October 1943,

corresponding to the 27th Kanni 1119 M.E., his brother, the Elaya Raja, RAVI VARMA, who has been recognised by His Excellency the Viceroy on behalf of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor as lawful heir and successor, is accordingly proclaimed Maharaja of Cochin and the inhabitants of Cochin are hereby directed to acknowledge and obey him as the Maharaja and Ruler of the State.

Given under my hand at Ernakulam this the Fourteenth day of November in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and forty three."

After the reading of the proclamation the Resident conveyed to H. H. the Maharaja the following message from His Excellency the Viceroy.



*H. H. The Maharaja, the Resident for the Madras States, the Diwan and officers—after the Darbar*

"I am commanded by His Excellency the Viceroy to convey to you his sincere congratulations on this auspicious occasion and to express the hope that your rule may be long and prosperous.

And I should like to add my congratulations and very sincere good wishes.

Your Highness has been called to this high office at what must surely be the most critical time in the history of mankind: at a time when not only the courage of man is being tested but when the very fitness for survival of the things man believed in is being put to the test.

We have a right to feel some satisfaction at the way we have stood the test so far : but we know there are still stern trials ahead. We have a right to feel hopeful of the final result only if our efforts are redoubled without relaxation or complacency.

The Cochin State has been privileged to play a not inconsiderable part in this great trial and I feel confident that under

your wise guidance supported by the loyal and spontaneous co-operation of a grateful people, without which, I need hardly remind Your Highness, your individual effort can be of little avail, the Cochin State will continue to play a worthy part in the common effort not only to achieve victory but in the still graver task of achieving a just and lasting peace. May God keep you strong and steadfast in that purpose."



*The Darbar Hall, Ernakulam*

His Highness then made the following reply.—

"Mr. Resident, I am grateful to you for the kind message of good wishes and congratulations which you have conveyed to me on this occasion on behalf of His Excellency the Crown Representative. Please convey my sincere thanks to His Excellency. I take this opportunity of expressing to His Excellency my devotion and loyalty to His Majesty the King Emperor.

I have been called to this ancient Gadi at a momentous time in the world's history. I request you to assure His Excellency that in the great struggle in

which the United Nations are engaged the resources of my State are at the disposal of His Majesty the King.

It is a source of great satisfaction to me that this State has already made a contribution to the common cause, which, in proportion to its size, is, I believe, second to none in India. The contribution in respect of personal service under the Crown is particularly noteworthy, so, to mark the occasion of my Installation I propose to donate a sum of 1 lakh of rupees to the Cochin State Military Benevolent Fund, now being